

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6 March 2025 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
PCSO Ellie Burke – Lancashire Police
Phil Garlington – Grimsargh Cricket Club
Ed Walker – Grimsargh Cricket Club
2 members of the public

99. (24/25) Apologies for Absence

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; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

100. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

101. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

102. (24/25) 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.

The Chairman welcomed Phil Garlington and Ed Walker from Grimsargh Cricket Club who had come along to update the Parish Council on their fundraising and to seek additional support from the Parish Council. Phil explained that the Cricket Club had been fundraising to improve the facilities at the club including the new training nets. There had been 89 donations from members of the community via crowdfunding and a number of fundraising activities had been held which had raised £52,295. The Cricket Club had now received Planning Permission from Preston City Council, but as part of the permission there had to be a number of ecological surveys to be carried out which would cost an additional £3,000. Phil said they were very appreciative of the support given by the Parish Council to the Cricket Club but

without an additional £15,000 they would lose the money from the Lancashire Sport and Cultural Fund which was £13,309. The deadline for raising the money was 10 March 2025.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked Ed and Phil for coming along to the meeting, and said that the funding request would be discussed later on the agenda, and that the Clerk would inform the Cricket Club of the outcome as soon as possible.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed PCSO Ellie Burke to the meeting. Ellie gave an update to the Parish Council on recent issues in the area, including two nuisance incidents involving young people kicking balls and the recent road traffic collision (RTC) near to Ribblesdale Drive. Ellie reported that there had been no burglaries and that crime was relatively low in the area, however, she said there had been reports of two males acting suspiciously around Yew Tree Avenue at the end of February, and she advised that all residents need to ensure that their vehicles and property are kept secure, including outdoor sheds.

Ellie also reported that speed enforcement had been carried out on 1st March and that all 270 cars were adhering to the speed limit. Ellie also advised that there would be a “coffee with a cop” event on Wednesday 12th March between 10.30 – 12.30 at Gaia, the new coffee shop on Preston Road.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked Ellie for attending and providing a comprehensive update on Police activities in the area.

Councillor Stephen Whittam informed the Parish Council that Preston City Council had now found a contractor to carry out the works on the Redrow pond, and hopefully this would be done as soon as possible.

Councillor Trevor Haines asked if there had been an update about Willbrook Estate to see if this could be a 20 MPH estate in line with other new estates in the area. The Clerk agreed to contact Highways and ask about this. Councillor Trevor Haines also mentioned that the Slow Down Saves Lives signs had been placed near The Hills. The Clerk advised that this would have been due to the recent RTC mentioned by the Police and that people tended to speed on the road near The Hills.

The Clerk took the opportunity to mention that she had spoken to Mark Taylor, the Director of Environment and Property at Preston City Council regarding the potential for a hoggin path connecting the new housing estate across the Village Green into Grimsargh. If the Parish Council were able to help with funding and Preston City Council were responsible for the scheme, then this would not need planning permission. However, currently the Parks Department were under resourced and were dealing with the Levelling Up Funding Projects which meant that they had no free capacity to design a new scheme for at least one year. The Parish Council indicated that they would be willing to help fund the design of a scheme if this could be outsourced by Preston City Council.

Two members of the public had come along to the meeting as they were relatively new to the area and they came to listen to the Parish Council meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed them and thanked them for attending.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reconvened the meeting.

103. (24/25) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2025/0199 - 343 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JT
Front porch, 1no detached garage, widening of existing vehicular access, and additional hard surfacing, following demolition of existing outbuilding.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2025/0199, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.

It was reported that Preston City Council were currently consulting on the Central Local Plan. The Consultation period was from Monday 24 February (2pm) to Monday 14th April (Midnight). It was noted that all documents relating to the Consultation were available to download from the following website.

<https://centrallocalplan.lancashire.gov.uk/>

There were also a number of drop-in events being held to support the Consultation and it was noted that an event had been held earlier today at Grimsargh Village Hall. The Clerk reported that it appeared that there was no further new development earmarked for Grimsargh in the draft plan, but asked the Parish Councillors to look through the documents and in particular the policies relating to the area of separation, which was important to Grimsargh.

As the closing date for comments was Monday 14th April, it was agreed that the response to the Consultation should be agreed at the April meeting of the Parish Council.

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

Resolved

- i) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2025/0199, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.
- ii) That with regard to the Consultation on the Central Local Plan, it was agreed that the Parish Council's response would be discussed at the April meeting of the Parish Council.

104. (24/25) Community Orchard update

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the trees could be delivered on Friday 21st March with the aim of holding a community tree planting event on Saturday 22 March between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to liaise with the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton regarding the delivery time for the trees, and it was hoped that these could be stored at Grimsargh Wetlands until being planted the next day.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said he would speak to the resident who had a keen interest in planting trees to advise him about the planting day and ask for his help. The event would be advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook page and residents would be advised to bring their wellies and a spade.

Resolved

- i) That the update on the Community Orchard is received and noted.
- ii) That the Parish Council agree to hold a community tree planting event on Saturday 22nd March between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon.

105. (24/25) Best Kept Village Competition

The Parish Council gave consideration to entering this years Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £25. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to enter this year's competition.

As Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam was unable to attend this evening's meeting, it was agreed to discuss further arrangements to support our entry at the next meeting.

Resolved

That approval is given to enter this year's Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £25.00.

106. (24/25) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council discussed possible items for the June newsletter including an update on the Cricket Club, Heritage Corner (possible relating to the 80th Anniversary of VE day); update on the footway/hoggin path Village Green and Handicraft update. These would be discussed further at the next meeting of the Parish Council with the final newsletter items to be signed off at the May meeting.

107. (24/25) Grimsargh Cricket Club – funding request

As discussed earlier at the meeting, members of Grimsargh Cricket Club had come along to the meeting to update the Parish Council on their fundraising, and to seek the Parish Council's support in reaching their target to improve the facilities at their Club. It was noted that the Parish Council had previously supported the Cricket Club towards the purchase of their nets, and at that time had given an undertaking to provide further report if the full total required was not raised by the Club. As discussed, the Cricket Club had informed the Parish Council that they were still £15,000 short of their total amount, in spite of numerous donations from local residents, businesses, players and the Parish Council. Without the additional £15,000 funding then the Cricket Club would lose the £13,309 from the Lancashire Culture and Sports Fund.

The Parish Council agreed that Grimsargh Cricket Club was an important part of the community and felt that the development of their Club should be supported. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton proposed that the Parish Council should award £15,000 to Grimsargh Cricket Club, and this was seconded by Councillor Trevor Haines and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

The Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should contact the Cricket Club and inform them of the funding from the Parish Council. In addition to this the Parish Council asked that the Parish Council's support was included on the Cricket Club's social media and website pages and if possible, the Parish Council's logo should be included on the Club's shirts. The Cricket Club would also be asked to contribute an item for the June newsletter of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given to award £15,000 to Grimsargh Cricket Club to enable them to complete their project to improve the facilities at the Club. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

108. (24/25) Financial Risk Assessment

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Financial Risk Assessment which had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that there were no suggested amendments as it was compliant with current legislation. The Parish Council unanimously approved the Financial Risk Assessment as presented, and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented, and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

109. (24/25) Financial Rules and Regulations

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Financial Rules and Regulations which had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that there were no suggested amendments as it was compliant with current legislation. The Parish Council unanimously approved the Financial Rules and Regulations as presented, and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Rules and Regulations as now presented, and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

110. (24/25) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £172,055.08 in the Nat West bank as at 5 February 2025.

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

Reimbursement for Christmas events - £113.65 (Cheque no 1299).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 January 2025 £1,297.21 (Cheque no 1300).

Adam Cooper, Contractor 4 invoices, October 35 x £17.00 per hour = £595.00;

November 37 hours x £17.00 per hour + 3 half barrel planters £150.00 + £37.76 = total £816.78; December 27 hours x £17 per hour + timber for replacement planter £76.80 + planter screws/fixings for crib £21.25 = total £557.05; November 43 hours X £17 per hour = £731.00 = total £2,699.81. (Cheque no 1301).

Snape Security for new CCTV and Laptop £4,032. (Cheque no 1302).

John Gornall tree work on Nellie Carbis £100. (Cheque no 1303).

Trees for Orchard, Newgate Nurseries £824.75. (Cheque no 1304).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 February 2025 £1,297.21. (Cheque no 1305).

We had been advised that bank charges from 3 January to 31 January were £2.80.
Direct debit Nest Pension Clerk, 7 January £67.71.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) HMRC Q4 - £941.98

ii) Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 March 2025 £1,297.41

iii) Preston City Council December newsletter printing £547.75 and design £150 = £697.75 add Christmas tree supply and install £2,470.56 = total £3,168.31.

iv) Sally Gorton for Website administration and domain renewals £403.18.

2) It was agreed to appoint Donna Kidd as the Internal Auditor at a cost of £70, which was the same rate as last year.

111. (24/25) Parish Council Lengthsman

As the Parish Council was aware, our current Lengthsman Adam was leaving in May, and the Parish Council had agreed to proceed with the appointment of a new Lengthsman. The Clerk had circulated to the Parish Council a draft advert for the position of Lengthsman together with a draft work description and conditions of contract. It was also noted that Whittingham Parish Council were also looking to appoint a Lengthsman and they were offering £18.00 per hour for the role.

There was a general discussion and it was agreed that the job would be advertised at £19.00 per hour. The interview panel would be the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton; the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines and the Clerk.

Resolved

That the position of Lengthsman is advertised as set out in the advert presented to the Parish Council, and that the role should be advertised at £19.00 per hour.

112. (24/25) Clerk's report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

113. (24/25) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday 3rd April at 7.00 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall and this would be followed by an Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council.