

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 October, 2013 at
7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor David Nicholson (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor Andy Ellis and Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
PC Chris Banks
PCSO David Reid

70. (13/14) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer and Councillor David Hindle.

71. (13/14) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

72. (13/14) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 September, 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

73. (13/14) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks and PCSO David Reid to the meeting. PC Banks explained that he had been working with local schools carrying out road safety and drug awareness. The police had issued a booklet that was available to all about children being transported safely in vehicles and using the correct child seat/booster seat. The booklet also reminded people about the speed limits outside schools and the danger of travelling too fast. Reference was made to a local resident driving on their road with their child on their knee and the police confirmed that they had spoken to him and it was unlikely that he would do this again.

It was noted that Operation Firecrest would start for one week commencing 14 October when the police would be targeting rural crime and insecure premises/vehicles. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray mentioned that the Parish Council had established a Community Safety Working Group that was looking at the possibility of installing CCTV in the village. PCSO Reid had

already had some discussion with Councillor Dan Dewhurst about this and it was noted that funding could be available. It was further noted that the police had arranged a day of action to be held on Saturday 14 December to give advice about security and there would also be a dog warden available to micro chip dogs. This free event would be held at the village hall between 10 am and 2 pm. The Chairman said she would be happy to put this on the Parish Council website. PCSO Reid had also produced a leaflet which would be circulated to all properties in Grimsargh.

With regard to crimes in the area it was reported that there had been 5 recent crimes involving unlocked sheds resulting in bikes being stolen and an unlocked front door resulting in the theft of a television and computers. One crime involved a person "flashing" on a bus that was going through Grimsargh.

It was noted that the chickens on Preston Road were still causing a problem and PCSO Reid said he would deal with this matter.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked PC Banks and PCSO Reid for attending the meeting. She then asked if any Parish Councillors had any issues to raise under public participation.

Councillor David Nicholson explained that a lady had spoken to him before the meeting about a hedge issue encroaching on to the footpath. He would go and look at the issue and ask the Clerk to write a letter if appropriate.

Councillor Andy Ellis gave a quick explanation about broadband and the availability of BT infinity. He agreed to write an article for the next Parish Council newsletter about this.

The Clerk reported that she had received information from Preston City Council about proposed polling stations for the village and this was as per usual the village hall. All agreed they were happy with this. A letter had also been received from Lancashire County Council regarding footpaths 5 and 6 – extending the temporary diversion order due to works being needed on the public rights of way.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that members of the Parish Council had enjoyed the recent visit by Lord Horam who was a lovely chap. She also mentioned the Christmas tree that was usually provided by Alan Coar and the Clerk agreed to speak to Councillor David Hindle who could not be present at tonight's meeting about this.

The Chairman Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then reconvened the meeting.

74. (13/14) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2013/0638 - 58 Ribblesdale Drive Grimsargh PR2 5RJ. Erection of 1 no detached dormer bungalow and attached garage with living accommodation in the roof space to the rear,

following demolition of existing detached garage.

- 3/2013/0782 - Spout Farm, Preston Road, Longridge PR3 3BE.
Development of 32 dwellings including affordable housing and alterations to existing access following site clearance.

With regard to the Planning Application for 58 Ribblesdale Drive, Councillor David Nicholson explained that he had visited the proposed development but could not see any problems with the application.

With regard to the Spout Farm application it was noted that this was not in our Parish but very close to the border with Longridge. Ribble Valley Borough Council was happy to accept comments from the Parish Council even though the closing date for comments had now passed.

The Clerk had spoken to Longridge Town Council about this application and had raised concerns about the effect of traffic on Grimsargh if this development went ahead. Longridge Town Council had raised no objection but had asked that Ribble Valley Borough Council give consideration to traffic management when considering this application. Members of the Parish Council raised concerns about the increase in traffic caused by this new development and about the need for a masterplan that considered not just local infrastructure but the effect of neighbouring developments especially when it was under a different local authority. It was felt that the Parish Council should replicate the concerns raised by Ribble Valley Borough Council in respect of the recent Wainhomes Planning Application for land off Ribblesdale Drive which basically raised concerns about the cumulative effect on traffic caused by the proposed number of developments in and around Grimsargh.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave an update on WB2.1. She explained that the landowner had contacted her about proposed extra care housing and inviting the Parish Council to visit an existing site in Ormskirk. Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell indicated they would like to attend the visit and the Chairman agreed to co-ordinate the date for this and inform members of the Parish Council so they could attend if they wished.

It was noted that the Preston Local Plan 2012-2026 was now out for consultation and would be discussed at the November meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray would speak to Martin Pudsey at Preston City Council about getting a copy of the plan as it was not yet available on line.

It was further noted that the Hallam High Court hearing was held on 30 September 2013 and that the Parish Council should find out the outcome on Friday 4 October 2013. The Parish Council had also received notification that the appeal date for the second Hallam application had been set for 12 November and was scheduled to last for two days (APP/N2345/A/13/2201821).

The Clerk reported that we had also received notice of an appeal by Fox Strategic Land & Property Ltd for the former Ridings Depot and land north and south of

Whittingham Road, Longridge. Any additional comments had to be submitted by 15 October 2013.

Resolved

- 1) That the Parish Council had no comments to make in relation to Planning Application 06/2013/0638.
- 2) That with regard to Planning Application 3/2013/0782, the Clerk replies to Ribble Valley Borough Council raising concerns about the cumulative impact on highways if this development goes ahead.
- 3) That with regard to WB2.1, the Chairman Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray will arrange a site visit to a similar facility in Ormskirk and all Parish Councillors will be invited to attend if they wish.
- 4) That the Parish Council has no further comments to make with regard to the appeal by Fox Strategic Land & Property Ltd for the former Ridings Depot and land north and south of Whittingham Road, Longridge.

75. (13/14) Report from the Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Peter Burton presented the notes from the Community Engagement Working Group held on 12 September, 2013.

It was noted that Councillor Peter Burton was now the Chairman and note taker for the Working Group.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

76. (13/14) Report from the Finance Working Group

The Clerk presented the notes from the Finance Working Group from their meeting held on 26 September, 2013. The Working Group were recommending to the Parish Council that the Terms of Reference for the Group were updated to cover current financial requirements as follows:-

- Monitor and review on at least an annual basis Grimsargh Parish Council's financial rules and regulations to ensure they are adequate for the Parish Council's needs.
- Review and make recommendations on the budget provision for each financial year.
- Review any actions arising from the annual internal and external audits and make recommendations to the Parish Council to deal with these issues.
- Monitor and review the Parish Council's accounts to ensure they are legally compliant and promote best practice.
- Provide a written report from its meetings and report back to the Parish Council with recommendations for action.

The Working Group had also considered the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances – Review of Allowances for 2013/2014 produced by Preston City Council which covered Parish Basic Allowance and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances. The report had recommended that Parish Councillors should not be paid a basic allowance but that all Parish Councils in Preston should adopt a Travelling and Subsistence Allowances Scheme as set out in the Schedule to the report. A copy of the report had been circulated to the Parish Council and that the Parish Council was recommended to adopt this Report in its entirety. This was agreed.

It was noted that Parish Councillors claiming expenses for travel and subsistence is rare and can only be claimed for official Parish business outside of the Parish area.

The Working Group was recommending to the Parish Council that the following amendments were made to the Parish Council's Financial Rules and Regulations

a) Under Payment of Accounts

With prior approval by the Clerk, each Parish Councillor can incur expenditure of up to £50 to cover urgent expenditure for example in relation to printing flyers/leaflets with regard to Planning Applications.

b) Under General

These Financial Rules and Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Preston City Council Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances – Review of Allowances (current version for 2013/2014) and updated annually. Adopted by the Parish Council in October 2013.

With regard to the expenditure of up to £50 to cover urgent expenditure as above there was one vote against the proposal and six votes in favour of the proposal and the suggested amendments as outlined above were therefore agreed.

A copy of the notes from the Finance Working Group is presented in the Minute book.

Resolved

- 1) That the Terms of Reference for the Finance Working Group are updated as presented above.
- 2) That the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances – Review of Allowances for 2013/2014 produced by Preston City Council which covered Parish Basic Allowance and Travelling and Subsistence Allowances is accepted in its entirety by the Parish Council.
- 3) That the Parish Council's Financial Rules and Regulations are updated as follows:-

a) Under Payment of Accounts

With prior approval by the Clerk, each Parish Councillor can incur expenditure of up to £50 to cover urgent expenditure for example in relation to printing flyers/leaflets with regard to Planning Applications.

b) Under General

These Financial Rules and Regulations should be read in conjunction with the Preston City Council Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Parish Allowances – Review of Allowances (current version for 2013/2014) and updated annually. Adopted by the Parish Council in October 2013.

77. (13/14) Formation of the Community Safety Working Group

Councillor Dan Dewhurst reported that the Working Group had held initial discussions and they would draft out the Terms of Reference at their next meeting. Some of the initiatives being considered to reduce crime included CCTV and the group would look at the costings and possible locations for this.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

78. (13/14) Update on Grimsargh Reservoir/Wetlands and formation of Working Group

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a brief update on the meeting held with Mick Lovatt from Preston City Council regarding the wetlands. She explained that United Utilities were still looking a handing over the wetlands together with an annual bursary of around £10,000 in exchange for developing some of the land on Preston Road. It was agreed that this was a sensitive issue but it was important that the wetlands was retained as they were a valuable habitat for numerous birds and wildlife.

It was felt that the best way of taking this forward would be to form a Working Group that would engage with United Utilities, seek legal advice as appropriate and use local expertise to report back to the Parish Council with recommendations. It was noted that this would take several months as it was important that the Parish Council got this right. It was proposed by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray that:-

“Grimsargh Parish Council are of the view that there is merit in exploring further the potential for a local group to acquire the Wetlands, with the condition of some level of development taking place on the land fronting Preston Road. To that end a Working Group is to be established to thoroughly investigate and evaluate the options available, returning to Grimsargh Parish Council with reports and recommendations.”

This was seconded by Councillor David Nicholson. It was further agreed that the Working Group should initially consist of Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and the Clerk, Sue Whittam with the group being able to draw on local

expertise as appropriate. Councillor Dan Dewhurst said his Dad may wish to be involved as he previously worked for United Utilities and had some expertise in environmental matters.

Resolved

1) That the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group is established to explore further the potential for a local group to acquire the Wetlands, with the condition of some level of development taking place on the land fronting Preston Road, and that the group thoroughly investigates and evaluates the options available, returning to Grimsargh Parish Council with reports and recommendations.

2) That the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group initially consists of Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray, Councillor David Hindle and the Clerk, Sue Whittam with the group being able to draw on local expertise as appropriate.

79. (13/14) Schedule of Parish Council Meetings 2013-2015

The Parish Council gave consideration to the schedule of meetings for 2013-2015 as follows:-

Thursday 7 November 2013
Thursday 5 December 2013
Thursday 9 January 2014 (note change of date)
Thursday 6 February 2014
Thursday 6 March 2014
Thursday 3 April 2014
Thursday 1 May 2014 (may change depending on elections)
Thursday 5 June 2014
Thursday 3 July 2014
August – no meeting
Thursday 4 September 2014
Thursday 2 October 2014
Thursday 6 November 2014
Thursday 4 December 2014
Thursday 8 January 2015 (note change of date)
Thursday 5 February 2015
Thursday 5 March 2015
Thursday 2 April 2015
Thursday 14 May 2015 (change of date due to elections)
Thursday 4 June 2015
Thursday 2 July 2015
August – no meeting
Thursday 3 September 2015
Thursday 1 October 2015
Thursday 5 November 2015
Thursday 3 December 2015

Resolved

That the Parish Council meeting dates as now presented above are agreed.

80. (13/14) Parish Council Newsletter

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray reminded everyone that items for the December newsletter were needed as soon as possible. It was agreed that the following items should be included:-

Planter competition – Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer

Planning – Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray

Crime and security – Councillor Dan Dewhurst

Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland – Sue Whittam

New Parish Councillor – Councillor Dan Dewhurst

FoGG – Councillor Joyce Chessell

Lord Horam's visit – Sue Whittam

Best Kept Village – Sue Whittam

Broadband – Councillor Andy Ellis

Community Co-ordination – Councillor Peter Burton

Also to be included any photographs from Grimsargh and information about carols around the crib (Friday 13 December).

81. (13/14) Redrow Residents Association

Councillor David Nicholson gave an update to the Parish Council on recent issues raised by the Redrow Residents Association. With regard to the missing gate at Carbis Avenue/Blackleach Avenue it was noted that this was being dealt with by the Public Rights of Way team at Lancashire County Council who were now looking at installing bollards instead of a gate. Councillor David Nicholson had asked to be kept informed of progress and to be involved in the site meeting.

With regard to the land at the back of the village hall, the residents association had suggested various ideas including a dry play area and a wildflower garden. Councillor Neil Cartwright from Preston City Council had indicated that some money may be available from Preston City Council towards a wildflower garden. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that the Village Hall Committee would wish to be involved with discussions about the use of the land as they would like a gate from the village hall onto the land. It was felt that Redrow Residents Association should approach the Village Hall Committee to start discussions on how they could work together to improve this land.

With regard to the lack of litter bins on the Redrow estate, Preston City Council had been unable to help due to funding restraints. The Parish Council therefore agreed to provide one dual purpose bin – the total cost of purchase, installation and emptying would be met by the Parish Council. Councillor David Nicholson asked to be involved in the site location for the bin that would probably be best near to the pond. This was agreed.

Resolved

- 1) That the report is received and noted.

2) That the Parish Council agrees to the purchase, installation and emptying of one dual purpose bin for the Redrow Estate and the location of the bin to be agreed with Councillor David Nicholson on behalf of the Redrow Residents Association.

82. (13/14) Conservation Questionnaires

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that we had previously agreed to keep the conservation questionnaires for six months before shredding. The six month period was now due and the Clerk asked for confirmation that the shredding of the questionnaires could be carried out. This was agreed.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to the shredding of the conservation questionnaires.

83. (13/14) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. She said that she had been in touch with Matt Kelly again regarding the drainage works on the village green but there still had not been much progress.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

84. (13/14) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an £34,050.29 in the bank as at 1 September 2013. We were still awaiting the bank statement for October.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment:-

- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 1 September, 8 September, 15 September, 22 September and 29 September = 5 weeks at £92 per week = £460 + hard drive and case as agreed at the last meeting, ink and postage £101.90 = £561.90 (Cheque no 655).
- Adam Cooper – 27 hours @ £12.25 = £330.75 + VAT @ 20% (£66.15) = Total £396.90 (Cheque no 656).
- AVJ Design re print of business cards for Cllrs Dewhurst and Ellis - £9.60. (Cheque no 657).
- BDO LLP – annual audit fee £240. (Cheque no 658).
- John Gornall – tree surgeon for dead tree Maple Grove £140. (Cheque no 659).

2) It was noted that the water bill for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland for the last quarter up to August 2013 was £15.25 (direct debit).

3) It was further noted that there were no actions arising from this year's external audit.

85. (13/14) Clerk's Report – for information only

It was noted that the dead tree on Maple Grove has now been removed by the tree surgeon and his invoice for £140 had been submitted.

A meeting of the Best Kept Village Working Group would be held in the next couple of weeks – an article would also be in the next newsletter to try and encourage a few more volunteers to be involved.

It was noted that Adam Cooper our Lengthsman would be putting a perch rail in the bus shelter at Lindale Avenue shortly.

86. (13/14) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday 7 November 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.