

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 3 March, 2022 held at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council
Andy Pratt – Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner
Rennie Pinder/Dexter Stubbs
8 members of the public

121. (21/22) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

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

122. (21/22) Declarations of Interest

None.

123. (21/22) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 February 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

124. (21/22) Adjournment for Public Participation/Presentation by Rennie Pinder regarding data collection relating to traffic issues in the village.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting who had come along to talk about the Planning Application at 240 Preston Road, Grimsargh. A number of residents spoke to the Parish Council regarding the detrimental affect that the application would have on their properties on Tunbrook Avenue. The residents were not against a property being extended but all present felt that the height and scale of the proposed extension to 240 Preston Road was too overbearing and would subsequently result in a lack of privacy and amenity. Concerns were also raised about the lack of parking, as the extended property would have six large bedrooms. All residents were given the opportunity to speak, and further issues such as the impact on the street scene of Tunbrook Avenue and the use of the storage above the garage was also a potential issue as this could be used as a seventh bedroom. Although it was noted that the plans for the application had been recently amended,

the revised plans reduced the size of the development close to the boundary but it did not amend the height. One resident asked if the Chairman would wish to come and look at the proposals from their property and the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle agreed to visit the resident the following day. One resident had drafted a redesign of the extension and the Clerk agreed to forward this to the Planning Officer. It was also noted that a number of residents had contacted the Parish Council to object to the development but they were unable to attend the Parish Council meeting. However, details of their concerns were also shared with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council took into account all the comments raised by the residents and unanimously agreed to object to the application. This decision would be ratified later in the meeting under the Agenda Item that covered Planning Applications.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked all residents for attending the meeting and then welcomed Rennie Pinder, Dexter Stubbs and Andy Pratt, the Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner to the meeting who had come along to talk about traffic issues in the village and how data could help influence possible solutions.

Rennie explained to the Parish Council that he had over 27 years' experience as a Parish Councillor at Altham and that he had been involved with both Dexter and Andy over a number of years in data retrieval using SPiDs. Rennie gave an example of a recent traffic count and data collection in the East Lancashire area and how the information was gathered and used to highlight speeding concerns in local areas. He explained that he would set up cameras with approval from Lancashire County Council and usually leave them in place for a week. The data would be collected and would include the number of vehicles and their speed. Rennie had been into the village to look at suitable locations and suggested the entrance and exits to the village. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell explained that Whittingham Lane had been the area of original concern and it would be beneficial if a camera could also be located there. Rennie said if the area was not suitable for a camera they had a van that could be used, so he would look at what would be the best method and the best location.

Andy Pratt, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner had come along to the meeting to support Rennie/Dexter in the work they carried out for Parish Councils and to highlight the importance of working together to tackle speeding. He explained that there were five priorities in the Police & Crime Commissioner's Plan and this included road safety. Copies of the Police & Crime Commissioners Plan were available at the meeting. Andy was the Chairman of the Road Safety Partnership which was currently being refreshed. Andy explained that the majority of speeding was in rural areas and it was important to change drivers' attitudes and make them think about the impact of speeding. Sadly 25 people had died on Lancashire roads last year due to speeding. Andy explained about the work with schools and that pupils were taking part in projects to stop good drivers and say thank you, and also to stop bad drivers and make them aware of the consequences of their actions. Andy said that Parish Councils, residents and volunteers could all get involved with this scheme.

Andy also referred to a police operation carried out earlier in the week with the Vehicle Licensing Agency to target illegal vehicles and take them off the road. Andy also explained that parking enforcement had been taken back “in house” by Lancashire County Council and this would hopefully result in better enforcement especially outside schools.

Andy also referred to Operation Snap that allowed people to upload video and photographic evidence relating to driving offences as they happened. Andy explained that there were too many children killed on Lancashire roads and that Lancashire Police were working in conjunction with Lancashire Fire and Rescue to raise awareness of the dangers. It was noted that Councillor Ron Woollam was also on the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority in his capacity as a County Councillor for Preston North and was the Road Safety Champion. Councillor Ron Woollam informed the Parish Council about the various courses that helped promote awareness of the dangers of speeding including the Biker Down course.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked Andy, Rennie and Dexter for their presentation and then the Parish Council had a general discussion regarding data retrieval and if this should be undertaken in Grimsargh. Rennie gave the estimated cost for setting up the cameras and retrieving the information which would be around £290 for two cameras and around £350 if there were three cameras or the use of the van. The possible date for this to be carried out was the week beginning 21 March 2022. The usual procedure was to leave the cameras in place for a week. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to this and this would be ratified under the following Agenda item.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

125. (21/22) Whittingham Lane and traffic issues

As discussed earlier under public participation the Parish Council had received a presentation from Rennie Pinder, Dexter Stubbs and Andy Pratt regarding the proposal to collect data in relation to speeding issues in Grimsargh. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to undertake a project to collect speeding data in Grimsargh so this could be used to influence any possible solutions to deal with speeding vehicles in the Parish. The estimated cost of this would be around £350 depending on the number of cameras involved. The proposed timescale was week beginning 21 March.

Resolved

That, approval is given for a data collection project to be undertaken in Grimsargh to ascertain the number/speed of vehicles in the village over a period of one week at an estimated cost of £350.

126. (21/22) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2022/0180 - 22 Yew Tree Avenue, Grimsargh PR2 5LA
Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and erection of detached garage.
- 06/2022/0129 - Rosemary Glen, Elston Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LE
Reserved Matters application (namely appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 06/2019/0526 for 1no dwelling.
- 06/2022/0116 - 240 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JS
Alterations to roof including increase in ridge height; pitched roof, increase in eaves height, and single storey extensions to rear.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0180, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application, although it was noted that the garage on the plan did not correspond with the application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0129, the Parish Council were concerned that the proposed new dwelling would be visible from all elevations and they supported the comments made by the Landscape Design Manager at Preston City Council, that a sympathetic tree and shrub landscaping scheme should be included to soften the effect of this new building. These should be native plants and not small-scale ornamental garden shrubs and perennials as indicated on the plans. The Parish Council also agreed that an arboriculture survey should be undertaken to determine the nature and value of the forest tree as the Parish Council would also like to see measures to protect this tree.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0116, this was discussed earlier at the meeting under public participation. Taking into account the representations from a number of residents, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons: -

The height and scale of the proposed extension was too overbearing and would have a detrimental effect on the existing residents' properties on Tunbrook Avenue. This would cause a lack of privacy and amenity to those existing properties on Tunbrook Avenue. It was noted that the revised plans reduced the extension slightly from the boundary but the height remained the same and this was a real cause for concern.

There was already a lack of parking on Preston Road and this proposed extension would reduce parking even further. The proposed extension would result in 6 large bedrooms which may be for family/adults who would probably have their own vehicles.

The proposed extension would also have a detrimental impact on the street scene on Tunbrook Avenue.

There was reference to storage above the garage and it was not clear why this was needed and the Parish Council was concerned this could also be converted into a further bedroom.

In addition to the above, a resident had also presented to the Parish Council an alternative design for the extension. It was agreed that these details would be sent separately to the Planning Officer as this information did not form part of the formal objection by the Parish Council. It was also noted that the Parish Council and residents are not usually against extensions, but in this case as outlined above this proposal was too overbearing in height and scale and would result in a detrimental effect for the residents, and that was the reason why the Parish Council strongly objected to this application.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0180, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application, although it was noted that the garage on the plan did not correspond with the application.

ii) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0129, the Parish Council were concerned that the proposed new dwelling would be visible from all elevations and they supported the comments made by the Landscape Design Manager at Preston City Council, that a sympathetic tree and shrub landscaping scheme should be included to soften the effect of this new building. These should be native plants and not small-scale ornamental garden shrubs and perennials as indicated on the plans. The Parish Council also agreed that an arboriculture survey should be undertaken to determine the nature and value of the forest tree as the Parish Council would also like to see measures to protect this tree.

iii) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0116, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to this application for the following reasons: -

The height and scale of the proposed extension was too overbearing and would have a detrimental effect on the existing residents' properties on Tunbrook Avenue. This would cause a lack of privacy and amenity to those existing properties on Tunbrook Avenue. It was noted that the revised plans reduced the extension slightly from the boundary but the height remained the same and this was a real cause for concern.

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127. (21/22) Platinum Jubilee Working Group

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update on the latest meeting of the Platinum Jubilee Working Group held on 23 February 2022. A copy of the notes of the meeting had been circulated to the Parish Council and a copy is presented in the Minute Book. She reported that a number of entertainment acts had now been booked and that the Clerk was looking into the insurance for the event and also to cover the liability for the stage (lorry) which was being given free of charge. The Clerk also reported that she had asked our current insurance providers Zurich Municipal for a quote to cover the event and she was awaiting a response. The Clerk said that our current insurance was due to expire on 1st June and said it was important that the Parish Council ensured it was covered for 5th June and was therefore recommending that the Parish Council continue with our current insurers for at least the next year. This was agreed, and the Clerk reported that the quote for both our annual insurance and the event insurance would be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk also reported that as the village green was owned by Preston City Council, she had completed the paperwork to apply to use the land for the event.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam proposed that Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell should unveil the new mural at the event on 5th June and the Parish Council were happy with this. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had put years of hard work and commitment into the village green and she had also co-ordinated the design and production of the new mural.

The Clerk also confirmed that she had signed off the contracts for the entertainment and that it was important to obtain a copy of the public liability for each supplier to ensure that all was covered legally for the event. It was also agreed that the Village Hall should be booked for the event in case the weather is bad and also if people needed to use the hall for getting changed etc.

The Parish Council also needed to check regarding First Aiders for the event and the Clerk said she would contact Peter Bond at North West Ambulance Service to ask his advice regarding this.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held on the 9th March at 7.30 pm.

Resolved

i) That, the report of the Platinum Jubilee Working Group is received and noted, and a copy of the notes from their meeting held on 23rd February 2022 is presented in the Minute Book.

ii) That, Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell should unveil the new mural on the Village Green at the event on 5th June, 2022.

128. (21/22) Best Kept Village Competition

The Parish Council gave consideration to entering this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £35.00. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to enter this year's competition.

Resolved

That, approval is given to enter this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £35.00.

129. (21/22) Parish & Town Council Conference – 19 March 2022

The Parish Council gave consideration to attending the next Parish & Town Council Conference which was a "Highways" special to be held on Saturday 19th March at County Hall Preston between 9.30 am and 1.30 pm. The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle said that he would be happy to attend this Conference on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk said there was an opportunity to join the Conference remotely and she would attend via the Webinar link.

Resolved

That, approval is given for the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle to attend the Parish & Town Council Conference on behalf of the Parish, to be held on 19 March at County Hall, and to note that the Clerk will attend the Conference remotely.

130. (21/22) Parish Council Newsletter

It was noted that the Parish Council newsletter would be signed off at the next meeting to enable it to be printed to promote the Platinum Jubilee event to be held on 5th June. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked about including an article on the Wetlands as she had checked regarding the Wetlands newsletter and this was distributed at a different time of the year and the article would provide a general update. It was agreed to include an article on the Wetlands. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also reported that she was speaking to a number of residents in the village about living in Grimsargh in the 1950's and articles on this would be included in the newsletter.

It was also agreed to include an article on road safety and the spotlight would be on the new Yarn Group.

131. (21/22) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £142,919.60 in the Nat West bank as at 4 February 2022.

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

Clerk's Salary 15/02/22 - £951.48. (Cheque no 1120).

Signs Express for sign for new Mural on Village Green £442.80 (CiL) (Cheque no 1121).

Preston City Council for December newsletter £696.70 (Cheque no 1122). It was noted that we were undercharged for the July 2021 newsletter, so this was being rectified.

JRB for dog bin bags £119.46 (Cheque no 1123).

It was further noted that we had also paid NEST pension £48.88 Direct Debit 7 January and 4 February 2022. Water Plus Direct Debit for water for Nellie Carbis £17.61.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Clerk's Salary 15/03/22 - £951.48 + £100 deposit for "Hop till you drop" steel band – total £1,051.48. Remaining £330 outstanding to Hop till you drop, to be paid by cheque.

ii) Reimbursement to Councillor Joyce Chessell for Ostler Charabanc – Platinum Jubilee deposit £85.00 2nd installment £114.00 total £199.00. Balance of £586 to be paid by cheque.

iii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed.

iv) HMRC Q4 for tax and NI £1,165.46.

v) Grimsargh Village Hall - £90 for room hire + £257.40 for Grimsargh Yarn Group as previously agreed total = £347.40.

132. (21/22) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from Grimsargh Players to include a flyer about their Group in our new residents' packs, this was agreed.

The Clerk also reported that she had received a request from Grimsargh WI to include their programme on our website. It was agreed to put a copy of their programme on our noticeboard near the shop, as the Parish Council did not usually include other Groups details/information on our website.

It was noted that information on FOGG would also be added to our new resident's pack together with the current vacancy on the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported that the Platinum Jubilee tree had now been planted on the village green and that the plaque was currently at the Clerk's house.

The Parish Council had also received an invite to the Mayor's tree planting on Avenham Park for the Platinum Jubilee which would be held on Wednesday 16 March at 12 noon. The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle said he would be delighted to attend this event on behalf of the Parish Council.

133. (21/22) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 7 April 2022 at 7.00 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. This would be followed by an Ordinary meeting of the Parish Council.