

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 June, 2019 at 7.00 pm, at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Terry Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Ian Liptrot and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
3 members of the public

20. (19/20) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle and also Councillor Harry Landless and Councillor Ian Donnell from Preston City Council. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said there were two items of Urgent Business which needed to be considered this evening as they could not wait until the next meeting of the Parish Council. These were i) the legal costs for the Lease for the Village Green football pitch and ii) a grant application for Grimsargh Field Day. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson also briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting. It was also noted that an email had been received from the Village Hall Committee regarding fire procedures and a fire drill would be held at our July meeting.

21. (19/20) Declarations of Interest

None.

22. (19/20) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 16 May 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23. (19/20) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed representatives from Grimsargh Cricket Club to the meeting who had come along to explain about their grant application that would be considered later in the evening. Phil Brook and Phil Garlington explained to the Parish Council that the Cricket Club had purchased a new mower and roller and they also had a number of other planned expenditure items associated with the renewal of the lease and possibly the installation of CCTV due to some recent damage to the covers caused by youths on the Village Green. They said that the Parish Council had always been supportive of the Club and they were also looking at having more teams playing for them including a women's team. With

regard to the lease, they said that this was due for renewal in August and they did not currently have a Solicitor to deal with this on behalf of the Cricket Club. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked them both for attending and said that the Clerk would inform them of the Parish Council's decision as soon as possible.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that both PCSO's would be working on Field Day and she had given them Keith Middlebrough's contact details so that arrangements could be made with regard to the road closure on the day etc. She also informed the Parish Council that there had been some progress with the youths causing vandalism and the police had spoken to the youths about it and had visited two schools. The police would be speaking to the youths again before Field Day.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item. Councillor Ron Woollam informed the Parish Council that he was still looking into the drainage issues near to Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School.

The Clerk read out an update from KT Recycling regarding the planned improvements at their site. Councillor Peter Burton said that problems with odour were still continuing and it was agreed that the Clerk should ask KT Recycling if residents had completed their odour diaries and what action had been taken regarding any issues identified.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reconvened the meeting.

24. (19/20) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no Planning Applications for discussion at the meeting. However, the Clerk agreed to circulate the link to the website for the Central Lancashire Local Plan.

There were no further planning matters for discussion at the meeting.

25. (19/20) Grimsargh Wetlands – update

Councillor Peter Burton gave an update to the Parish Council on the Wetlands Trust meeting that he had attended on 29 May on behalf of the Parish Council. He explained that Jayne Woollam who was the Secretary to the Wetlands Trust would be forwarding copies of the Agenda and Minutes to the Clerk for information. With regard to the meeting it had been very interesting and a number of issues had been discussed including the provision of three interpretative boards; the appointment of Ken Maylor as a Wetlands Warden and discussions with Eccleston Homes. It was also noted that the sluice may not now be needed on the Wetlands and it was further noted that the latest Wetlands newsletter had been excellent.

The Parish Council also agreed to pay the annual membership of the Wetlands Trust at a cost of £50.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Councillor Peter Burton for attending the Wetlands meeting.

Resolved

- i) That the update on Grimsargh Wetlands is received and noted.
- ii) That approval is given to the payment of £50 for the annual membership of the Wetlands Trust.

26. (19/20) Report from the Finance Working Group

The Clerk presented the report from the Finance Working Group from their meeting held on 13 May 2019. It was noted that the main discussion had been regarding the annual accounts and the information that was required by the external auditor. An annual statement of the current funds for the Wetlands Trust had also been produced and this was approved by the Parish Council. The Clerk would forward a copy of the annual statement to the Wetlands Trust.

A copy of the notes from the meeting are presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

- i) That the report from the Finance Working Group from their meeting held on 13 May is received and noted.
- ii) That the annual statement of the current funds for the Wetlands Trust is approved by the Parish Council and the Clerk is authorised to forward a copy to the Wetlands Trust.

27. (19/20) Grant Applications

The Parish Council had agreed to consider an Item of Urgent Business which was a grant application from the Grimsargh Field Day Committee for new bunting for Field Day. Details of the grant application were circulated to the Parish Council. It was agreed to award a grant of £500 towards the new bunting for Field Day.

The Parish Council then gave consideration to the grant application from Grimsargh Cricket Club towards their recently purchased mower and roller. The Cricket Club were also looking at help towards the possible purchase of CCTV. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that local Clubs such as these should be helped and supported by the Parish Council, as it was possible that the new lease may cost more than anticipated. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson totally agreed but said that the grant application was mainly retrospective and although our grant scheme did not preclude this, it was important that the Parish Council considered this carefully.

The Clerk circulated a copy of the Cricket Club's recent bank statement. However, it was felt that the Parish Council needed more information about the Cricket Club's accounts and running costs. They would also need to see copies of the receipts for the recently purchased mower and roller.

After discussion it was agreed that in the first instance, the Parish Council would pay the legal costs associated with the new lease between Grimsargh Cricket Club and Preston City Council. The Clerk would contact Mr Greenwood at Farley's Solicitors to see if would undertake the legalities associated with the new lease. With regard to help towards the mower and roller, it was agreed to defer this grant application until the July meeting and that the Clerk should ask for further information on their finances from the Cricket Club including a copy of their Receipts and Payments accounts and receipts for their mower and roller. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

It was also felt that the Parish Council's grant scheme should be updated over the next few months.

Resolved

i) That with regard to the grant application for new bunting for Field Day, the Parish Council agreed to award a grant of £500 towards this.

ii) That with regard to the grant application for Grimsargh Cricket Club, that in the first instance, the Parish Council agrees to pay the legal costs associated with the new lease between Grimsargh Cricket Club and Preston City Council, and that the Clerk would contact Farley's Solicitors to progress this.

iii) That with regard to help towards the mower and roller for Grimsargh Cricket Club that this is deferred until the July meeting to enable further information to be obtained on the Club's finances including a copy of their Receipts and Payments accounts and receipts for the mower and roller.

28. (19/20) Replacement benches for the Village Green

The Parish Council gave consideration to the replacement of some of the benches on the Village Green as they were rotten and beyond repair. It was felt that the two round benches needed replacing. As the Village Green was owned by Preston City Council it was agreed to ask the City Council to quote for the cost of two replacement benches. This would then be considered further by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That Preston City Council is asked to provide the cost of two replacement round benches for the Village Green. This would then be considered further by the Parish Council.

29. (19/20) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £87,133.47 in the Nat West bank as at 3 May 2019. It was noted that we were still awaiting the June bank statement. It was further noted that the Clerk had submitted the VAT return for 2018/2019 - £1,205.42, and that this should be credited to our bank account within the next 6 weeks.

It was further noted that we had paid since the last meeting: -

Zurich Municipal Insurance Premium – it was noted that the premium was slightly less than quoted at £826.54 (Cheque no 968).

Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray reimbursement for new planters - £374.80 (Cheque no 969).

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam 15/6/19 - £934.01(Cheque no 970).

ii) Adam Cooper – £775.25 wages, £369.84 materials. (Cheques 971 & 972).

iii) HDC for Old Railway Walk sign £1,156.25 including £192.71 VAT. (invoice awaited).

iv) HMRC Q1 Tax and NI £1,205.89.

v) Newsletter total amount to be confirmed but the invoice would need to be paid before the next meeting.

vi) Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Lindsay Philipson for plants and compost £103.10.

vii) Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray for new resident's event refreshments - £51.12.

2) It was noted that the Clerk had rechecked the AGAR as approved at the last meeting and noticed that she had incorrectly recorded her salary to include her expenses of £216. Therefore box 4 (staff costs) should read £15,652 instead of £15,868 and box 6 (payments) should read £229,587 instead of £229,371. The Parish Council approved the amendment and the Chairman initialled the changes.

30. (19/20) Clerk's report - for information only

The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Preston City Council Parks Department if she could borrow the Christmas lights and she would inform Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray when they were available.

It was also noted that the drainage works on the Village Green would start on 24 June 2019.

31. (19/20) Item of Urgent Business – legal fees for Village Green Lease

The Parish Council gave consideration to an Item of Urgent Business for the cost of legal fees in relation to the lease of the football pitch on the Village Green. The Clerk informed the Parish Council that Farley's Solicitors had quoted a cost of £500 plus VAT and disbursements. It was likely that the only disbursement would be £6 for a copy of the Council's title. This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved

That the cost of £500 plus VAT and disbursements to Farley's Solicitors to undertake the legal fees associated with the lease of the football pitch on the Village Green is approved by the Parish Council.

32. (19/20) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting would be held on Thursday 4 July 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.