

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th June, 2025 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
1 member of the public

16. (25/26) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor David Hindle.

17. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

18. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 8th May 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

19. (25/26) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

A member of the public had come along to give an update on the Community Orchard. Martyn who was a local resident had been providing help, advice and support with the Community Orchard and he had been watering the trees and looking after them. He was pleased to report that only one tree had died and the others appeared to be thriving. He had asked the Clerk not to have the grass cut at the moment as he was looking at the types of plants that were already on the site. He had done a little maintenance of the site, including removing some of the grass near the trees, but generally everything seemed to be doing really well. He had made a list and map of the current trees to help keep an eye on the type and their progress.

The Clerk said that we could use the outside tap at the village hall to help keep the trees watered. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked Martyn for his continuing help and said that this was really appreciated by the Parish Council.

Councillor Stephen Whittam advised the Parish Council that he was still chasing a number of outstanding issues with Preston City Council including the lighting on the green and filling in the holes on the Redrow estate. He said he would continue to press for answers and action.

Councillor Trevor Haines confirmed that he had met with Matt Campbell from Highways regarding the new sign for Whittingham Lane and hopefully we should receive a drawing and the suggested agreed location soon. The Clerk agreed to chase this up.

The Clerk confirmed that she had now got a list of "Planter Parents" as the Best Kept Village Competition judging would be starting soon.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

20. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no current Planning Applications for consideration at this meeting.

21. (25/26) St Michael's PTFA Grant Application

The Parish Council gave consideration to the grant application from St Michael's PTFA towards their circus event in July. A copy of the grant application had been circulated to the Parish Council. This matter had been deferred from the last meeting as the Parish Council were awaiting information relating to the applicant's bank account. The Clerk confirmed that the additional information had now been received.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to award a grant of £200 to St Michael's PTFA towards their circus event in July.

Resolved

That approval is given to award £200 to St Michael's PTFA towards their circus event to be held in July at Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School.

22. (25/26) Parish Council Newsletter

It was noted that the newsletter would be sent to print shortly once all the articles had been received. A draft copy would be circulated to the Parish Council once the printer had pulled together the initial draft.

23. (25/26) Parish Lengthsman

The Clerk confirmed that satisfactory references for our new Lengthsman David Steele had now been received and he was meeting the Clerk to sign his contract and produce copies of his relevant vehicle insurance and public liability. Adam Cooper

had arranged a handover period with David to show him the jobs that needed doing around the village. The Parish Council took the opportunity to thank Adam for all his work in the village over the last 20 years.

Resolved

That the update on the appointment of the new Parish Lengthsman is received and noted.

24. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £187,219.67 in the Nat West bank as at 2 May 2025. The Clerk reported that we had received the £45,000 precept.

It was also noted that the following invoices had been paid since last meeting: -

Sue Whittam Clerk's salary May £1,297.41 + £25.00 for Best Kept Village = total £1322.41 (Cheque no 1315).

LALC Annual Subscription - £573.20 (Cheque no 1316).

Preston City Council – Greenspace Contribution £3190.00 (Cheque no 1317).

JRB Enterprise for dog bin bags £130.25 (Cheque no 1318).

Zurich Municipal for Parish Council insurance £980.71 (Cheque no 1319).

Adam Cooper, Contractor 3 invoices February £544.00; March £442.00 and April £578 + £165 timber = total £1,729. (Cheque no 1320).

We had also paid Direct debit Nest Pension Clerk, 7 April £67.71, and bank charges up to 30 April 2025 - £5.60.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Euroshel for bus shelter cleaning £800 excluding VAT.

Sue Whittam Clerk's salary June £1033.61.

HMRC Q1 - £1,914.86.

25. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Ron Woollam about a possible tribute to Jayne for all the work she had done for the Parish Council and Grimsargh. Ron had suggested a bench near the Redrow estate and this will be added to the Agenda for the July meeting.

The Clerk also reported that Preston City Council had provided the notice of vacancy due to the sad passing of Jayne and this would be advertised at the end of June.

26. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd July at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.