

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6 November, 2025 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
1 member of the public.

66. (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 Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Simon Rusling and PCSO Ellie Burke.

67. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

68. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd October 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69. (25/26) 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 informed the Parish Council that he had attended Planning Committee that afternoon to support the residents who had objected to the former Brown's Mitsubishi site being changed into a shop and petrol station. The application had been approved by Preston City Council Planning Committee in spite of the number of objections received.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton took the opportunity to mention the Best Kept Village Awards which he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council, together with Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell. Although Grimsargh had not been the overall winner, they were runner up and the village had also received a highly commended certificate for Grimsargh Cricket Club; a joint highly commended certificate for the Village Hall and a joint runner up for the War Memorial. An article on this would be included in the next Parish Council newsletter.

The Chairman, Peter Burton then welcomed Charlotte Hamer to the meeting, who had expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council. Charlotte said that she had lived in the area for the last ten years and she had a genuine interest in Grimsargh and wanted to improve things for the residents and the local community. Her Grandmother, Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had been a member of the Parish Council for over forty years, and she had seen at first hand how rewarding the role could be.

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

70. (25/26) Co-option onto the Parish Council

As reported under public participation, Charlotte Hamer had come along to the meeting to express an interest in becoming a member of the Parish Council. Charlotte had attended the last few meetings of the Parish Council to listen to the meeting and hear about the work involved. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Charlotte Hamer onto the Parish Council with immediate effect.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton gave a warm welcome to Councillor Charlotte Hamer who then signed the Acceptance of Office form.

Resolved

That, Councillor Charlotte Hamer is co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

71. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 06/2025/1116 | - | 3 Nook Crescent, Grimsargh PR2 5JU
Single storey wrap-around extension following demolition of single storey rear extension. |
| 06/2025/1075 | - | Church House Farm, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5SD
Infilling of a dismantled railway line cutting with inert fill and top soil, enclosure with timber post and rail fence, and inclusion within the residential curtilage of Church House Farm (Retrospective). |

With regard to Planning Application 06/2025/1116, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2025/1075, it was noted that although this application was retrospective, the works had been undertaken within the curtilage of the owner's land, and did not impact on the designated Public Right of Way. The Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

The Parish Council noted that Planning Application 06/2025/0748, 144-146 Grimsargh Post Office, Preston Road had been approved for use of part of the ground floor as a take away/food preparation area. It was further noted that the hours of opening would be 11 am – until 2.00 pm, and 4.00 pm until 8.00 pm, Monday to Saturday.

As reported earlier at the meeting by Councillor Stephen Whittam, Planning Application 06/2025/0763 for 181-183 Preston Road, Preston (former Brown's Mitsubishi site) was considered by Preston Planning Committee on 6 November and the application was approved by the Committee.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2025/1116 and 06/2025/1075, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

ii) That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2025/0748 and 06/2025/0763, it was noted that both these applications had been approved by Preston City Council.

72. (25/26) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to items for the next Parish Council newsletter which would be delivered in December. It was agreed that there would be items on Remembrance Sunday; Best Kept Village Competition; Hoggin path; Skew bridge; grants; our new Parish Councillor, Charlotte Hamer and the Heritage Item, which Councillor David Hindle had already forwarded to the Clerk.

73. (25/26) Christmas Events 2025

It was noted that most of the Christmas Events had now been sorted, with Field Day providing the refreshments. Reverend Andy Williams and Canon Doyle would also be attending and leading the short service to bless the crib. The Clerk agreed to look for the orders of service for the event and also to find out where the Santa sack was stored. Councillor Trevor Haines said he could order another sack from Amazon if necessary.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton had purchased the selection boxes, and he also suggested that the Parish Council purchase a portable PA system that could be used at all events. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to the purchase of a portable PA system at a cost of £164.98.

Resolved

i) That, the update on the Christmas Events 2025 is received and noted.

ii) That, the Parish Council agree to the purchase of a portable PA system at a cost of £164.98.

74. (25/26) Activities for young people in Grimsargh

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reported that there had been an initial meeting of the Working Group to look at potential activities for young people in Grimsargh.

One idea was to have a board games/card games event at the village hall sometime in February, this would be a one-off event to see if it was something that young people would be interested in. It would be aimed at year's 6-9 school children. There was a general discussion about organising the event, safeguarding and responsibility, and the Clerk agreed to contact the Youth Worker at the Vault to see if they could help. All agreed it was a good idea and this would be discussed further.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer also agreed to become a member of the Working Group.

Resolved

- i) That, the update on activities for young people in Grimsargh is received and noted.
- ii) That, Councillor Charlotte Hamer is appointed to the Working Group.

75. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £165,178.43 in the Nat West bank as at 3 October 2025. We had been informed that a CiL payment of £12,289.43 has been paid into our account and this would appear on our next statement.

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

Village Hall room hire for Parish Council & Grimsargh Wetlands Trust March – August 2025 - £135.00. (Cheque no 1338).

Adam Cooper, Contactor final invoice £459.00. (Cheque no 1339).

North West Design Collective Ltd - £810.00 initial works for Hoggan path project between July and August 2025 (CiL monies). Site Surveying Services Ltd for topographical survey Grimsargh Green £660 (CiL monies). (Cheque no 1340). Note this cheque was paid into the Clerk's personal account, then both payments made by bacs.

Sue Whittam Clerk's salary 15 October £1,067.54 + PKF Littlejohn – audit fee £504.00 + £60.00 LANPAC = £1,631.54. (Cheque no 1341). Note this cheque was paid into the Clerk's personal account, then payments for the audit fee and LANPAC made by bacs.

David Steele, Contractor Inv4 – September 37 hours @£19 total £703. (Cheque no 1342).

Grimsargh Village Football Club – grant £8,000 (CiL). (Cheque no 1343).

Lancashire County Council sign for Whittingham Lane £555.60 (CiL). (Cheque no 1344).

We had also paid Direct bank charges up to 29 August - £1.75.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the budget and precept requirements would be discussed at the December meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary 15 November £1,067.54.

ii) Treestyle for tree survey Grimsargh Green £575.00 + VAT (CiL monies). Awaiting invoice.

iii) Preston City Council – Green Spaces £3,190.

2) As reported at the previous meeting, it was becoming increasingly difficult to obtain cheque books and pay by cheque. It was therefore proposed that the Parish Council set up an online bank account with Unity Trust Bank who were used locally by a number of Parish Councils. There was a facility for dual authorisation, and it was agreed that this should be the Clerk and one Parish Councillor. All Parish Councillors could be signatories on the account, which would then enable the Parish Council to pay by bacs. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

76. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the utility check for Jayne's bench had been carried out and our Lengthsman David would put the bench in place in the next couple of days.

The Clerk also reported that the new defibrillators had now been received and installed in the existing cabinets. The old defibrillators had as agreed, been donated to North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) and the Parish Council had received a lovely thank you from NWAS who had said that the defibrillators would be put to good use.

The Clerk said that the sign at Whittingham Lane had now been paid for and it should shortly be installed by Lancashire County Council.

It was reported that a meeting to discuss Skew Bridge had been arranged via Maya Ellis MP, and that this would be held on Thursday 13 November at 6.00pm. It was agreed that the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell, Councillor Charlotte Hamer and the Clerk would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

77. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 4th December 2025 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.