

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held remotely on Thursday 5 November, 2020
at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

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

17. (20/21) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting.

18. (20/21) Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence. However, the Clerk reported that Councillor Ian Liptrot had resigned from the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle asked the Clerk to record in the Minutes the thanks of the Parish Council for Councillor Liptrot's contribution over the last four years.

19. (20/21) Declarations of Interest

None.

20. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the remote Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 1 October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the next face to face Council meeting in accordance with LGA 1972 sch. 12 Part VI para 41 (1).

21. (20/21) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

It was reported that a number of lights were not working on Old Railway Walk. Councillor Ron Woollam agreed to chase this with Preston City Council.

There was nothing further to report under this item, so the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle then reconvened the meeting.

22. (20/21) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/202/1052 - 138 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JQ
Change of use from hot takeaway (Sui Generis) to café
(Class E) two storey and single storey side extension with
roof terraced area to side.

With regard to the above Planning Application, the Parish Council did not wish to object to the application in principle, however they did have some concerns regarding the lack of parking and shared the concerns that had been raised by Lancashire County Council Highways Department in their response to this application.

The Parish Council also noted the agreement by email (in line with the Covid 19 regulations) that the Clerk had responded to application no 06/2020/1024 for 239 Preston Road Grimsargh as agreed. This was a similar response to Planning Application 06/2020/0708 which was considered recently by the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed that each one of these applications that backs onto the wetlands and involves the change of use of land from agricultural to residential curtilage is treated the same. The Parish Council was aware that a number of these applications would be coming forward.

It was agreed that the standard reply to each of these applications would be as follows: -

“It is noted that as per the previous application, we do not object to the application but we have a number of comments to make as follows: -

We are aware that parcels of land have been sold by the current landowner to residents on Preston Road. The additional land purchased by residents will back onto the Grimsargh Wetlands formerly reservoirs which is a Biological Heritage Site (BHS) and is owned by the Parish Council and maintained by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. We understand that as a condition of the sale the additional land is not permitted to be built on and in addition to this a clawback clause exists. It is important that the additional land that will become part of the residential curtilage is not allowed to be built on and also there should be no direct access via a gate or otherwise to Grimsargh Wetlands/BHS. The boundary to the site is a hedge and this will be on the other side of the resident's fence, we would ask due to the site being a BHS and the importance of rare nesting birds, flowers and fauna that the integrity of the hedge behind the house is protected. This is of paramount importance to the Parish Council and the Wetlands Trust.”

It was also noted that Preston City Council Planning Committee had considered Planning Application 06/2018/1157 for 329 Preston Road at their meeting earlier today, and although the application had been recommended for refusal by the Officers it had been approved by the Planning Committee.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/202/1052, the Parish Council does not object in principle to the application but has some concerns about the lack of parking and shares the concerns raised by Lancashire County Council Highways Department in their response to this application.

ii) That, with regard to any applications for the change of use from agricultural to residential curtilage that back onto the wetlands, the Parish Council has agreed to submit a standard response to these applications in line with the information presented above.

23. (20/21) Parish Council Newsletter

The Clerk reported that most items for the newsletter had now been received and these had been circulated to the Parish Council. The newsletter also included an additional article on the road safety issues on Whittingham Lane. It was noted that the newsletter would be sent to the printers when the Clerk had a photograph of the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle laying the wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of the Parish Council.

24. (20/21) Road Safety Working Group - update

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the progress so far with regard to the road safety issues on Whittingham Lane. It was noted that the Working Group had been busy gathering information and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell highlighted the difficulty in obtaining up to date data. The Working Group had produced a very comprehensive interim report that had been circulated to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell informed the Parish Council that this report had now been sent to County Councillor George Wilkins and also the Cabinet Member for Highways at Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Keith Iddon. The report had contained a number of recommendations on how to deal with the issues on Whittingham Lane between Preston Road and Haighton Green Lane and the Working Group were now awaiting a response from Lancashire County Council.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell for the report and its detailed recommendations.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

25. (20/21) Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Chris Blackburn, the Head of Planning Policy at Preston City Council to seek advice on Grimsargh's draft Emerging Policies document. The Clerk hoped to have a response for this evening's meeting but that had not proved possible. It was therefore agreed to discuss this item at the December meeting of the Parish Council when hopefully by then a response will have been received from Preston City Council.

Resolved

That, the item on Neighbourhood Planning is deferred until the December meeting of the Parish Council pending a response from Preston City Council on the Grimsargh draft Emerging Policies document.

26. (20/21) Annual CiL report

The Clerk had circulated the draft Annual CiL Report for year end 31 March 2020. It was noted that the Finance Working Group had looked at this report via email and had recommended approval. The Parish Council approved the Annual CiL Report as now presented and a copy is included in the Minute Book. They also authorised its publication on the Parish Council website.

Resolved

That, the Annual CiL Report for year end 31 March 2020 as now presented, is approved by the Parish Council and published on the Parish Council's website.

27. (20/21) Item for Expenditure – Parish Council laptop

The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had asked for this item to be placed on the Agenda. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained to the Parish Council that the current laptop used by the Clerk was the one purchased for the CCTV monitoring and was a basic refurbished laptop. As the Parish Council were now having to use zoom for our remote meetings and was likely to do so for a number of months, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray was recommending that a suitable laptop should be purchased for use by the Clerk. This would also be necessary when the Parish Council were back meeting "face to face" or undertaking hybrid meetings which would involve part remote meetings and part "face to face" meetings. It was noted that a decent laptop would cost around £750 and the purchase was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given to the purchase of a suitable laptop for use by the Clerk at a maximum cost of £750.

28. (20/21) Dates of Parish Council meetings for 2021

The Parish Council gave consideration to the dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2021 and unanimously agreed the following dates: -

Thursday 14 January 2021 *(note change of date)
Thursday 4 February 2021
Thursday 4 March 2021
Thursday 1 April 2021
Thursday 13 May 2021 *(note change of date due to Elections)
Thursday 3 June 2021
Thursday 1 July 2021
Thursday 2 September 2021
Thursday 7 October 2021
Thursday 4 November 2021
Thursday 2 December 2021

Resolved

That the dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2021 are agreed as set out above.

29. (20/21) LALC AGM

The Clerk reported that the LALC AGM would be held remotely on Saturday 14 November at 10.00 am. Unfortunately, there was no one available to attend the meeting on that date.

30. (20/21) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £91,769.74 in the Nat West bank as at 5 October 2020. The Clerk also reported that Preston City Council had advised that we would be receiving a CiL payment of £49,821.10 and this would appear on next month's bank statement.

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

- i) Adam Cooper Contractor 31 hours @£14.25 total £441.75 (Cheque no 1044).
- ii) Sue Whittam 15/10/20 - £901.24. (Cheque no 1045).

It was also noted that we had paid £48.48 Nest Pension for Clerk direct debits on 4 September 2020 and 2 October 2020.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam 15/11/20 - £901.04 + £20 reimbursement for Remembrance Day wreath = £921.04.
- ii) Preston City Council – green space contribution £3,190.
- iii) Sally Gorton for website admin £154.19.
- iv) Adam Cooper Contractor October to be confirmed at the next meeting.
- v) Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reimbursement for zoom £81.70.

31. (20/21) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the Christmas Tree would be arriving on 17 November and the tree lights would be put in place after that date.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

32. (20/21) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 3 December at 7.30 pm and this would be a remote meeting.