

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd November, 2023 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Trevor Cryer; 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

61. (23/24) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman) and 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.

62. (23/24) Declarations of Interest

None.

63. (23/24) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th October 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. (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.

Councillor Stephen Whittam, Preston City Council said he had reported the issue of the obscured 30 MPH sign near to Cow Hill and the vegetation had been cut back, but the sign was still slightly obscured. He had also contacted Highways regarding the speed on Whittingham Lane, but the Highways Officer had advised that there was no clear evidence of speeding. Councillor Stephen Whittam had also contacted Preston City Council re the crash barriers on the village green and these had now been repaired, along with the car park surface.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that with regard to the traffic data, a response had been received from Lancashire County Council and that the Working Group were not happy with the response. The Working Group would need to consider the next course of action and make appropriate recommendations to the Parish Council. The Working Group had produced a short item for inclusion in the Parish Council newsletter about this.

It was noted that a bin had been removed on Old Railway Walk and put in front of the bench. The Clerk would arrange for this to be put back in its normal place.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam mentioned the Best Kept Village and also that some of the barrels, for example the one opposite the Plough needed replacing. The Clerk would add this to the potential budget items for discussion.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked about Grimsargh taking part in the “Britain in Bloom” Competition and agreed to do some research into what would be involved with this. She also asked about the plans for the new land adjacent to the Wetlands and whether a Working Group should be established. The Clerk advised that this could be discussed further once the Parish Council had decided about the future of their Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk was currently obtaining some dates from the Planning Policy Manager at Preston City Council for a potential planning workshop for the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

65. (23/24) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no new Planning Applications for discussion at the meeting, and no further planning issues were raised.

66. (23/24) Christmas Events Working Group

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that she had now purchased the selection boxes for the children at the event and had received a discount; the total cost was £108 for 120 boxes. The Clerk explained that she had been unable to contact Father Doyle but she would write to him about the lights switch on and crib blessing to be held on 1st December. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that Reverend Williams would be at the event and Grimsargh St Michael’s School choir would also sing some carols.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed the Parish Council that the Field Day Committee would serve hot chocolate and mince pies. There would also be the draw for the next Rose Queen.

Resolved

That the update from the Christmas Events Working Group is received and noted.

67. (23/24) Grimsargh War Memorial

The Parish Council discussed the quote received to replace some of the grass around the war memorial to make it easier to manage. After discussion, the Parish Council agreed that a suitable stone border/paving around the memorial would be more in keeping with the stone cross. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam agreed to speak to the builder to provide an alternative quote, and this would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That, Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam contacts the builder on behalf of the Parish Council, to obtain an alternative quote for a stone border around the war memorial, to be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

68. (23/24) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council approved the draft newsletter items and noted that the couple of outstanding items would be added by the Clerk and submitted to the designer/printer after Remembrance Sunday, so that pictures and information from the event could be included in the newsletter.

69. (23/24) Grimsargh Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that all pads had just been replaced on the defibrillators and originally the Parish Council had charged both the Village Hall and St Michael's School for the paediatric pads only, which currently cost £80. The Clerk also reported that the batteries for all four defibrillators would need replacing shortly and these were around £250 each. The Parish Council originally had a package deal with the defibrillator provider which covered replacing the batteries and consumables within the first five years, but this package had now come to an end, and there were no further packages available.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund all the consumables for the defibrillators in the village, including the paediatric pads for the Village Hall and St Michael's School, and that the Clerk is authorised to purchase these, as and when necessary.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to fund all consumables for all four defibrillators in the village, and the Clerk is authorised to purchase these, as and when necessary.

70. (23/24) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £175,069.68 in the Nat West bank as at 4 October 2023. It was reported that the CIL payment £35,717.12 for April 2023 – September 2023 had been credited to our account and would appear on our next bank statement.

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

Grimsargh Village Hall room hire including Wetlands Trust meetings £195.00 (Cheque 1232).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 October 2023 £1,265.50 (Cheque no 1233).

LANPAC Membership fee £60.00 (Cheque no 1234).

JRB Enterprise Ltd – dog bin bags £130.26 (Cheque no 1235).

We had also been advised that the bank charges 2 September – 29 September were £4.55. We had also paid Nest Pension Clerk £48.88 on 27 September – direct debit.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 November 2023 £1,265.50.
- ii) Selection boxes Christmas event, reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Jayne Woollam - £108.00.
- iii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the next meeting.
- iv) Sal Gorton – Website admin – August 2022 to November 2023 - £310.78.

71. (23/24) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG) regarding the overgrown tree/bush on the green referred to in the last minutes and they had asked that the tree is not pruned. The Parish Council were happy with this approach.

It was noted that an email had been received from a resident regarding youth nuisance near to Orchard Manor and the Clerk had contacted our PCSO regarding this.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that they would have to agree their budget at the January meeting and asked that any additional budget items should be forwarded to her as soon as possible, so they could be included in the budget.

72. (23/24) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.