

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 1
September, 2011 at Grimsargh Village Hall, at 7.30 pm

Present:- Councillors Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Ron Woollam (Vice-Chairman); Councillors P Burton; Mrs J Chessell; A R Ellis; D Hindle; Mrs Lynn McCann.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
County Councillor Mike Otter – Parish Champion
Councillor N Cartwright – Preston Rural East
Councillor T Davies – Preston Rural East
Alf Clempson – Researcher for Ben Wallace MP
Mark Fillingham – United Utilities
Andrew Leysson – United Utilities
Sabaa Ajaz – United Utilities
Tim Mitcham – Lancashire Wildlife Trust
3 Members of the public present

50. (11/12) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Ron Woollam declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Planning Application 06/2011/0636 – Heathfield, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh, as friends of the applicant. He took no part in the decision and left the meeting for the discussion of this application.

51. (11/12) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from PC Chris Banks and PCSO Gemma Duxbury.

52. (11/12) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 July, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53. (11/12) Co-Option on to Grimsargh Parish Council

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray welcomed David Nicholson and Lynda Cryer to the meeting. David and Lynda had come along to the meeting to put themselves forward as nominees for the two remaining vacancies on the Parish Council. It was noted that both had attended previous meetings of the Parish Council and had fulfilled the adopted criteria for dealing with Grimsargh Parish Council vacancies.

David gave a quick introduction to the Parish Council. He explained that he had lived in the village since 2006. His background was in the construction industry and he had now retired. He currently lived on the Redrow Estate.

Lynda Cryer informed the Parish Council that she had been a local resident for 15 years and lived on The Hills estate. She was previously a benefits assistant for Blackpool Borough Council and at the moment she was the Secretary of the local MS Society.

The Chairman said that both David and Lynda would each make an excellent addition to the Parish Council and all agreed.

Resolved

That David Nicholson and Lynda Cryer are Co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Lynda Cryer both signed their acceptance of office forms.

54. (11/12) Adjournment for Public Participation, cheque presentation, discussion on Grimsargh Reservoirs and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed County Councillor Mike Otter the Parish Champion to the meeting. Councillor Otter explained to the Parish Council that there were over 200 parish councils throughout Lancashire and he had an annual budget of £10,000 to help parishes with their local projects. He was pleased to support the work of Grimsargh Parish Council and in particular he was happy to contribute to the bench for the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland. He then presented a cheque for £250 to Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray as the Chairman of Grimsargh Parish Council.

Councillor Otter also informed the Parish Council that he produced a monthly newsletter that gave information on the type of work undertaken by the Parish Champion and details of grants given. He felt that the role of the Parish Councillor was an important one as without their commitment and involvement in the local community then a lot of villages would not function.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Otter for attending the meeting and for the contribution to the bench. She explained that the bench would be put in the Nellie Carbis Millennium woodland in memory of Sam Sellers, a former Parish Councillor who had sadly died. Sam had put a lot of work and commitment into the woodland and the Parish Council and this seemed to be a fitting tribute.

The Chairman then welcomed Mark Fillingham, Andrew Leysson, and Sabba Ajaz from United Utilities and Tim Mitcham from Lancashire Wildlife Trust who had come along to the meeting to discuss Grimsargh Reservoirs.

Mark Fillingham began by giving an overview about the work of United Utilities and how their focus as a Company had changed. They had a new Chief Executive and

they were now primarily focussing on wastewater and water services as their core business.

He explained that he worked in the Property Services section of the Company together with Andrew and Sabaa and they had come along to the meeting to discuss their proposals for Grimsargh reservoirs. Mark gave a brief background to the reservoirs. They had been built in 1835 and they were dedicated to provide water to the Courtaulds factory at Red Scar Mill. The mill closed in the 1970's and since that time the reservoirs have been completely redundant. The levels have been reduced on safety grounds and United Utilities recognised that the reservoirs were an important Biological Heritage site and have major ecological value. United Utilities were looking at working in partnership with Lancashire Wildlife Trust (LWT) so there would be a long term effective use of the site.

Mark further explained that there were legal implications for all parties involved and that they were working hard to come to an agreement with Lancashire Wildlife Trust. They were also keen for the Parish Council and members of the public to get involved and comment on how they would like to see the site work.

The Chairman thanked Mark for the information and asked if any Councillors wished to comment at this stage. Councillor David Hindle said that the site was one of the top wetlands with enormous potential. There was a lot of community interest and involvement from people who helped on part of the site and it was also important that the variety of nesting birds was encouraged and enhanced.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray asked if the site was going to be sold or just leased? Mark explained that at the moment they were still in early discussion with LWT and it could be either, but he confirmed that United Utilities were only in discussion with LWT and no other parties. Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray then asked Tim Mitcham from LWT for his comments. Tim explained that LWT had a community approach to running the site. They would have to rely on local volunteers and work in partnership with for example the Parish Council to keep the site protected but also for the community to use. Revenue for the Trust was obviously a big issue and this would have an impact on whether the Trust could afford to buy or only lease the site. Their aim was to preserve the site but open it up for public access.

The Chairman thanked Tim and Mark for their time and information. She explained that the Parish Council would have to think how they could help with the funding and their involvement with the reservoirs. She felt that it was important to have these discussions and looked forward to the Parish Council receiving more information on this matter as the matter progressed. She also thanked Andrew and Sabaa for giving up their time to attend the meeting.

It was noted that as the police could not attend this meeting the Clerk had circulated an update of police activities in the area for information.

The Chairman informed the meeting that she had been approached by Mr Abrar about the possibility of providing a pharmacy in the village. It was agreed that Mr Abrar should be invited to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

The Chairman then welcomed Alfred Clempson to the meeting. Alf explained that he worked for Ben Wallace MP. He wanted to come along to the meeting as Ben's representative to hear about the plans for Grimsargh Reservoirs. He explained that Ben was always willing to help and get involved in the work of Parish Councils and he would have attended tonight's meeting if he had been available. Ben worked closely with the Borough and County Council and was always interested in local issues. Alf further explained that he was happy to come along to Parish Council meetings or for Parish Council's to get in touch with him to raise issues of concern or seek advice.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked Alf for coming to the meeting and said that there were a number of issues that concerned Grimsargh Parish Council that they would like Ben to be aware of. The future of Grimsargh Reservoirs was one of these that had been discussed this evening but proposed development in and on the boundary of the village was of major concern as was the increase in traffic – over 70% in the last two years. The Parish Council had also objected to closure of Broughton Police Station and the impact the loss of police presence would have on Grimsargh.

At this point Councillor Tom Davies left the meeting as a member of Preston City Council Planning Committee.

Alf confirmed that Ben had visited someone in the village a few weeks ago to discuss traffic issues and he had been in touch with Jo Turton who was the Executive Director at Lancashire County Council. Ben had also objected to proposed developments at Whittingham and Haydock Grange.

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained that Hallam Land Management had arranged a drop in exhibition at the village hall on 7 September between 6pm-9pm. This was part of a pre planning application submission, to obtain public opinion on the proposed plans for Church House Farm.

Councillor Peter Burton said that Hallam were indicating this was part of a Preston development and not rural Grimsargh which was wrong. Councillor Mrs Chessell said that the schools would not be able to accommodate the additional children and there was a lack of infrastructure in place to deal with their proposed development.

Concerns were expressed that Grimsargh would lose its rural identity if this development went ahead. The Chairman encouraged all members to attend the drop in event but to limit the amount of comments made.

The Chairman thanked Alf Clempson for attending the meeting then convened the meeting. Councillor Tom Davies returned to the meeting.

55. (11/12) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

Councillor Ron Woollam left the room for planning application 06/2011/0636 and returned after the discussion.

The following planning applications were presented:-

- 06/2011/0550 - Browns Mitsubishi, 181-183 Preston Road Grimsargh, PR2 5JP. Erection of canopy to side elevation attached to no 179 Preston Road following removal of existing screen planting.
- 06/2011/0682 - Site A3 Land at Lancashire Way/Junction with Bluebell Way, Preston. Erection of 2no general industrial units (Class B2), coffee shop/restaurant (Class A3) with drive-through facility and outdoor seating, car and HGV parking, servicing provision and associated landscaping.
- 06/2011/0661 - 311 Preston Road Grimsargh PR2 5JT. Erection of single storey extension to rear of dwelling (following demolition of existing attached garage and car port).
- 06/2011/0636 - Heathfield, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LH. Erection of two and single storey extensions to rear including part demolition of existing rear extension and other external alterations.
- 06/2011/0580 - Tree works at 323 Preston Road, Grimsargh, PR2 5JT. The application is to fell x2 Beech trees due to disease.

Resolved

- 1) That no observations be offered in respect of planning applications 06/2011/0550, 06/2011/0682, 06/2011/0661 and 06/2011/0636
- 2) With regard to planning application 06/2011/0580, the Parish Council has no objection to this application but would like the trees to be replaced with similar species.

It was further noted that Preston City Council had approved the following Planning Applications:-

- 06/2011/0449 - Fir Trees Farm, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JS – Change of use of playing field to domestic cartilage and erection of single storey extension to south elevation.
- 06/2011/0520 - 9 Maple Grove, Grimsargh, PR2 5LP – Erection of dormer extension to front and first floor and single storey extensions to rear of dwelling.
- 06/2011/0508 - St Michaels C of E Primary School, Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5SD – cladding of nursery building, creation of new soft play area and erection of associated fencing. (with conditions).
- 06/2011/0480 - Silver Birches, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LH – Conversion of and extension to existing outbuilding to

form 1 no dwelling.

- 06/2011/0481 - Silver Birches, Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LH – erection of 5no detached dwellings and construction of new access to Whittingham Lane following demolition of existing dwelling.
- 06/2011/0441 - Salisbury House Farm, Elston Lane, Grimsargh. Erection of 1no detached dwelling and detached triple garage and change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage re-submission of planning application 06/2010/0760.

56. (11/12) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG)

Councillor Joyce Chessell gave an update to the Parish Council on the work of FoGG. Plans for the proposed play area were available at the meeting and Preston City Council had revised the play equipment. Councillor Lynn McCann said that the design looked better but the trim trail looked as though it had been placed in the wrong area. Councillor Mrs Chessell explained that she would give comments back to Preston City Council to make sure the play equipment was placed in the area for appropriate age ranges.

Councillor Mrs Chessell also explained that Preston City Council were currently undertaking the tendering process for the play equipment. Hopefully after this process the plans would be on display.

With regard to other Fogg issues it was noted that the car park problems were still continuing. Also the Britain in Bloom judge had commented about the dog waste, goal posts and grass cutting.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked Councillor Mrs Chessell for her report and continued hard work.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

57. (11/12) Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group

Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray gave a quick update on the work of the Guild 2012 Advisory Working Group. She confirmed that Pat Tucker was still running the Group at the moment and that the next meeting would be on 28 September at Pat's house. It was noted that there should be two Parish Councillors attending these meetings and the Chairman urged Councillors to get involved.

Councillor David Hindle referred to the Heritage Walks. Councillor Mrs Murray explained that the Parish Council was still hoping to do a heritage walk for the Guild. However the Clerk confirmed that as the cost of the leaflets to accompany the walk would only cost around £300 it was felt that applying for Heritage Lottery Funding

would be time consuming and the minimum amount awarded for the Preston Guild was £3,000 therefore we would not qualify for Heritage Lottery Funding. It was felt that local sponsorship of the leaflet would be a good way forward.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

58. (11/12) Community Engagement Working Group

The Chairman explained that the Community Engagement Working Group had not been re-established at the beginning of the year, but it now seemed appropriate to set this Group up again to look at how the Parish Council could engage better with the community.

Councillor Lynn McCann explained for the benefit of the new members that the website was one of the ideas that the Community Engagement Working Group had devised and other ideas included the formation of a Youth Council.

It was noted that the existing members of the Community Engagement Working Group were Councillor Eileen Murray, Councillor Andy Ellis and Councillor Lynn McCann. The Chairman asked for volunteers to join the group and both Councillor Lynda Cryer and Councillor Peter Burton agreed to be involved.

Resolved

1) That the Community Engagement Working Group is re-established and will comprise of Councillors Eileen Murray, Andy Ellis, Lynn McCann, Peter Burton and Lynda Cryer.

2) That at the first meeting of the Community Engagement Working Group the terms of reference are drafted and that a report from the meeting is presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

59. (11/12) LALC 67th Annual General Meeting & Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference – 12 November 2011

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been invited to the LALC 67th Annual General Meeting and the Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference, both of which would be held at County Hall, Preston on 12 November 2011. The Parish Council was entitled to send one representative.

Resolved

That the Clerk represent Grimsargh Parish Council at the LALC AGM and Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference on 12 November 2011.

60. (11/12) Lancashire Police Consultation – Estate and Front Counter Review

It was noted that the Parish Council had objected to the closure of Broughton Police station. The Clerk agreed to send a copy of the letter to the new Councillors – Councillor Lynda Cryer and Councillor David Nicholson.

The Chairman asked all Parish Councillors if possible, to attend the public meeting at Barton Grange Hotel on 6 September.

61. (11/12) Lancashire County Council Consultation on Managing Unauthorised Encampments

It was noted that the Parish Council had been consulted on the Lancashire County Council draft policy for dealing with unauthorised encampments.

Resolved

That the Parish Council welcomes the Lancashire County Council policy for Managing Unauthorised Encampments.

62. (11/12) Financial Matters and Banking

It was noted that we currently had around £13,145.17 in the bank – bank balance as at 01/09/11. It was noted that since the last meeting we have paid:-

Adam Cooper – July - 58 hours at £11.50 - £667.00 + VAT @ 20% - £133.40 – total £800.40.

Sue Whittam – Clerk – 4 July, 11 July, 18 July, 25 July – 4 weeks = £320.00.

United Utilities – Nellie Carbis water charges - £18.72.

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Adam Cooper 60 hours for August at £11.50 - £690.00 + VAT @20% - £138.00 – total £828.00.
- Adam Cooper – materials and stain £117.00 + VAT @20% - £23.40 – total £140.00 – please note one cheque for £968 for Adam.
- Sue Whittam – Clerk –1 August, 8 August , 15 August and 22 August – 4 weeks = £320.00.
- Lancashire County Training Partnership – course fee for Clerk’s training - £150. We have to pay the full amount then should receive a bursary of £100 back as we qualify for a contribution as a small council. Chairman to sign bursary application form.

2) It was noted that the Clerk was having difficulty in obtaining bank statements from the NatWest as her name was not on the signatory list. This will be looked at when the financial regulations are reviewed.

63. (11/12) Clerk's Report – for information

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

Lengthsman's duties

The only outstanding issue was for Adam to sort the noticeboards ie put on an additional hinge so they don't blow back.

The bin near the reservoir was still an issue and I have chased this up with Cllr Davies who had arranged for a replacement larger bin to be installed. This would solve the problem of people putting bottles in a dog waste only bin. Adam has purchased some gloves and eye protection + a suitable receptacle for the back of his van to transport dog waste in.

Flag and Flagpole for village green

An update on the flag and flagpole Councillor Chessell has confirmed that Fogg felt that the village hall was more appropriate for the flag and flagpole – however if the village green is chosen it should not interfere with the proposed mosaic project and possibly form part of that site. Councillor David Nicholson agreed to look at costings for the flag and flag pole.

Paul Dunne – Public Realm Manager

The Clerk was meeting Paul Dunne and Mark Wardale – Locality Manager on 13 September to discuss issues of concern in Grimsargh. So far I have the issue of the boundary sign and the tree cutting, or lack of tree cutting on Preston Road near the speed limit sign. This was an opportunity to improve communication between us. If anyone has any further issues they wish me to raise at the meeting please e mail me with the details.

New Councillors Training

A reminder for new Councillors that a training day will be held in the village hall on Saturday 22 October. More information to follow.

Lease of Life Award

The Clerk was applying for a grant under the Lease of Life Award via County Councillor Mullineaux the Lancashire County Council Older Peoples Champion. This was to put on computer sessions for the elderly.

64. (11/12) Update on Residents Association

The Chairman gave a brief update on the Residents Association. She explained that a provisional date of 14 September had been set for the meeting and as Councillor David Nicholson is a member of the Parish Council and a Redrow Estate resident this strengthened the relationship between the Parish Council and the Residents Association.

Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 6 October, 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 pm.