

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th October, 2023 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor David Hindle; 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

47. (23/24) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

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

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.

It was noted that the Parish Council had discussed the Neighbourhood Plan with Carolyn Williams, the Planning Policy Manager at Preston City Council prior to this evening's meeting. The Parish Council will need to decide how to take this forward, but initially a workshop maybe helpful for Parish Councillors to understand the work needed on the Plan.

48. (23/24) Declarations of Interest

None.

49. (23/24) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

50. (23/24) 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 Mrs Jayne Woollam said that she had distributed the vouchers to the planter parents but she had one extra voucher. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam should keep hold of the voucher and it could possibly be used towards refreshing one of the planters in Spring. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked if the Lengthsman could clear the planters in November and the Clerk advised that this would be arranged.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked about the bench on the Village Green that now looked out onto a large bush. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the original tree on the Village Green had been replaced with the bush, so the only option was to trim it back.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also reported that the noticeboard at the shop had been moved and the posts had been reduced in height.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that he had been invited to the installation of the new vicar at St Michael's Church on 21st October 2023. He also asked if residents packs were given to developers for them to give to people who were purchasing the new homes. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that this was not usually done and currently we had a shortage of printed material for the packs. It was agreed that the contents of the residents' packs would be discussed at a future date. It was noted that our newsletters included information to residents on how to obtain a pack if they were new in the village.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton also mentioned about vehicles racing at Red Scar and the local area late at night. However, he understood that a number of residents had reported this to the Police. The Clerk reported that the Police had indicated they would attend this evenings Parish Council meeting but as they were absent, they must have been called onto other duties.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

51. (23/24) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 06/2023/1036 | - | Land off Ribblesdale Drive, Grimsargh.
Diversion of Public Right of Way footpath no 7. |
| 06/2023/1043 | - | Church House Farm, Grimsargh
Single storey building outbuilding with roof terrace and WC. |

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2023/1036, it was noted that this was a small diversion due to new development, so the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application. With regard to Planning Application 06/2023/1043, the Parish Council also had no comments to make on this application.

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

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Applications 06/2023/1036 and 06/2023/1043 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

52. (23/24) Road Safety Working Group

Councillor Trevor Haines gave an update to the Parish Council regarding the data collection on traffic using Whittingham Lane. He said that the traffic survey had been redone in June and although the results showed that most traffic was within the 85th percentile with regard to speed, there were still some worrying trends with 12% of traffic using Whittingham Lane speeding especially around school dropping off/picking up times. Councillor Trevor Haines said that he had discussed the data with both Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell and Councillor David Hindle and the Parish Council needed to consider the next steps.

It was noted that the issues were not just about speeding but also the lack of pavements and adequate lighting. However, the Parish Council had raised these issues when the Planning Applications for the new developments had been consulted on, but the Planning Officer had not included these in the approved application. Councillor Trevor Haines said that a local resident had also raised their concerns about speeding and had contacted Lancashire County Council and these had been logged. It was noted that speeding vehicles came through Haighton and therefore a discussion was needed with Haighton Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to supply the contact details for the Clerk to Haighton Parish Council so Councillor Trevor Haines could get in touch with them. It was also agreed that a small article should be put in the Parish Council newsletter, and that contact should also be made with Lancashire County Council, in particular the Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Rupert Swarbrick.

Resolved

- i) That the update on the Whittingham Lane data collection is received and noted.
- ii) That Councillor Trevor Haines contacts the Clerk to Haighton Parish Council and also Lancashire County Council, in particular the Cabinet Member for Highways, Councillor Rupert Swarbrick.
- iii) That an article is included in the next Parish Council newsletter.

53. (23/24) Lancashire Parish & Town Council Conference

The Parish Council gave consideration to attending the Lancashire Parish & Town Council Conference to be held on Saturday 4th November at County Hall, Preston and also the LALC AGM which would be held on the same day in the afternoon.

The Clerk also informed the Parish Council that you could also attend the morning conference remotely. There was no one able to attend who was present at the meeting, so the Clerk advised that if any Parish Councillor wished to attend, they should let her know as soon as possible as the places had to be prebooked.

54. (23/24) Christmas Events Working Group

As discussed at the last meeting, the Parish Council had agreed that the Christmas events would be held on the Village Green at 6pm on 1st December 2023. The Christmas Events Working Group would finalise the details for the events which included the Christmas tree lights switch on and also carols around the crib. It was

reported that last year selection boxes were purchased for the children and it was agreed to do the same this year. The Field Day Committee would also be approached regarding mince pies etc and hopefully Father Christmas would be present to switch on the lights. The Parish Council agreed a budget of £300 for the Christmas events.

The Clerk agreed to contact Father Doyle at Our Lady & St Michaels Church, and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam would speak to the new Vicar at St Michael's Church as they both usually took part in the events.

Resolved

That approval is given to a budget of £300 for the Christmas events to be held on Friday 1st December at 6.00pm.

55. (23/24) LALC Training Courses

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reported that he had attended a recent meeting of the Preston Area Committee where some information had been circulated on LALC training courses which included courses on finance, planning and the responsibilities of a Parish Council. The Clerk had circulated the link to the courses with the agenda and advised that if any Parish Councillor wished to attend any course, then she would book their place and arrange payment on their behalf.

56. (23/24) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to the items for our December newsletter. The Clerk reported that she had received the article from Jake Higham and reminded the Parish Council that the final articles would be signed off at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

57. (23/24) Dates of Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council approved the dates of the Parish Council meetings for 2024 as follows: -

Thursday 11 January 2024 *(note change of date)
Thursday 1 February 2024
Thursday 7 March 2024
Thursday 4 April 2024
Thursday 9 May 2024 *(note change of date due to Elections)
Thursday 6 June 2024
Thursday 4 July 2024
Thursday 5 September 2024
Thursday 3 October 2024
Thursday 7 November 2024
Thursday 5 December 2024

Resolved

That approval is given to the Parish Council meeting dates for 2024 as listed above.

58. (23/24) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £177,122.12 in the Nat West bank as at 4 September 2023.

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

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 September - £1,265.30. (Cheque no 1227).

Preston City Council – uncontested election cost £100.00. (Cheque no 1228).

So Plants vouchers for “planter parents” 17 x £20 = £340.00. (Cheque no 1229).

PKF Littlejohn External Audit Fee £504.00. (Cheque no 1230).

HMRC Q2 Tax and NI £587.51. (Cheque no 1231).

We had also been advised that the bank charges 5 August – 1 September were £2.10. We had also paid £14.84 Nellie Carbis water bill – 14 August; Nest Pension Clerk 21 August £48.88 – direct debits

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 October 2023 £1,265.50

Grimsargh Village Hall room hire including Wetlands Trust meetings - £195.00.

Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the next meeting.

2) Report of the External Auditor

The Clerk reported that she had received the External Auditors report who had advised that where we included on our assets the Parish Store, the Wetlands and Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland as Community Value the Parish Council needed to put a value of £1 against each of these, so £3 needed to be added to our box 9 on our accounting statement for next year to reflect their value. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

The Clerk also reported that there were no further issues raised by the External Auditor, but for clarity the report would be included in the Minutes in full.

“Except for the matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. The smaller authority has confirmed that it owns fixed assets, but that the recognition policy for

those assets is to value them all at £Nil. This policy does not give a reader of the Accounting Statements the ability to draw any meaning from the Box 9 figures stated on the AGAR or to recognise any changes in those assets year to year. The Practitioners' Guide (the Guide) states that smaller authorities 'need to apply a reasonable approach to asset valuation which is consistent from year to year'. Under this range of possible approaches, all assets are expected to carry some value, however small. In particular, the Guide states that where assets are gifted at zero cost to the authority, they should be recorded at a nominal value of £1. The smaller authority should therefore reconsider the valuation policy for all fixed assets and draw up a policy to be approved by the authority and recorded in both the authority's minutes and in the asset register. When submitting the 2023/24 AGAR, the smaller authority should ensure that the 2022/23 comparative figure in Box 9 is restated for consistency and comparability".

59. (23/24) Clerk's report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

60. (23/24) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 2nd November 2023 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.