

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7 November, 2024 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
PCSO Chloe Pearson – Lancashire Constabulary
PCSO Amy Christie – Lancashire Constabulary

66. (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 David Hindle.

67. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

68. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd October 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. (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.

PCSO Chloe Pearson said that hopefully there would be more presence in the area as a new PCSO would be starting in two weeks' time. Although crime was relatively low there had been incidents of anti-social behaviour near the cricket pitches on Grimsargh Green including setting off fireworks. There had also been a couple of incidents of garages being broken into and some thefts on new estates. PCSO Chloe Pearson asked everyone to be vigilant and also said that it was important that residents kept their property locked up and secure.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that the Christmas events for the village would be held on Friday 6th December at Grimsargh Green starting at 6.15 pm and said it would be great if the Police could attend. PCSO Chloe Pearson said that they would attend if they were able to do so.

Councillor Stephen Whittam said that he had been chasing the new lighting on the village green and he had been informed that the cable for the electricity would be installed at the same time as electric works were carried out for the cricket club. With regard to the Redrow estate, Councillor Stephen Whittam reported that Preston City Council were still looking for an alternative contractor to carry out the works to clear the pond. Councillor Agustina Oliver said that some of the fencing on the estate was being replaced and it was noted that neither Councillor Stephen Whittam nor the Parish Council had been informed about these works taking place, which was disappointing as an update had been provided by Preston City Council regarding the lights.

Councillor Trevor Haines informed the Parish Council that the Clerk had asked if he could attend a meeting with an Officer from Lancashire County Council to discuss the potential location for the SPiD, as the Clerk was unable to attend. The meeting had been held at short notice on the previous Tuesday. From discussions with the Officer, Councillor Trevor Haines said that there appeared to be only one suitable location for the SPiD which was in Haighton Parish. The pole for the SPiD would be four metres high and the SPiD and solar panel were also quite large. The potential location was also close to the Willbrook Estate and could cause issues with light pollution and obstruct views for local residents. Councillor Trevor Haines said that the Officer would be providing a report to the Clerk so that this could be considered further at the next Parish Council meeting. He also advised that the Officer felt that SPiDs had limited effect and that a sign saying Grimsargh Please Drive Slowly may be more effective.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said she was unhappy that the meeting had taken place without her or Councillor David Hindle, as members of the Road Safety Working Group being present. Councillor Trevor Haines reiterated that this was a meeting the Clerk could not attend. The Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Councillor Trevor Haines as being the closest Parish Councillor to the potential site. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked for her disapproval to be minuted.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that the works on the Wetlands had now been completed and the new fencing looked fantastic. She also informed the Parish Council that Andrew Small's memorial was now in place on the Wetlands.

It was also reported that there were two lights out on Old Railway Walk and the Clerk agreed to report these to Preston City Council who owned the land.

The Clerk said that an email had been received from Preston Parks Department regarding a memorial bench on the Village Green. The Parish Council would wish to see one of the broken benches replaced with a memorial bench rather than a new location being identified. It was noted that Preston City Council were also consulting the Friends of Grimsargh Green and the Cricket Club regarding the bench.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked everyone for attending and then reconvened the meeting.

70. (24/25) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2024/1003 - Grimsargh Cricket Club, The Green, Whittingham Lane, PR2 5LH. Replacement of single practice net with 2no practice nets.
- 06/2024/0929 - Grimsargh House Rest Home, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JE. Change of use of land for 4no dwellings.
- 06/2024/0922 - Grimsargh House Rest Home, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JE. Change of use of land with 1no. self-build dwelling (Class C3), following demolition of rest home (Class C2).

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2024/1003, 06/2024/0929 and 06/2024/0922, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council noted the Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed change of use from residential (Class C3) to residential children's home (Class C2) for 1no child/young person for 10 Carbis Avenue. This was not subject to consultation.

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

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Applications 06/2024/1003, 06/2024/0929 and 06/2024/0922, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

71. (24/25) Christmas Events 2024

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that the 100 selection boxes had now been purchased at a cost of £119.00. All arrangements were now finalised for the blessing of the Crib and the Christmas lights switch on to be held on Friday 6th December at 6.30pm. It was noted that the running order/service for the event had been slightly revised. The blessing of the Crib would take place at the same time as refreshments were being served to ensure that queues did not extend onto the road and to keep everyone safe.

Resolved

That the update on the Christmas Events is received and noted.

72. (24/25) Best Kept Village/Planter request

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that she had a spare £20 voucher as So Plants did not want a voucher for their planter, so she had spent this on flowers and given them to the church. She had confirmed this by email to the Parish Council. She also asked if it was time for a rethink regarding the planters and maybe make it more of a competition. It was agreed that this would be discussed

further at the January 2025 meeting of the Parish Council.

The Clerk reported a resident from Elston Lane had been in touch asking if they could have a planter near Elston Green and that they were willing to look after the planter if the Parish Council agreed to purchase. The Parish Council agreed to purchase the additional planter and it was recommended that this should be put in place for spring 2025.

Resolved

That approval is given to the purchase of a half barrel planter for Elston Green.

73. (24/25) Grant Application – Grimsargh Club

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant application from Grimsargh Club for some replacement chairs for the Club. A copy of the application and supporting documentation was circulated to the Parish Council. The Clerk also gave an update on the applicant's accounts.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to award £1,000 to Grimsargh Club for the purchase of replacement chairs.

Resolved

That approval is given to award £1,000 to Grimsargh Club for the purchase of replacement chairs.

74. (24/25) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to items for the Parish Council newsletter, it was noted that the newsletter would be submitted for design and printing after Remembrance Sunday, so that an item on the Remembrance event could be included.

75. (24/25) Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2025

The Parish Council gave consideration to the dates of meetings for 2025 which were agreed as follows: -

Thursday 9 January 2025 *(note change of date)
Thursday 6 February 2025
Thursday 6 March 2025
Thursday 3 April 2025
Thursday 8 May 2025 *(note change of date due to Elections)
Thursday 5 June 2025
Thursday 3 July 2025
Thursday 4 September 2025
Thursday 2 October 2025
Thursday 6 November 2025
Thursday 4 December 2025

All meetings would start at 7.30 pm and would be held at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Resolved

That approval is given to the dates of meetings of the Parish Council for 2025 as outlined above.

76. (24/25) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £188,901.53 in the Nat West bank as at 4 October 2024.

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

Footpath Closure for Grimsargh Wetlands £1,185 as agreed at the last meeting + £100 for Annual Membership of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust = £1,285 (cheque no 1284).

Robert Easom for maintenance grass/hedge cutting on land adjacent to the Wetlands £774.72 (cheque no 1285).

Adam Cooper, Contractor – June 37 hours £629.00 + July 45 hours £765.00 + August 36 hours £612.00 + Sept £476.00 = total £2,482.00 (cheque no 1286).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 October, £1,257.97 (cheque no 1287).

LANPAC Membership fee £60.00 (cheque no 1288).

We had been advised that bank charges from 31 August – 04 October were £4.20. Direct debit Nest Pension Clerk 9 September £67.71 had also been paid.

The Q2 report was circulated to the Parish Council for information.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 November £1,257.97.

Grimsargh Wetlands contribution to fencing £3,039.60 (CiL monies).

Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Jayne Woollam for selection boxes - £119.00.

77. (24/25) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that there had been concerns raised by Myerscough JFDC regarding other teams using the pitch for either training or matches. This was something to be aware of, as Myerscough JFDC had the sole use of the pitch as they were responsible for its upkeep.

The Clerk reported that she had now resubmitted the Orchard application and she would keep the Parish Council up to date with progress.

It was noted that Seddon Homes had completed their path up to the boundary of the Village Green as conditioned in their planning permission. The Parish Council would now look at extending the path across the village green, to ensure a safe pathway across into Grimsargh village.

The Clerk reported that Steve Snape had confirmed that the original quote for CCTV was still valid and that arrangements were now in hand to upgrade the CCTV system in the village.

It was noted that the response from Highways regarding the cost of increasing the footway on Whittingham Lane would be in excess of £500,000. The Parish Council would discuss the issues further at their meeting in December.

78. (24/25) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.