

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 October, 2025 at
Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell;
Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver
and Councillor Simon Rusling.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
PCSO Ellie Burke – Lancashire Constabulary
7 members of the public, including representatives from
Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School/PTFA and
Grimsargh Village Football Club.

52. (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) and Councillor David Hindle.

53. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

54. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th September 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

55. (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.

PCSO Ellie Burke updated the Parish Council on crime and police activity in the area. She said there had been no burglaries or robberies during the last month. However, speeding concerns continued to be an issue, which had increased recently. There had also been a few incidents of vehicle crime and she reminded everyone to be vigilant and keep their vehicles locked. Representatives from Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School said they were keen to work with the local police to encourage vehicles to slow down, especially near the school.

Councillor Stephen Whittam informed the Parish Council that it had been a busy time since the last Parish Council meeting. He had spoken to the Planning Department

about the proposed development at the former Browns Mitsubishi garage, and the Officer had agreed that this planning application should now be considered by Planning Committee, which was good news. This was likely to be at the November meeting and Councillor Stephen Whittam said that he intended to speak at the meeting to support resident's concerns.

Councillor Stephen Whittam also said that at the last Parish Council meeting residents had reported that some of the lamp posts on Langden Fold were not working and had not been so for some time. Councillor Stephen Whittam had spoken to the Highways Officer and was pleased to report that these had now been repaired.

With regard to the Skew Bridge, Councillor Stephen Whittam said this was turning into a real mess, with residents reporting that they could not get out of their drives near to the bridge, and with vehicles queue jumping and going through the temporary traffic lights when they were on red. Councillor Stephen Whittam reported that he had asked if the waste collection via Preston City Council could be staggered so they were not emptying the bins at peak travel times. Lancashire County Council had advised that the traffic lights would be manned between 7 am and 7 pm – Monday to Friday, but there had been some issues with this. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that those residents closest to the works would be receiving a letter from Lancashire County Council detailing the next steps, this letter was expected shortly. However, there did not seem to be any quick or easy solution to the issues which had been caused by finding additional utilities under the bridge which had not been detected by any surveys.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked PCSO Ellie Burke and Councillor Stephen Whittam for their updates, he then welcomed representatives from the two grant applications to the meeting, who had come to provide further information and background to their requests for funding. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that both grants were out of the scope for our Small Grants Scheme due to the amounts requested, and any grant awarded would be considered from our Parish Council CiL monies.

Andy and Angela from Grimsargh Village Football Club gave the background to their Club and their funding request. They explained that Grimsargh Village Football Club had been in operation for five months, and aimed to provide football opportunities for all ages and abilities. Andy said that he had been a football manager at grass roots level for over 10 years at a variety of clubs. He wanted all children to have the opportunity to play football, regardless of their skills. The Club were looking at having three pitches in the village and were exploring opportunities to use the Village Green. They currently used pitches at St Celia's High School, Grange Primary School and Highfield Priory. They had nine teams set up and were looking at setting up a Wildcats team for girls.

Andy and Angela explained that it was expensive to set up a football club and they were relying on fund raising and donations from the community and local businesses. They were currently taking part in the Cash for Kids scheme which was a Sports Challenge FC 25 Campaign which provided match funding for the top three

fund raising teams. Funding was needed for kits for all teams and coaches, and training kits, equipment and pitch hire.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed representatives from Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School and the PTFA to the meeting who had come along to discuss their application to replace the play area equipment at their school. Mr Booth the Head Teacher at the school said that the school were exploring all avenues to raise funds, as the play area was very much valued by the children. One of the year five pupils spoke to the Parish Council about the poor state of the play equipment and how they would love for the equipment to be replaced as it was not fit to be used. She said that all the children loved playing outside as it was good for their health and wellbeing. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked her for speaking to the Parish Council in such a confident and eloquent manner.

Hannah on behalf of the PTFA said that the play equipment was over 15 years old now and had been dilapidated and some items were not safe to use. The PTFA had obtained a number of quotes and the ball park figure was around £100k for replacement of the equipment, however they were looking at how this could be done in a phased approach. The trim trail was the most important item that needed replacing which would cost around £25,000. She reported that the school did not qualify to apply for National Lottery Funding as the play area was not open to the community. The school did not have enough budget to do this, and the PTFA was approaching local businesses and undertaking fundraising to contribute to the replacement play equipment, but £100k was a lot of money to raise. It was noted that 70% of the children who attended the school lived in Grimsargh, and there were currently 220 children at the school.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked representatives from both grant applications for coming along and speaking to the Parish Council. He explained that the grant applications would be discussed later in the meeting and that the Clerk would let them know the outcome. He asked if any members of the Parish Council had any further questions or comments to make.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said it may be worth the applicants getting in touch with the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Duchy of Lancaster who both had grant schemes that they may qualify to apply for. Also crowd funding may be an option to raise funds.

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

56. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

There were no Planning Applications for consideration at this evening's meeting. It was noted that a pre-notification application had been submitted to Preston City Council for the demolition of Grimsargh Care Home. This was not subject to consultation.

It was also noted, as reported earlier, that the former Browns Mitsubishi site at 181-183 Preston Road, Grimsargh (Planning Application 06/2025/0763), would now be considered by Planning Committee and this was likely to be in November 2025.

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

Resolved

That, the planning update is received and noted.

57. (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; new Parish Councillor and the Heritage Item.

58. (25/26) Christmas Events 2025

It was noted that the Christmas Events Working Group would meet shortly to finalise the details for the light switch on and blessing of the crib which would be held on Friday 5th December at 6.00 pm. The Clerk reported that Reverend Andy Williams had confirmed that he and Canon Doyle would be pleased to be involved. The Field Day Committee had also confirmed that they would do the refreshments.

The Parish Council gave consideration to allocating a budget for the Christmas events and a budget of £400 was unanimously agreed.

Resolved

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

ii) That, the Parish Council agree to a budget of £400 is allocated to the Christmas Events 2025.

59. (25/26) Grant Application Grimsargh Village Football Club

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant application from Grimsargh Village Football Club. A copy of the information submitted, including quotes for kits, trophies and equipment, the Club's Constitution and the application had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that she had a copy of the Club's bank statement and the information was shared confidentially with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council had found it very useful to speak to the grant applicants earlier in the meeting, and were very supportive of residents establishing a new Football Club in the Parish area. It was noted that the Football Club had requested £25,000 to support the development of the teams and the Club.

After discussion, the Parish council unanimously agreed to approve a grant of £8,000 towards the training kits for the Club. This would be funded from Parish

Council CiL monies. The Parish Council asked that the Club acknowledge the sponsorship by Grimsargh Parish Council and also if possible, to have the Parish Council's logo included on the training kits.

The Clerk was also asked to inform the Club that they could apply for further funding towards their Club if they needed further help and support.

Resolved

That a grant of £8,000 is awarded to Grimsargh Village Football Club to fund their training kits for the Club, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. The Parish Council asked that the Club acknowledge the sponsorship by Grimsargh Parish Council and also if possible, to have the Parish Council's logo included on the training kits.

60. (25/26) Grant Application Grimsargh St Michael's PTFA

The Parish Council gave consideration to a business case submitted by St Michael's PTFA on behalf of St Michael's CE Primary School, for funding towards replacement play equipment at the school.

The Parish Council had found it very useful to speak to the grant applicants earlier in the meeting, and were very supportive of the Primary School, as it was an important part of the community, and they also recognised that outdoor space was an important part of children's health and wellbeing. They had been particularly impressed with the year five pupil coming along to the meeting and speaking to the Parish Council. It was noted that the school needed to raise £100k to replace all the equipment, which most of it was unusable as it was over 15 years old. In particular the trim trail was the most important item that needed to be replaced, which would cost around £25,000.

After discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to approve a grant of £25,000 for the replacement of the trim trail at the school. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. The Parish Council asked that the school acknowledge the sponsorship and support of Grimsargh Parish Council.

The Clerk was also asked to inform the school that they would apply for further funding towards the replacement of their play area, if they needed further help and support.

Resolved

That a grant of £25,000 is awarded to Grimsargh St Michael's PTFA on behalf of Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School, for the replacement of the trim trail at the school. This would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. The Parish Council asked that the school acknowledge the sponsorship and support of Grimsargh Parish Council.

61. (25/26) Activities for young people in Grimsargh

The Parish Council had been approached on a number of occasions to look at what could be provided in the village for young people. To consider this further it was agreed to establish a Working Group that could scope out possible activities for young people and potential locations. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton together with Councillor Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling agreed to be appointed to the Working Group.

Resolved

i) That approval is given to the establishment of a Working Group to look at activities for young people in Grimsargh.

ii) That the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, together with Councillor Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling are appointed to the Working Group.

62. (25/26) Annual CiL Report

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Annual CiL Report for year end 31 March 2025 which had been circulated to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council unanimously approved the Annual CiL Report and agreed for it to be published on the Parish Council website.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Annual CiL Report for year end 31 March 2025 as now presented, and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

63. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated have £172,483.72 in the Nat West bank as at 5 September 2025.

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

Sue Whittam Clerk's salary 15 September £1241.26 (Cheque no 1334).

David Steele, Lengthsman Inv3 – August 50 hours @£19 total £950. (Cheque no 1335).

JRB Enterprises Ltd x 2 invoices for dog bin bags £260.52. (Cheque no 1336).

HMRC Q2 Tax and NI £2,038.78. (Cheque no 1337).

We had also paid Direct debit Nest Pension Clerk 5 September £67.71; bank charges up to 1 August - £3.85; Water Bill for Nellie Carbis £21.25.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

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

- ii) PKF Littlejohn – audit fee £504.00.
- iii) Village Hall room hire for Parish Council & Grimsargh Wetlands Trust March – August 2025 - £135.00.
- iv) North West Design Collective Ltd - £810.00 initial works for Hoggin path project between July and August 2025 (CiL monies).
- v) Site Surveying Services Ltd for topographical survey Grimsargh Green £660 (CiL monies).
- vi) Treestyle for tree survey Grimsargh Green £575.00 + VAT (CiL monies).

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting for the cheque book to arrive, and that she would pay some of the outstanding invoices from her personal bank account and reclaim the amounts. It was agreed that an online account should be looked at urgently as most Parish Councils were now paying invoices online.

2) Report of the External Auditor

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review:-

The smaller authority has not addressed the “except for” matter raised by the external auditor when qualifying the prior year annual return. The smaller authority has not restated the prior year figure when revaluing the assets in section 2 box 9. It has also disclosed that it took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit by answering yes to Section 1, Assertion 7, which is not correct.

The smaller authority has revalued the current figure Section 2 Box 9 on the basis of market value. Please note that the Practitioners Guide for smaller authorities states that Long Term investments should be recorded in the asset and investments register at the original cost of acquisition (the purchase price) for accounting purposes will remain unchanged until disposal.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council investments were causing the issue on Section 2 box 9. The Parish Council did put their assets at original cost of acquisition and the auditor had agreed to remove this from their report (email confirmed), but when they sent their final report it was back in there again. The investments which were included in the same box as the assets do go up and down, so could not be included as “purchase price”, this was still causing some confusion, so the Clerk would obtain some additional advice from the internal auditor next year and submit to the external auditor. This would hopefully resolve the issue.

The report, and intended action by the Clerk was received and noted.

64. (25/26) Clerk’s report – for information only

The Clerk reported that Jayne’s bench had now been delivered and once the utility check had been carried out, the bench could be installed.

The Clerk also reported that the new defibrillators had been delayed due to stock shortage, but hopefully they would be received soon.

She further reported that the Parish Council vacancy had been advertised and hopefully could be filled at the November meeting of the Parish Council. The “slow down sign” had been ordered from Lancashire County Council and she was awaiting the invoice which needed to be paid before installation.

The Parish Council agreed that the domain name for the Neighbourhood Plan costing £18.84 could be cancelled.

65. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.