

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 5 November, 2015 held at 7.30 pm 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 Tom Davies – Preston City Council  
Reverend Chris Halliwell – St Michael’s Church

### **75. (15/16) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council and PC Chris Banks.

### **76. (15/16) Declarations of Interest/Chairman’s Health & Safety Announcements**

There were no declarations of interest and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson briefed the Parish Council on possible health and safety considerations for this evening’s meeting.

### **77. (15/16) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That, the minutes of the Meeting held on 1 October, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **78. (15/16) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing issues**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if Reverend Halliwell and Councillor Tom Davies had anything to raise with the Parish Council. Councillor Tom Davies informed the Parish Council that he was currently dealing with two issues of interest to the Parish Council – one was the provision of a crossing on Preston Road and the other was a request for an additional bus shelter in the village. He would keep the Parish Council informed about the progress.

Councillor David Hindle had asked for the shooting of wildfowl on the wetlands to be raised under public participation. Councillor Hindle explained that the landowner had given permission for shooting on a neighbouring field close to the wetlands. Some of the wildfowl on the wetlands had been shot when flying over other field. Councillor David Hindle wanted to make the Parish Council aware of the issue and he would keep the Parish Council and the landowner informed about this.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell referred to the tree issue on Cedar Close and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said she would try and find out where the owner of the tree lived in order to progress this matter.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell also referred to the footpath behind the school and the plan by Rotary to complete the works. She had advised Mr Giddins from Rotary to come along to the next Parish Council meeting to explain about the works and apply for a grant from the Parish Council. The Clerk advised that Rotary would have to complete the grant application form which was on the Parish Council website so this could be considered at our next meeting.

The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted PC Banks and he was not aware of the police carrying out any phone surveys unless it was a follow up after a crime had been committed. There appeared to be a number of scams at the moment that involved people using the phone to try and obtain information about people's backgrounds etc. It was important not to give any personal or financial information on the phone.

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

#### **79. (15/16) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

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

- 06/2015/0814 - 7 Nook Crescent, Grimsargh PR2 5JU  
Erection of two storey extension to side of dwelling and erection of pitched roof to existing conservatory.
- 06/2015/0875 - 32 Yew Tree Avenue Grimsargh  
Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling.

The Parish Council noted the following application for a Certificate of Lawfulness:-

- 06/2015/0844 - 2 Peacock Hill Close, Grimsargh PR2 5BU  
Certificate of Lawfulness for single storey extension to rear of dwelling following demolition of existing conservatory.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2015/0690 (United Utilities Group PLC – Outline planning application for erection of 12no residential dwellings (access applied for only) for land at Preston Road, Grimsargh. It was reported that this was considered by Preston City Council on 5 November 2015 and the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson was very sorry to report that the application had been refused by Preston City Council's Planning Committee. The exact wording of the refusal still had to be issued by the City Council but the basis for refusal was the lack of affordable housing and density of the development. It was noted that the Planning Committee was divided with four votes in favour and four votes against. The Chairman of the Planning Committee had a casting vote and he voted for refusal. The Parish Council was very disappointed with this outcome and obviously it was too early to know what United Utilities intended to do but it was hoped they

would continue to support the ultimate aim of the project and to appeal against the decision. The Parish Council appreciated the work done by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson and for attending the Planning Committee and speaking on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **Resolved**

1) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2015/0814 and Planning Application 06/2015/0875 the Parish Council has no comments to make on these applications.

2) The Parish Council noted the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness, application no 06/2015/0844 for 2 Peacock Hill Close, Grimsargh.

3) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2015/0690 (United Utilities Group PLC – Outline planning application for erection of 12no residential dwellings (access applied for only) for land at Preston Road, Grimsargh. It was noted that this was refused by Preston City Council at their Planning Committee meeting held on 5 November 2015.

### **80. (15/16) Report from the Projects Working Group**

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell presented the report from the Projects Working Group from their meeting held on 6 October 2015. It was noted that there had been some confusion about the role of the Projects Working Group and it was looking at not only the CiL money but also the money that would be received from the solar powered farm. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she did not wish to be on the Working Group and Councillor Peter Burton agreed to take her place. It was felt that the Working Group should look at ways of evaluating infrastructure projects in the village and ways of promoting and allocating the funds for those projects.

### **Resolved**

That the report is received and noted and that Councillor Peter Burton replaces Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell as a member of the Projects Working Group.

### **81. (15/16) Report from the Community Engagement Working Group**

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson presented the report from the Community Engagement Working Group from their meeting held on 12 October, 2015. The purpose of the meeting was to review the items for the December Newsletter.

### **Resolved**

That the report is received and noted.

### **82. (15/16) Report from the Finance Working Group**

The Clerk presented the report from the Finance Working Group from their meeting held on 21 October 2015. It was reported that the Working Group had considered

the Lengthsman's contract and was recommending to the Parish Council that this was renewed for a further 12 months until 30 September 2016. This was agreed.

The Finance Working Group had also given initial consideration to the budget for 2016/2017 in advance of the precept requirements being agreed in December. The Finance Working Group was asking the Parish Council to suggest any additional items/projects for next year's budget (2016/2017) so these could be given consideration when discussing the budget/precept at the December meeting. Councillor Peter Burton explained that they were looking at increasing the Clerk's salary and the implications of the new Pension Regulations. It was also suggested that an Employment Sub Group should be established next May to deal with these types of issues. It was noted that Councillor Peter Burton was preparing an update on the budget for the December meeting and any additional items for next year's budget should be passed to Councillor Peter Burton for inclusion.

The Clerk also reported that it was good financial practice to have a Financial Risk Assessment that considered all financial risks facing the Parish Council. Therefore a draft Financial Risk had been prepared and was presented to the Parish Council for consideration. It was agreed that the Financial Risk Assessment should be approved and a copy of this is presented in the Minute Book. It was also noted that the Financial Risk Assessment would be reviewed on at least an annual basis.

The Finance Working Group had also considered the Transparency Code which would impact on smaller Parish Councils. It was likely that Grimsargh Parish Council would be subject to the same level of audit as in previous years. It was noted that those smaller Parish Councils who were not subject to audit under the new rules would need to have a website and make their financial information available to all on their website. The Finance Working Group had considered what type of information should be included on our Parish Council website and were recommending to the Parish Council that the auditor's report, the summary of accounts and information about projects, grants and income should be included on our Parish Council website.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the report is received and noted and that the Parish Council agrees to the renewal of the Lengthsman's contract until 30 September 2016.
- 2) That any additional items/projects for next year's budget (2016/2017) are given to Councillor Peter Burton so these can be considered when discussing the budget/precept at the December meeting.
- 3) That the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented is agreed and a copy is included in the Minute Book.
- 4) That approval is given by the Parish Council to the inclusion of the auditor's report, the summary of accounts and information about projects, grants and income on our Parish Council website.

### **83. (15/16) Grimsargh Solar Farm**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that an email had been received from the Solicitor acting on behalf of TGC Renewables regarding a Deed of Community Benefit and a Bribery Compliance Form. These documents needed to be approved and signed by the Parish Council to enable the Parish Council to receive a community benefit payment to mitigate the impact of construction vehicles during the construction phase of the farm. The Solicitor had advised that in order for the Parish Council to complete these documents it was requested that one member of the Parish Council formally abstains from the review and vote and this abstention should be minuted in the Parish Council's minutes. This was to ensure that the Parish Council had no conflict of interest in receiving the community benefit. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson agreed to abstain from the vote and taking part in this matter and Councillor Peter Burton as Vice-Chairman took over as the role of Chair for this item.

The Parish Council gave careful consideration to the documents provided by TCG Renewables and unanimously agreed to sign the Deed of Community Benefit and the Bribery Compliance Form. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson formally abstained from the debate and vote.

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson returned to her role as Chairman.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council agrees to approve and sign the Deed of Community Benefit and the Bribery Compliance Form for the solar powered farm as now presented.

### **84. (15/16) Additional Items for Expenditure**

The Parish Council gave consideration to the following additional items for expenditure:-

- i) The purchase of Service Sheets for the Carols around the crib at an estimated cost of £30.00. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray agreed to arrange this on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillor Keith Middlebrough said he would see if Preston's College could do the copying for the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed that the sheets should be updated and printed at a cost of approximately £30.
- ii) The reimbursement to the Clerk for the purchase of a shredder at a cost of £39.95. It was noted that the last shredder had been purchased for the Clerk by Farington Parish Council so it was agreed that this one would be purchased by Grimsargh Parish Council and any future ones shared between both Parish Councils. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

### **85. (15/16) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we had an estimated £47,989.44 in the bank as at 1 October 2015. It was further noted that the following invoice had been paid:-

Adam Cooper for lengthsman's materials (weedkiller) £42.00 and renewal of Waste Carrier's Licence £105.00 = total £147.00 (Cheque no 753).

## **Resolved**

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

i) Adam Cooper – 40 hours at £13 per hour = £520.00 (Cheque no 754).

ii) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 5, 12, 19, and 26 October = 4 weeks at £169.40 per week = £677.60 – tax & NI = £545.60 (Cheque no 755).

iii) It was agreed that two cheques should be signed to pay for the newsletter (AVJ) and the tree work on Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland (John Gornall).

### **86. (15/16) Clerk's Report – for information only**

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council about the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and gave the Parish Council wreath to the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson for presentation at the service.

The Clerk also advised the Parish Council that the quote for the CCTV works was in fact for each location and not the total cost as originally thought. Therefore the total cost for CCTV in the village would be around £8,000 and Councillor Terry Cryer would be updating the Parish Council at their December meeting.

The Clerk circulated some information on free boilers and gas fire servicing that was available in the Parish. It was agreed to put some information about this on our Facebook Page.

### **87. (15/16) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 3 December 2015 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson suggested having a "Jacob's Join" at the December meeting and possibly organising a Christmas meal. All thought this was an excellent idea.