

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1 March 2018
at 7.30pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Keith Middlebrough and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
1 member of the public

146. (17/18) Apologies for Absence/ Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer, Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Ian Liptrot. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening's meeting.

147. (17/18) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 6 – Report from the Finance Working Group and in particular relating to the Investment Strategy as she knew the Financial Advisor involved in providing information to the Parish Council.

148. (17/18) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

149. (17/18) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed Bob Wallbank to the meeting who had come along to discuss the Planning Application for the extension to the cricket pavilion on the Village Green. Mr Wallbank explained to the Parish Council that the Cricket Club had been promoted to Division 1A and as such they had to provide separate changing facilities for umpires. A Planning Application had been submitted to Preston City Council to extend the cricket pavilion to incorporate separate changing facilities for umpires and a copy of the proposed plans were circulated to the Parish Council. Mr Wallbank also informed the Parish Council that the lease to Grimsargh

Cricket Club was up for renewal in 2019 and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the lease should be renewed. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson thanked Mr Wallbank for coming along to the meeting and explaining about their plans and congratulated them on their promotion. Mr Wallbank said he was hopeful that the Parish Council could support their Planning Application and if approval was given he would contact the Parish Council through their grants scheme and hopefully apply for funding to support the renovations to the cricket pavilion.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then asked if anyone had anything further to raise with the Parish Council. Councillor Neil Cartwright said that it had been reported at Broughton Parish Council that PC Chris Banks had no police car at the moment and that he was looking at writing to the police to emphasise that a police car was needed in the rural areas. It was noted that Councillor Ron Woollam had arranged for the lighting to be repaired on Old Railway Walk and the Parish Council congratulated Councillor Ron Woollam on this long standing issue being resolved.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell informed the Parish Council that a former police officer for the village, Constable Arthur Tyson had recently passed away and the Parish Council asked for their condolences to be recorded in the Minutes.

It was also reported that the verges on Douglas Lane were in a mess and vehicles doing three point turns had been churning up the grass verges. It was felt that planting some trees would prevent this and it was agreed that this should be added to the April Agenda of the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson then reconvened the meeting.

150. (17/18) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following Planning Application:-

06/2018/0101 - Grimsargh Recreation Ground, Grimsargh
Single storey side extension

With regard to Planning Application 06/2018/0101 as reported earlier Mr Wallbank had attended the meeting to explain about the proposed Planning Application to extend the cricket pavilion on the Village Green. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this Planning Application and asked that the Clerk respond to Preston City Council confirming that the Parish Council strongly supports this application to improve leisure facilities in Grimsargh.

It was also noted that Planning Application 06/2017/0676 – Land to the West of Preston Road, Grimsargh was approved by Preston City Council at their Planning Committee held on 8 February 2018.

It was also reported that Preston City Council were once again in the situation where they could not demonstrate a five year deliverable housing supply.

Resolved

1) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2018/0101 that the Parish Council strongly supports this application to improve leisure facilities in Grimsargh and that the Clerk writes to Preston City Council to confirm the Parish Council's support.

2) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2017/0676, it was noted that this application was approved by Preston City Council at their Planning Committee held on 8 February 2018.

151. (17/18) Report from the Finance Working Group – Investment Strategy
(The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room whilst this item was considered).

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a verbal report to the Parish Council of the meeting of the Finance Working Group that had been held with Simon Crompton from Cheetham Jackson about the proposed investment of Parish Council funds. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had also devised a draft Investment Strategy, which although the Parish Council did not need to legally have, it was felt that it was prudent for the Parish Council to produce one and this had been circulated with the Agenda. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained to the Parish Council that the average profit on our investments would be in the region of 5% - 6% per annum but to note that investments can go down as well as up. The Finance Working Group was recommending that the Parish Council should invest £200,000 and Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray emphasised that this money could be withdrawn at any time and there was no cost for withdrawals. Councillor Keith Middlebrough said that he had been impressed with Cheetham Jackson and in particular he liked the fact that the investments would be spread across a number of products to minimise the risk. It was noted that the annual fees would be 1% and set up fees 2%.

It was further noted that if the Parish Council agreed to proceed with investing Parish Council funds with Cheetham Jackson then they would need to go through the formal process of investment which the Company were obliged to do. Councillor Ron Woollam was given permission to speak and he said that the Company would provide a review on a yearly basis so that the Parish Council could monitor how their investments were doing.

After discussion it was unanimously agreed to approve the draft Investment Strategy as circulated and a copy of this is presented in the Minute Book. In addition the Parish Council agreed in principle to invest £200,000 which was £100,000 of Wetlands money and £100,000 of Parish Council money with Cheetham Jackson subject to further information and discussion. It was further agreed that Simon Crompton should be invited to an additional meeting of the Parish Council which would be held to discuss the investment of Parish Council funds only. As the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson had a personal and prejudicial interest, the additional meeting would be chaired by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton or in his absence another member of the Parish Council.

Councillor David Hindle asked for the Trustees from the Wetlands to be involved in the meeting. However the Clerk explained that this meeting was for the Parish

Council only and as such, even though the meeting would be open to the public, there would be no opportunity for anyone other than Parish Councillors to speak.

Resolved

- 1) That approval is given to the draft Investment Strategy as circulated and a copy of this is presented in the Minute Book.
- 2) That approval in principle is given to the investment of £200,000 (made up of £100,000 of Wetlands money and £100,000 of Parish Council money), with Cheetham Jackson subject to further information and discussion.
- 3) That an additional meeting of the Parish Council is held to discuss the investment of £200,000 and that Simon Crompton of Cheetham Jackson is invited to attend the meeting to go through the formal process of investment. This meeting would be chaired by the Vice-Chairman Peter Burton or another member of the Parish Council if required.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson returned to the meeting.

152. (17/18) Grimsargh Wetlands - update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that hopefully the lease would be signed soon. It was reported that the next important matter for the Wetlands Trust was the launch of Membership applications and Councillor David Hindle said he would publicise this on the radio.

The Trust was currently preparing a bid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) for improvements to the footpaths on the Wetlands and it was noted that they had successfully got through stage 1 and that a full application was now being prepared and would be submitted by 27 March 2018.

It was further noted that the Trust were discussing the possibility of installing a sluice, but this needed further discussion and consideration by the Wetlands Trust. There was a brief discussion about flooding issues and pollution issues that could be emanating from the United Utilities site at the White Bull and this needed further investigation to find the cause/source. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that Keith Gardiner who had originally prepared the Engineering Report for the Parish Council had personal contacts at the White Bull and could be the best person to contact for his help.

Councillor Peter Burton took the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and the Wetlands Trust for all their excellent work done so far.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

153. (17/18) Neighbourhood Planning - update

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson reported that a meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group had been held on 21 February 2018. She said that the next stage was to devise a vision, aim and objectives in line with the themed areas from our report. She also said that this was a lot of work for too few people and she was encouraging anyone to come forward and help with the Steering Group to ultimately help write the policies. It was noted that the report produced by RCU formed the base evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan but further evidence would be needed and we would have to work with Preston City Council to gather this. When the Steering Group had devised the vision, aims and objectives these would then go out to the whole village for approval and comments.

Resolved

That the update on the Neighbourhood Plan is received and noted.

154. (17/18) Calendar of Meetings for 2019

The Parish Council gave consideration to the draft calendar of meetings for 2019 and these were unanimously agreed as follows:-

Thursday 10 January 2019 *(note change of date)
Thursday 7 February 2019
Thursday 7 March 2019
Thursday 4 April 2019
Thursday 9 May 2019 (Note change of date due to Elections)
Thursday 6 June 2019
Thursday 4 July 2019
Thursday 5 September 2019
Thursday 3 October 2019
Thursday 7 November 2019
Thursday 5 December 2019

Resolved

That approval is given to the draft calendar of meetings for 2019 as presented above.

155. (17/18) June Newsletter

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson confirmed that the following items would be included in the June newsletter and reminded everyone to have their items ready for sign off at the May meeting:-

Neighbourhood Planning
Wetlands Trust – Membership and AGM
Spotlight on the Post Office
Field Day
Grants

Best Kept Village
Planning Update
Bins/dog fouling

156. (17/18) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £226,119.07 in the Nat West bank as at 5 February 2018.

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

Adam Cooper Contractor 60 hours at £13.75 per hour = £825. (Cheque no 892).

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

i) Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray for printing RCU reports ink/paper £12.30. (Cheque no 893).

ii) Sally Gorton for website admin July 2017 – Feb 2018 £202.50. (Cheque no 894).

iii) Preston City Council for two new bins Old Railway Walk - £700. (Cheque no 895).

iv) Glasdon's for Phoenix Bench for Village Green price to be finalized but estimated £500.03 including VAT and free delivery. (Cheque no 896).

v). Best Kept Village Competition entry fee £25. (Cheque no 897).

vi) The Clerk, Sue Whittam, 4, 11, 18, and 25 February four weeks at £278.80 per week = £1115.20 + 16 hours Neighbourhood Plan (1 July 2017 – 28 Feb 2019) £223.04 - tax and NI and employee pension contribution (note pension contribution for Clerk is £5.74 and Employer is £7.18) = £986.93 + ICO renewal subscription £35.00 and nameplates £60.79 = total £1,082.72. (Cheque no 898).

vii) HMRC Q4, for tax and NI - £1,207.58. (Cheque no 899).

viii) Adam Cooper Contractor – Materials for trim (wood) for roof repairs to bus shelters £20.76. (Cheque no 900).

ix) Adam Cooper Contractor – 37 hours @ £13.75 per hour = £508.75 (Cheque no 901).

2) That approval is given to the appointment of Donna Kidd as the internal auditor at a cost of £60.

157. (17/18) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk checked with Councillor Joyce Chessell the details for the new bench in memory of Mr & Mrs Swarbrick to be installed on the Village Green. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she would check that Preston City Council were happy

for the bench to be installed and let the Clerk know that she could then go ahead and order the bench.

158. (17/18) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 5 April at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall. This would be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.