

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8th May, 2025 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council

Councillor Peter Burton opened the meeting and sadly reported that Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam had recently passed away. He said that Jayne was a huge loss to the Parish Council and was well loved and respected by the whole community. Since becoming a member of the Parish Council, Jayne had wholeheartedly been involved in all Parish activities and events and organised everything to perfection. The Parish Council was thinking about Jayne's family, especially Ron, Rebecca, James and her grandson, and also David her brother, a fellow colleague on the Parish Council, at this very sad time. A minute's silence was then held in memory of Jayne.

1. (25/26) Appointment of Chairman for 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that there was one nomination for the position of Chairman and this was Councillor Peter Burton. It was therefore agreed that Councillor Peter Burton is elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025/2026.

Councillor Peter Burton signed the Chairman's Acceptance of Office.

Resolved

That, Councillor Peter Burton is elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025/2026.

2. (25/26) Appointment of Vice-Chairman for 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that Councillor Trevor Haines was happy to remain as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council if no one else wished to undertake the role.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed that Councillor Trevor Haines is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025/2026.

Resolved

That, Councillor Trevor Haines is elected as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council for 2025/2026.

3. (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; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Trevor Haines and Councillor David Hindle.

4. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

5. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd April 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that the Annual Parish Minutes from 3rd April 2025 had been circulated for information only, as these would be approved at the next Annual Parish Meeting in April 2026.

6. (25/26) Adjournment for Public Participation

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver referred to the area on Redrow being fenced off to keep the children safe. She said that there was a petition on social media to reopen the bike jumps but the area was dangerous and the wall owned by a local resident was becoming unstable due to the digging carried out by the children to make the jumps. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that following the last Parish Council meeting, the matter had been raised again with Mark Taylor, Interim Director in charge of Parks at Preston City Council, and the concerns of residents regarding safety had been discussed. Preston City Council as owners of the land had acted very quickly following the concerns raised and had provided temporary fencing to prevent any further digging and the area being used as bike jumps. A permanent fence would be installed shortly.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that he would contact the parent who had put the petition on FB and go through the background as to why the area had been fenced off. The Parish Council were still looking at options for providing facilities for young people in the village.

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver thanked Councillor Stephen Whittam for the works done so far, but asked if the holes could be filled in to minimise flooding and further damage to the wall and nearby trees. Councillor Stephen Whittam said he would also speak to Mark Taylor about this to see if this could be done.

Councillor Stephen Whittam also said that the works on the pond are Redrow had been completed by contractors working for Preston City Council.

Councillor Simon Rusling raised the issue about BRSK who were installing internet cable on Redrow Estate. Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver said that the company had informed her that they were installing telegraph poles on her garden to improve her internet connection, but she was happy with her current internet speed. Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver asked if a company could just install telegraph poles on her

garden without permission and questioned if planning permission was required. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that he would speak to the Planning Department as soon as possible and get back to Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver with an answer.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

7. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2025/0288 - Land at Roman Road Farm, Roman Way, Preston, PR2 5SB Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for employment area comprising of general industrial (Class B2), warehouse (Class B8) and ancillary business (Class E(g)(i)) pursuant to outline permission 06/2022/0745.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2025/0288, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

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

Resolved

That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2025/0288 the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

8. (25/26) Appointment of representatives to outside bodies, Sub-committees and Working Groups.

The Parish Council agreed to defer this item until later in the year, when hopefully the Parish Council would have a full complement of Parish Councillors.

Resolved

That the appointment of representatives to outside bodies, sub-committees and Working Groups is deferred until later in the year.

9. (25/26) St Michael's PTFA Grant Application

The Parish Council had received a 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.

The Clerk reported that the quotations for the event and a copy of the applicant's bank statement were not attached to the form and currently these had not been received. It was agreed to defer the grant application until the next meeting, when hopefully the outstanding paperwork would have been received.

Resolved

That the grant application from St Michael's PTFA towards a circus event at the school is deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.

10. (25/26) Parish Council Newsletter

It was agreed that a tribute would be written about Jayne Woollam for the Parish Council newsletter and Councillor Simon Rusling and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton agreed to write the article. Other articles to be included would be the new Orchard, item on the Cricket Club, Flower, Produce and Handicraft Show, Heritage Corner (possibly use an earlier article), and a road safety update. The newsletter would hopefully be signed off at the June meeting of the Parish Council.

11. (25/26) Parish Council Insurance

The Parish Council gave consideration to their insurance with Zurich Municipal. It was agreed to enter into a further three-year deal at a cost of £980.71 per annum. This would be renewed on 1 June 2025.

Resolved

That approval is given to enter into a three-year deal with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £980.71 per annum.

12. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £143,949.22 in the Nat West bank as at 5 April 2025.

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

S Whittam, Clerk's Salary £857.57 (It was noted that the Clerk would reclaim the £25 for the Best Kept Village Competition, and this would be added to her May salary.

It was noted that we had also paid the direct debit for Nest Pension Clerk, 6 March £67.71.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Grimsargh Village Hall for room hire for Grimsargh Wetlands and Parish Council meetings up to February 2025 - £150.00

ii) Sue Whittam Clerk's salary May £1,297.41 + £25.00 for Best Kept Village.

iii) Preston City Council – Greenspace Contribution £3,190.00.

iv) LALC Annual Subscription - £573.20

2) 2024 / 2025 End of year report and Annual Return.

The Clerk presented the end of year financial report which included the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). i) The Parish Council reflected on the effectiveness of the system of internal control and approved and completed the Annual Governance Statement. ii) The Parish Council then considered the end of year financial report and approved the Accounting Statements which were then signed and dated by the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton. It was further noted that the Clerk had arranged for the internal auditor to complete her audit it time for submission to the external auditor.

13. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that Preston City Council were arranging for a small fair, consisting of half a dozen or so rides for young children, to be held on the Village Green on 14th and 15th June. Preston City Council were checking that the Parish Council were happy for this to go ahead. The Parish Council agreed that they had no problem with this as long as there was no detrimental effect on the Cricket Club.

The Chairman, Peter Burton took the opportunity to congratulate the Clerk on becoming the Mayor of Preston.

14. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 5th June 2025 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

15. (25/26) Appointment of Parish Council Lengthsman (Para 1)

The Clerk reported that following the interviews held on 30 April, the successful applicant had been offered the position subject to satisfactory references. The references had now been received and the new Lengthsman would be starting in the Parish, week commencing 2 June 2025. There would be a couple of weeks for handover, and Adam had agreed to show the new Lengthsman the village and the jobs that needed to be done.

Resolved

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