

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 6 October, 2022 held at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Simon Rusling; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Rennie Pinder – Altham Parish Council
Dexter Stubbs – Altham Parish Council
Representatives from Grimsargh Cricket Club
1 member of the public

61. (22/23) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Hindle (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Steve Whittam from Preston City Council. 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. (22/23) Declarations of Interest

None.

63. (22/23) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 September 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

64. (22/23) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed representatives from Grimsargh Cricket Club who had come along to discuss the current situation regarding their Club and to seek support and funding to improve their facilities at the Club. A presentation was circulated to the Parish Council which highlighted current issues including the need for additional works on the cricket square to bring it up to an acceptable playing standard. A recent report from a cricket umpire had outlined the issue with the pitch when the wicket was drying out which caused the cricket balls to bounce above head height which was perceived to be dangerous. The presentation also included information regarding pitch comparisons with local teams and the Club highlighted concerns that good players were leaving Grimsargh due to the quality and availability of suitable facilities in the village.

A number of plans were outlined to the Parish Council regarding possible improvements/renovation of the Club's facilities and the issue surrounding the lack of progress with their lease which had now expired. The Clerk explained that she had contacted the Head of Legal at Preston City Council to express concerns regarding the lack of progress with the Lease and that the Parish Council's Solicitor had been chasing a response for around 18 months. The Head of Legal at Preston City Council had recently agreed to outsource the lease to a Solicitors in Preston and the result was that the lease was now progressing at last and should hopefully be agreed and signed by December. The fact that the Club did not currently have a lease in place limited the options for applying for grants.

The Club explained that they had used their current monies in the bank to start the improvements to the cricket square. However, the cost had risen steeply and their funds available had only allowed for part of the square to be done. The Club had a number of registered adults who paid subs to the Club but this money just about covered the cost of the insurance and some basic maintenance. The Club continued to fund raise via local events to raise money to fund improving the facilities and had also secured a number of local sponsors.

The Parish Council asked a number of questions regarding the costs and the ambitions of the Club to improve the facilities, storage and the Club House. It was confirmed that the Cricket Club would need around £10,500 to complete the works to the lanes and also around £20,000 for new nets.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the representatives from the Cricket Club for attending the meeting and giving a full and comprehensive presentation to the Parish Council. He confirmed that the Parish Council would be discussing their request for help and funding later at the meeting and that the Clerk would be in touch to confirm the outcome.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed Rennie Pinder and Dexter Stubbs to the meeting who had come along to present the data gathered from the cameras placed at either end of the village and also on Whittingham Lane to capture the volume and speed of vehicles. Rennie explained to the Parish Council that the cameras had been in place on two occasions in July and October this year and had been in place for a week each time. From the data presented it was noted that the worst speeding occurred at the entrance to the village from Longridge and the maximum speed recorded there was 65 MPH in a 30 MPH zone. This was at 2.10 am on 17 September 2022. The information showed that there was a lot of speeding vehicles through the village. However, it was noted that the Police only look at the 85th percentile which brings the average speed to 32.6 MPH which is within the parameters of acceptability when looked at by the Police. Rennie said he had been speaking to Andy Pratt, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner who was the Chairman of the Road Safety Partnership to ask him to consider real time speeds rather than concentrating on the 85th percentile.

A hard copy of the information was given to the Clerk and an electronic version would also be sent to the Clerk.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked both Rennie and Dexter for attending the meeting and advised the Parish Council that this matter would be discussed later on the agenda. He then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under public participation.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam confirmed that the £20 vouchers had now been distributed to the planter parents and these had been very much appreciated by the recipients. She also asked if the Clerk could obtain a copy of the Judges report from the Best Kept Village Competition. The Clerk agreed to ask for a copy of the report.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked if the Lengthsman could empty the planters at the beginning of November as currently the planters still looked lovely. The Clerk agreed to arrange this.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also advised the Parish Council that the Wetlands had suspected bird flu. This had been reported to Defra and the Wetlands Trust were currently awaiting the outcome of tests to confirm the presence of bird flu.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

65. (22/23) Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed Trevor Haines to the meeting who was interested in the vacancy on the Parish Council. Trevor informed the Parish Council that he had been a resident of Grimsargh for the last ten months and that he lived on the new estate on Whittingham Lane. He originally lived and worked in Dundee and had moved to Grimsargh as it was easier to commute to see his daughter. Trevor said he wanted to contribute to the local community and being part of the Parish Council would also help in getting to know people in the village.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Trevor Haines onto the Parish Council. Councillor Trevor Haines signed the Acceptance of Office form. The Clerk informed Councillor Trevor Haines that she would email the relevant paperwork to him for completion including the Register of Interests form.

Resolved

That, Trevor Haines is co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

66. (22/23) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no planning applications for consideration at the meeting.

67. (22/23) Cricket Club – request for funding

The Parish Council discussed the request for funding received from the Cricket Club taking into account the information received from them earlier at the meeting. The Parish Council agreed that the presentation given by the Cricket Club was excellent and that the Club was an important part of the village. Sport in the village was a vital

part of both health and wellbeing and it was fantastic that a number of young people were involved in the sport. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton asked the Clerk to clarify the money that had been previously agreed by the Parish Council to be paid as part of the lease. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to fund the cost of the Solicitors fees and also the lump sum lease costs to acquire the lease for 25 years. This was estimated at around £7,000.

The Parish Council were very supportive of the aims and ambitions of the Cricket Club and agreed to allocate £10,500 immediately to finish and improve the lanes. They also agreed that once the lease had been signed, they would pay £20,000 for the provision of the new nets for the Club. Both these amounts would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

The Parish Council were hopeful that once the lease was signed the Cricket Club would be able to apply for further grant funding and they would hopefully be successful in their applications. However, the Parish Council further agreed that if the Cricket Club struggled to obtain further funding, then they should again approach the Parish Council and they would see what could be done to help them. The Parish Council also asked the Clerk to ensure that if the Cricket Club planned to do any works to the Club House they needed to ensure they obtained the relevant permissions from either Preston City Council Parks or Planning Department as appropriate.

The Parish Council also asked if they could be acknowledged as a sponsor of the Cricket Club including our logo used on their social media page if possible and to be also visible on the cricket ground. The Clerk confirmed that she had previously sent the Parish Council logo to the Cricket Club so it could be included in a banner but she would make sure that the logo was forwarded again with a request to be acknowledged as a sponsor as outlined above. The Parish Council would also wish to be included on their sports kit in the future if possible.

The Parish Council also agreed to put an item in the next Parish Council newsletter regarding the Cricket Club and their planned improvements/ambitions for the Club.

Resolved

- i) That approval is given to award Grimsargh Cricket Club £10,500 to complete the lanes at the Cricket Club to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- ii) That once the lease is signed on the Cricket Club, the Parish Council agrees to fund the replacement nets for the Club at a cost of £20,000 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- iii) That the Cricket Club is asked to acknowledge the Parish Council as sponsors of the Club and display the Parish Council logo at the cricket ground and on social media as appropriate, and that the Club is also asked to consider using the Parish Council logo on their sports kit.
- iv) That the Clerk asks the Cricket Club to write an article for the next Parish Council newsletter outlining their planned improvements/ambitions for the Club.

68. (22/23) Whittingham Lane & traffic issues

The Parish Council discussed the information that had been presented earlier at the meeting regarding the speed and volume data of vehicles entering and exiting the village. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell suggested that a further meeting of the Road Safety Working Group should be arranged to look at the data in detail. Councillor Trevor Haines said he would like to become involved with the Working Group and this was agreed.

The Clerk agreed to give Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell the hard copy of the data that Rennie Pinder had supplied once she had scanned it and saved it.

Resolved

- i) That a meeting of the Road Safety Working Group is held to discuss the data received on the speed and volume of vehicles entering and exiting the village.
- ii) That approval is given to Councillor Trevor Haines becoming a member of the Road Safety Working Group.

69. (22/23) Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that some of the bus shelters and in particular the one near to the Church were now in a poor state of repair and needed replacing. The Parish Council had previously indicated that they would like to look at alternatives to the wooden ones and the Clerk asked the Parish Council to clarify if they still wished to go ahead with this. The Clerk reported that the replacement wooden design would be approximately £1,500 but they needed to be regularly maintained and repaired due to vandalism and general wear and tear.

The Parish Council agreed to replace the bus shelters with a more modern alternative, on a phased approach with the first one being the one near St Michael's Church. The Clerk would obtain some information and designs to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to replace the bus shelters in line with the above and this will be discussed at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

70. (22/23) Christmas Events Working Group/Christmas Tree

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that the meeting of the Christmas Events Working Group had been cancelled due to illness, however it would now take place on Monday 24th October.

The Clerk asked about the positioning of the crib for the proposed Christmas event on 2nd December. After discussion it was agreed that the crib should be placed to the right of the GGs on the village green. It was noted that the crib may not have access to electricity this year as it was too late to install the new ducting, but this would be arranged for next year.

The Clerk also reported that Preston City Council had asked the Parish Council to confirm if they wanted a Christmas Tree this year. The estimated cost of the tree was £400 but it was noted that there would be additional costs for the setting up and dismantling of the tree, and also the Parish Council would have to pay for any vandalism or damage to the lights as per the usual agreement. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the cost of the Christmas tree this year as outlined above.

Resolved

- i) That the report above is received and noted.
- ii) That approval is given to the purchase of the Christmas tree at an estimated cost of £400, to be installed and removed by Preston City Council.

71. (22/23) Room hire – Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust explained to the Parish Council that the Trust were looking to hold their monthly meetings at the Village Hall rather than at a Trustees home. The cost of which would be £10 per month. She asked the Parish Council if they were willing to fund this cost, as any money raised by the Trust went towards the maintenance and development of the Wetlands. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the room hire at the Village Hall for the monthly meetings of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust at a cost of £10 per month.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to fund the room hire at the Village Hall for the monthly meetings of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust at a cost of £10 per month.

72. (22/23) Newsletter

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the December newsletter would need to be signed off at the November meeting. It was noted that this would be too late for printing and distribution for the Christmas events, so a separate flier may need to be produced to promote the events on 2nd December.

It was agreed to include the following items in the newsletter: -

Welcome to the two new Parish Councillors – Councillor Trevor Haines and Councillor Simon Rusling to provide some information about themselves and a photo.

Heritage Corner – Councillor David Hindle.

Wetlands Trust update – Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam to arrange.

Cricket Club – the Clerk to arrange.

Road Safety, Whittingham Lane – Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell.

Reverend Salt, memories – Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam to arrange.

Remembrance Sunday – Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

73. (22/23) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £187,178.32 in the Nat West bank as at 5 September 2022.

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

So Plants for planter parent prizes £220.00 (Cheque no 1163)
Preston City Council – newsletter printing £539.29 (Cheque no 1164).
Clerk's Salary 15 September - £1,203.11. (Cheque no 1165).
GVCA for Village Hall hire - £125.00 + Summer Crafting Group grant £180.00 = total £305.00 (Cheque no 1166).
So Plants additional voucher for £20 for planter parent prized (Cheque no 1167).
Preston City Council – two invoices, Platinum Jubilee Tree £400.00 and newsletter design £172.50 (Cheque no 1168).
PKF Littlejohn for External Audit Fee £480.00 (Cheque no 1169).

It was noted that bank charges for the period 2 July to 2 September were £8.05. It was further noted that the Parish Council had also paid the water bill for Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland £11.22 direct debit.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

- i) HMRC Q2 Tax and NI - £499.27.
- ii) Adam Cooper Contractor – July 50 hours @£15 per hour = total £750.00 and August 40 hours @ £15.00 per hour = total £600.00.
- iii) LANPAC membership as agreed at the last meeting £60.00.
- iv) Preston City Council Greenspaces annual maintenance £3,190.
- v) Clerk's Salary 15 October 2022 - £1,203.11.

2) Report from the External Auditor

The Clerk reported that the External Auditor did not raise any issues of concerns and the accounts for year end 31 March 2022 were now concluded and the relevant paperwork had been posted on the Parish Council website.

74. (22/23) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the Parish and Town Council Conference would be held on Saturday 12 November at County Hall in the morning and this would be followed by the Annual LALC Conference. Councillor Simon Rusling agreed to attend on behalf

of the Parish Council and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said he would also attend if available.

The Clerk reported that Elston Lane would be closed on 12-13 October for British Telecom to carry out some works. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell referred to the issue on Elston Lane mentioned by residents regarding speeding and access from the new homes. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a response from Highways at Lancashire County Council and she would circulate this to the Parish Council.

The Clerk circulated a copy of an email received from a resident on Churchfields who had found an old Pecks jar in his garden.

75. (22/23) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 3 November 2022 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.