

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7 March, 2024 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 Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

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

108. (23/24) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Rusling.

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.

109. (23/24) Declarations of Interest

Councillor David Hindle declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8, Grimsargh Wetlands as Chairman of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8, Grimsargh Wetlands as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

Councillor Stephen Whittam (Preston City Council) also declared a prejudicial interest in Item 8, Grimsargh Wetlands as a Trustee on Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

However, if there were no decisions required on the Wetlands item then the Councillors listed above could remain in the meeting.

110. (23/24) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st February 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111. (23/24) 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.

Three members of the public had come along to the meeting to raise their concerns about the planning application for a temporary agricultural access track for a period of three years (ref 06/2024/0090) which was close to their properties. They had

Temporary agricultural access track for a period of 3 years.

- 06/2023/0844 - Land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Road, PR2 5SB
- Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline planning permission 06/2022/0745 relating to plots 6 and 8 for 1no 13,868sqm warehouse unit, associated tower and operations building (Class B2/B8) and ancillary road, loading and parking infrastructure.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0090, the Parish Council took into account the issues raised by residents under public participation and also the emails received in respect of the application and raised their concerns that the applicant is an employee of Applethwaite Group who were the developers of the land adjacent to the proposed agricultural track. The Parish Council were also concerned that Smith & Love, the Planning Consultants for Applethwaite Ltd had consulted some residents locally about submitting a new application for the site and advising that if approval was given then the original application will not go ahead. The Parish Council totally accepted that anyone could put forward a planning application even if they did not currently own the land. However, the Parish Council shared the views of residents that this did seem a deliberate attempt to bypass the correct planning processes by separating the application for the agricultural track and the revised application which as yet has not been submitted, as without the agricultural track the revised application would struggle to get approval.

The Parish Council agreed to formally object to Planning Application 06/2024/0090, as the application sought to remove the existing trees and hedges that had to remain under application 06/2019/1109 to screen existing residents from the new development and provide a natural barrier between the existing and new homes. The purpose of maintaining the original tree line and hedges was to ensure privacy for residents and minimise the impact to public visual amenity. It also provided a valuable habitat.

The Parish Council were also aware about bats being present in the vicinity of the track and also there was an existing pond. The planning statement supplied by the applicant stated that no ecological surveys had been carried out as no habitat was affected, which the Parish Council did not agree with. In addition to this the proposed track was too close to the existing properties in particular 135 Preston Road, Grimsargh.

In conclusion the Parish Council agreed to ask the Planning Officer to take the comments outlined above into consideration and asked that the application should be refused due to the detrimental effect on existing residents, and the destruction of trees and hedges which had to remain under the current planning approval.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0844, the Parish Council agreed to object to the application in particular relating to the proposed height of the tower which was 36m tall. Although the applicant had tried to mitigate this by having the

tower away from the boundary of the site, it would still be visible to local residents and the scale and height would be overbearing. If the tower was an essential part of the production on site, then it was vitally important that the tower was not illuminated.

Resolved

i) That the Parish Council formally object to Planning Application 06/2024/0090, as the application sought to remove the existing trees and hedges that had to remain under application 06/2019/1109 to screen existing residents from the new development and provide a natural barrier between the existing and new homes. The purpose of maintaining the original tree line and hedges was to ensure privacy for residents and minimise the impact to public visual amenity. It also provided a valuable habitat.

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ii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0844, the Parish Council agreed to object to the application in particular relating to the proposed height of the tower which was 36m tall. Although the applicant had tried to mitigate this by having the tower away from the boundary of the site, it would still be visible to local residents and the scale and height would be overbearing. If the tower was an essential part of the production on site, then it was vitally important that the tower was not illuminated.

113. (23/24) Neighbourhood Plan – next steps

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that the Neighbourhood Plan workshop had been very productive and the Officers from Preston City Council had gone through what could be done under a Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that if the Parish Council wished to go ahead, they would need to have their plan done by June 2025 which was a tight timeline, however all previous work done including the consultation was still valid. The potential next steps were to appoint a planner to drive the Grimsargh Parish Council plan forward, a Transport Strategy and a Design Strategy, both strategies were essential as part of a new Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council agreed that they would wish to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh and approval was given for the Clerk to obtain costings for the appointment of a planner; and consultants to undertake a Design Strategy and a Transport Strategy.

Resolved

That the Parish Council wish to go ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan for Grimsargh and approval is given to the Clerk to obtain costings for the appointment of a planner; and consultants to undertake a Design Strategy and a Transport Strategy.

114. (23/24) Biodiversity Grant

It was noted that consideration had been given by the Wetlands Trust to the use of the Biodiversity Grant (£300) as agreed at the last meeting. The Wetlands Trust were recommending that the grant was used for materials for a floating nest raft for terns on the Wetlands, and this would be installed by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Biodiversity Grant (£300) to be spent on a floating nest raft for terns on the Wetlands, to be installed by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

115. (23/24) Grimsargh Wetlands

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust informed the Parish Council that they had now got an experienced bee keeper to keep bees on the Wetlands. The hives would be situated well away from any local properties and all necessary paperwork would be provided. The bee keeper would donate honey to be sold on behalf of the Wetlands Trust. The Parish Council were very supportive of this.

As there were no decisions to be made in relation to the Wetlands, there was no need for Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam, Councillor David Hindle and City Councillor Stephen Whittam to leave the meeting.

Resolved

That the update on the Wetlands is received and noted.

116. (23/24) Road Safety Working Group

Councillor Trevor Haines gave an update to the Parish Council regarding the data capture for Whittingham Lane, he advised that this was currently being carried out by Altham Parish Council and it was noted that this would cost £300.

Councillor Trevor Haines said that a reply had been received from the Cabinet Member for Highways, County Councillor Rupert Swarbrick and although he was disappointed with the response, the reply did say that CiL monies could be used for traffic calming measures. A further meeting had been held with Andy Pratt, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner who was also the Chair of the Road Safety Partnership and he had also expressed concerns about road safety.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton suggested waiting until the data was received from the latest data capture, then the next steps could be decided. The possible footpath through the Village Green was being discussed with Preston City Council and the Clerk would speak to the Road Safety Engineer at Lancashire County Council to find out the procedure for installing a SPID and how this could be progressed. This would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the update is received and noted, and the next steps will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting once the data for Whittingham Lane has been received.

117. (23/24) Grimsargh Skew Bridge Widening Scheme

The Clerk reported that the Grimsargh Skew Bridge Widening Scheme was due out for consultation by Lancashire County Council shortly. It was agreed to defer this item until the official consultation period commenced.

Resolved

That this item is deferred until the commencement of the official consultation on the Grimsargh Skew Bridge Widening Scheme by Lancashire County Council.

118. (23/24) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council considered possible items for the June newsletter including the Heritage Corner item on the Beatles in Grimsargh and potential uses of the Parish Council land adjacent to the Wetlands.

The final items would be signed off at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

119. (23/24) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £197,501.47 in the Nat West bank as at 5 February 2024.

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

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary February £1333.15. (Cheque no 1251).

Preston City Council for Christmas Tree £2,195.20. (Cheque no 1252).

We had been advised that bank charges up to 2 February 2024 were £3.85.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary March £1333.15.

ii) HMRC Tax & NI Q4 £1023.83.

iii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the next meeting.

120. (23/24) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that a new dog waste bag dispenser was needed for Old Railway Walk and she would add this to the agenda for the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that she had received notification that public footpath FP 7 would remain closed until 23 September 2025. The temporary closure was necessary whilst works were carried out near the footpath.

121. (23/24) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7.00 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. This would be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.