

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 2 October, 2014 at 7.30 pm held at Grimsargh Village Hall

**Present:-** Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Dan Dewhurst; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann; Councillor Keith Middlebrough; Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

**In attendance:-** Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council  
1 member of the public

### **59. (14/15) Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Neil Cartwright and Councillor Tom Davies from Preston City Council.

### **60. (14/15) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None.

### **61. (14/15) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That, the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4 September, 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **62. (14/15) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues**

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and as the police were not present welcomed a member of the public, Mr Wallbank to the meeting. Mr Wallbank had come along to explain about the grant request for Grimsargh Cricket Club which would be considered later in the meeting. Mr Wallbank said that the Cricket Club needed to carry out a number of refurbishments to bring the facilities up to the standard required by the governing cricket association as the Club had recently had a successful season and had been promoted to a higher division. This involved improving the seating and refurbishing the disabled toilets as well as general maintenance and painting. The Cricket Club were asking for a grant of £500 towards this work but would also welcome a contribution of £750 if possible. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked if the Cricket Club had applied for funding elsewhere and Mr Wallbank said they had not. It was suggested that the Cricket Club may also wish to approach County Councillor George Wilkins as he had a local member's grant scheme. It was noted that the Parish Council usually liked to receive quotations for the proposed works but recognised that the Club was going to carry out a lot of the work themselves.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle thanked Mr Wallbank for coming along to the meeting and said that the Clerk would inform the Cricket Club about the outcome of their grant application in due course.

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle then reconvened the meeting.

### **63. (14/15) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

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

06/2014/0704            -            232 Longridge Road, Grimsargh PR2 5AQ.  
Erection of two storey extension to side and rear of dwelling.

It was noted that Wainhomes had informed the Clerk that they were unable to attend a meeting of the Parish Council, but they had apparently revised the plan relating to the land off Ribblesdale Drive, taking into account comments made by residents, local Councillors and the Parish Council. However, they were unable to let us see this revised plan at the moment as they were still working on it. It was further noted that we would get a further opportunity to comment when Wainhomes submit their application to Preston City Council.

#### **Resolved**

- 1) With regard to planning application 06/2014/0704 the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.
- 2) That the response from Wainhomes in relation to land off Ribblesdale Drive is noted.

### **64. (14/15) Report of the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group**

An update from the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group was presented to the Parish Council covering the following issues:-

#### **Groundwork Trust**

It was reported that since the last meeting of the Parish Council we had received a quote from Groundwork Trust for the preparation of an Action Plan which would pull together a fully costed programme of capital works and current/future maintenance using both Bowland Ecology plans, the document by John Wilson and the expertise of local volunteers. The cost of this initial piece of work would be around £915. This would involve around three days' work including speaking to the local volunteers and a site visit. Groundwork had been asked for a deadline to deliver this work and the Working Group was recommending that the Parish Council approve the funding of the Action Plan and if Groundwork Trust were unable to deliver within a specified deadline that the Working Group had permission to seek an alternative supplier.

#### **Constitution of the Grimsargh Wetlands Working Group**

As agreed at the last meeting Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson had joined the Working Group. In addition the Working Group had engaged the local volunteers who would help out on the group tasks as appropriate. We had identified a couple of interested volunteers who spoke to Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and the Clerk at the second consultation event. David Bailey who was a local resident and Solicitor had offered to help look at the setting up of the Charitable Trust. The Working Group was recommending that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and David Bailey, and other experts as appropriate, work together to look at the options/costings of setting up a Charitable Trust to undertake the management of the wetlands, and report back to the Working Group/Parish Council.

### **Feedback on Consultation Event held on 17 September**

It was reported that there had been an excellent response to the latest consultation event that was open for anyone to attend. United Utilities had collated the responses received and these were circulated to the Parish Council. On the whole there was some very positive feedback about the proposals and a lot of those who expressed a preference agreed that the proposed development was not a suitable location for affordable housing. As the Parish Council was aware the Wainhomes development in the village had an element of affordable housing so any additional affordable housing was not really needed in our village.

United Utilities were currently discussing changes to the plans internally and with the Planning Officer at Preston City Council and the Working Group had asked for an audit trail of any modifications made, and of course full consultation.

### **Solicitor/United Utilities**

Discussions were under way with Solicitors from both parties and United Utilities to start the legal process. Draft Heads of Terms had been received and the Parish Council Solicitor Andrew Holden from Naphthens had asked about the level of search packages we would wish to undertake. The Working Group was recommending that the basic searches were carried out with the Local Authority and any additional searches such as Environmental and water issues we can either carry these out ourselves or ask United Utilities direct. Searches can be very expensive, by carrying out the basics this would cost £90 and the Working Group was recommending that this was the approved course of action.

It was reported that the red edge of the proportion of land to be transferred to the Parish Council was still being finalised and representatives from the Working Group would be meeting with the tenant of the adjoining land to discuss the "spur" of land that included the pond to look at if this area should be under the Parish Council's ownership or the tenants.

Our Solicitor had also advised that we would need to appoint a land agent to value the wetlands and to negotiate an improved dowry on our behalf. We were still waiting for a cost for this and the Working Group asked for approval to go ahead with this as this was a fundamental part of the negotiations.

The Working Group also needed approval to liaise with United Utilities with regard to preparing any joint press/media statements and also to draft press/media statements on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **Resolved**

- 1) That approval is given to the appointment of Groundwork Trust, or an alternative supplier if necessary, to produce an Action Plan for the Wetlands which will pull together a fully costed programme of capital works and current/future maintenance using both Bowland Ecology plans, the document by John Wilson and the expertise of local volunteers, at a cost of around £915.
- 2) That Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and David Bailey, and other experts as appropriate, work together to look at the options/costings of setting up a Charitable Trust to undertake the management of the wetlands, and report back to the Working Group/Parish Council.
- 3) That the Parish Council supports the proposed development for a maximum of 12 houses to secure the preservation of the wetlands and agrees that the area is not a suitable location for affordable housing.
- 4) To note the ongoing discussions between both Solicitors with regard to the transfer of the wetlands to Grimsargh Parish Council and approval is given for the basic search package costing £90.
- 5) That approval is given for the Clerk to appoint a land agent on behalf of the Parish Council, to value the wetlands and to negotiate an improved dowry on our behalf.
- 6) That the Working Group is given approval to liaise with United Utilities with regard to preparing any joint press/media statements and also to draft press/media statements on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 7) That the report is received and noted.

## **65. (14/154) Report of the Community Engagement Working Group**

Councillor Peter Burton presented the report from the Community Engagement Working Group held on 9 October 2014.

It was noted that the welcome letter had now been agreed by the Parish Council and it would be mainly by word of mouth that the Parish Council would be alerted to new people moving into the village.

With regard to the Grimsargh Hub, the Working Group was going to e mail all those already on the hub to remind them of the Calendar features. It was felt that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility to "flag up" clashes but it would be down to individual groups to manage this.

Councillor Peter Burton also referred to the Broadband on The Hills issue and the problems with the broadband speed. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray commented that there were other wireless broadband packages available and people with slow broadband speeds probably needed to look at these. Unfortunately there was nothing the Parish Council could do about broadband speed and this was an issue in a lot of rural areas.

Councillor Peter Burton also mentioned the Christmas tree and if Brown's would be willing to supply this. The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle agreed to speak to Brown's about this.

### **Resolved**

That the report is received and noted.

### **66. (14/15) Grimsargh Cricket Club – Grant Application**

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant request from Grimsargh Cricket Club for £500 towards refurbishment/improvement of the facilities taking into account the information contained in the grant form and also from Mr Wallbank who had attended the meeting earlier.

As quotations for the proposed works had not been included with the grant request, it was agreed to award Grimsargh Cricket Club £500 subject to receipts being forwarded to the Clerk covering the amount awarded within a period of six months ie by 2 March 2015.

### **Resolved**

That a grant of £500 is awarded to Grimsargh Cricket Club for refurbishment/improvement works at the facilities subject to receipts being forwarded to the Clerk covering the amount awarded within a period of six months ie by 2 March 2015.

### **67. (14/15) Clerk's Hours**

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson informed the Parish Council that she was aware that the Clerk was working a lot more hours than the eight hours contracted per week. The Clerk gave a breakdown of her hours over the last few weeks which ranged from 12 hours to 20 hours on occasions. At this stage the Clerk left the meeting to enable a full and frank discussion.

On returning to the meeting the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle informed the Clerk that the Parish Council had agreed to increase her hours to 14 hours per week backdated to 1 September 2014 and that she would need to keep a record of her hours so this could be reviewed again in April. The Clerk thanked the Parish Council for their support.

### **Resolved**

That the Clerk's hours are increased to 14 hours per week backdated to 1 September 2014 and that records should be kept so that the hours can be reviewed again in April 2015.

#### **68. (14/15) LALC Conference**

The Clerk reported that the LALC conference would be held on Saturday 8 November at 10.00 am at County Hall Preston. This was earlier time than in previous years as the Parish Council Conference organised by the Parish Champion was now taking place in March 2015 rather than the same day as the LALC conference. Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson agreed to attend the conference on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **Resolved**

That Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson attends the LALC conference on Saturday 8 November at County Hall, Preston on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **69. (14/15) Parish Council Newsletter**

It was reported that the Community Engagement Working Group had considered possible newsletter items and these were agreed as follows:-

- 1) Tribute to Geoff Swarbrick from people who knew him
- 2) Strawberry Teas
- 3) Adopt a Planter
- 4) Hub
- 5) Broadband on the Hills
- 6) Ella & Lucy Guide Trips
- 7) Wetlands
- 8) Best Kept Village
- 9) Wainhomes
- 10) Carol Service

With regard to the tribute to Geoff Swarbrick the Clerk agreed to forward a photograph to Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson so a request for quotes could be put on our Facebook page.

With regard to the Carols around the Crib the Parish Council agreed a provisional date of Friday 12 December at 6pm. The Clerk agreed to contact Reverend Halliwell to confirm this suggested date.

It was noted that items for the newsletter should be forwarded to the Clerk and these would be signed off at the November meeting.

#### **70. (14/15) Report from Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)**

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell presented the report from FoGG. She said that hopefully the GG's on the green will be finished soon and planted up with Sedum. A

meeting of FoGG had been arranged for the following week. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked for an item on Lengthsman's duties to be added to the November agenda.

### **Resolved**

That the report is received and noted.

### **71. (14/15) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £40,186.03 in the bank as at 1 September 2014. (We were still awaiting the October bank statement).

### **Resolved**

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

i) Sue Whittam – Clerk – 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 September = 5 weeks at £96.80 per week = £484 (Cheque no 699).

ii) Adam Cooper – 40 hours at £12.25 + VAT at 20% = £98.00. Total £588.00 (Cheque no 700).

iii) BDO LLP for Parish Council external audit - £240 (Cheque no 701).

iv) Bang the Drum (SRS Gorton) basic website training - £67.50 (Cheque no 702).

v) Grant to Grimsargh Cricket Club as agreed £500 (Cheque no 703).

vi) GVCA room hire – May-Oct 2014 £210 (Cheque no 704).

2) To note that there were no actions arising from this year's external audit.

### **72. (14/15) Clerk's Report – for information only**

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

### **73. (14/15) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6 November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.