

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of Grimsargh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 6 September, 2012 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray (Chairman); Councillor Andy Ellis (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor David Hindle; Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann; Councillor David Nicholson and Councillor Ron Woollam.

In attendance:-

- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
- Councillor Neil Cartwright – Preston City Council
- Councillor Tom Davies – Preston City Council
- Alf Clempson – Press Agent/Researcher to Ben Wallace MP
- PC Chris Banks
- PCSO David Reid
- 1 member of the public

51. (12/13) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell.

52. (12/13) Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None.

53. (12/13) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 July, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54. (12/13) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed PC Chris Banks and PCSO David Reid to the meeting. They apologised as they would have to leave the meeting as soon as they had presented their crime report as unfortunately the PACT meeting in Grimsargh was also being held tonight. PC Chris Banks informed the Parish Council that there had not been a lot of crime in the area recently and out of the three crimes reported, two people had been arrested and they only had one crime outstanding.

PC Banks explained that there had today been a burglary on The Hills estate and this had happened between 9am – 2pm, a brick had been put through a window to break it and the burglar had left a good footprint. PC Banks said it was important that if people saw anything suspicious they should let the police know – he highlighted a recent incident when someone had seen people looking through house

windows at 5.30am but this was only reported to the police later that day. People should use the 101 number for non emergency calls and the usual 999 for emergencies.

PC Banks also explained they were working with schools with regard to safer cycling and they were also looking for sponsorship for a balloon race initiative. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said that the police would need to apply for sponsorship through the Parish Council's grants scheme and she would e mail PC Banks a copy of the grant application form. The police were also approaching local businesses to ask for their support.

PC Banks also informed the Parish Council that the local churches had all signed up to Church Watch. He also said that Broughton Parish Council had recently purchased two solar SPIDs for their village which had a five year warranty. The Chairman asked about the SPID that the Parish Council had a part share of and PC Banks said this would be used in Grimsargh when the new speed signs were put up. He also said that the Parish Council was welcome to use it at any time if they could put up the SPID and recharge it themselves.

PC Banks explained that a remote control small plane had crashed near Cow Hill and after examination it appeared it was being used to video properties in the area. The police would be looking at what had been filmed and trying to find out who had done this. He also reminded the Parish Council that the security event would be held on the car park at the Gates of Bengal on Wednesday 19 September when shed alarms and advice on protecting your property would be available. He also explained that Broughton Police station was short on volunteers at the moment and one of the main volunteers had suddenly passed away and would be greatly missed. PCSO David Reid also thanked the Parish Council for the lovely strawberry tea event.

Councillor Andy Ellis asked about the brambles/nettles encroaching on the pathways near the crematorium and the Clerk advised to contact LCC via e mail or telephone to report these types of problems especially as one of his children had fallen into them.

Concern was raised about the flooding of pathways on The Hills. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray agreed to forward recent photographs to the Clerk who would contact the developer to see what could be done.

Councillor David Nicholson asked about the Parish Council's opinion on telephone masts as there were problems with telephone signals on the Redrow Estate. It was felt prudent to make use of existing masts rather than installing new ones.

The Chairman said that one of the planters had been moved again, and Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer said the dog bin on Old Railway Walk had been removed from its post. The Clerk would ask Adam Cooper, the Lengthsman to deal with these issues.

It was noted that there would be an open day at the Crematorium on Sunday.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked both PC Banks and PCSO Reid for attending the meeting but kept standing orders suspended to allow public participation on the next item covering planning.

55. (12/13) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2012/0602 - 58 Ribblesdale Drive Grimsargh. Erection of dormer extension to front of dwelling.

There then followed a general discussion about the appeal by Hallam Land Management for land North of The Hills, Grimsargh and the Chairman welcomed Alf Clempson to the meeting and asked his advice on dealing with appeal hearings. Alf explained to the Parish Council that at the recent appeal he had attended people were given the opportunity to speak and, this included local residents and key members of the Parish Council. It was important to have good clear speakers who were organised and precise.

Councillor Neil Cartwright said it was likely to be an informal hearing lasting around two days and that the Case Officer who dealt with the original Planning Application would be the most likely person from Preston City Council to present their statement. A briefing session with Preston City Council Planners may be useful and the Clerk agreed to contact them to find out about the appeal process.

It was noted that the Parish Council had until 12 October to submit any additional comments and request to speak at the appeal hearing.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray thanked both Alf Clempson and Councillor Neil Cartwright for their advice. Alf said he would speak to Ben Wallace MP as he had originally objected to discuss a further submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Resolved

1) That the Parish Council had no observations to make in respect of Planning Application 06/2012/0602.

56. (12/13) Minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on Thursday 2 August 2012

Resolved

That, the minutes of the Planning Sub-Committee held on 2 August, 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57. (12/13) Code of Conduct

The Parish Council gave consideration to the new Code of Conduct and agreed to adopt the same Code as Preston City Council. The Clerk also circulated the new acceptance of office forms and these were completed by those present.

Resolved

- 1) That the Code of Conduct as now presented, which is in line with the Preston City Council Code of Conduct is adopted by the Parish Council.
- 2) That Parish Councillors complete their new Register of Interests forms and return to them to the Clerk and note that the completed forms will be placed on the Parish Council website and will be available for viewing by members of the public.
- 3) It was noted that Councillor David Nicholson had been appointed as a non-voting representative on the Preston City Council Standards Board.

58. (12/13) Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 - Lancashire County Council (Grimsargh area, Grimsargh (various roads), Preston City) (20mph speed limit) order 201*

The Parish Council considered proposals put forward by Lancashire County Council for 20mph speed limits along various roads in the village. There was general support for the proposals but it was noted that The Hills had not been included in the proposals and it was agreed that the Clerk should ask the County Council for The Hills to be included. In addition Councillor Andy Ellis made a couple of suggestions in relation to locations 8 and 10, as follows:-

Location 8 would serve the community better if instead of it being located at the junction of Tunbrook Avenue and Elston Lane, it be moved back up Elston Lane to its' junction with Preston Road. This would bring the homes along Elston Lane into the 20mph zone. A return to national speed restriction sign could then be located further down Elston Lane – possibly after the bridge over the brook. Councillor Andy Ellis felt that this would not increase the cost of the scheme to Lancashire County Council.

Location 10 would serve the community better if instead of it being located at the junction of Lynwood Avenue and Whittingham Lane, it be moved up Whittington Lane to its' junction with Preston Road. This would bring the homes along Whittingham Lane into the 20mph zone and reduce the speed of vehicles passing the village green whilst continuing to cover Lynwood Avenue. A return to national speed restriction sign is already in place at the far corner of the green adjoining Whittingham Lane and would require the back to back 30mph sign swapping for a 20mph version. Councillor Andy Ellis felt that this would not increase the cost of the scheme to Lancashire County Council. If they're prepared to make this change, it would also be nice to see an addition 20mph repeater sign on Whittingham Lane opposite the new Pringle Homes development as cars do tend to accelerate on that stretch.

After discussion it was agreed that the above proposals should be put forward to Lancashire County Council for consideration.

59. (12/13) Parish Council Newsletter

It was noted that the notes from the recent Community Engagement Meeting had suggested various items for the next newsletter. These were

- Conservation Area Status – Consultation
- Community Diary with link to online version
- FOGG update
- Broadband Improvements
- Guild Events – a big thank you to organizers and residents
- Thanks to Browns for Xmas tree
- Reservoir Walk
- Feedback on Guild Events – possible volunteers to organize future similar non-guild events.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray asked for items for the newsletter to be forwarded as soon as possible as the newsletter would need signing off at the November meeting.

60. (12/13) Local Listing

An e mail link had been circulated with the Agenda that gave information on Local Listing. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray explained that local listing had been mentioned at the recent Planning Sub-Committee and it was perhaps an option to preserve for example, the vicarage. It was noted that local listing was a relatively straightforward procedure and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray should contact Nigel Roberts to discuss and see how to take this forward.

61. (12/13) Grimsargh Reservoir

The Clerk had contacted United Utilities following the last meeting of the Parish Council and had received a reply to say that they had continued to seek solutions to the long term future of the reservoirs, which are designated as a Biological Heritage Site by Lancashire County Council due to their ecological value. As United Utilities had explained at the Parish Council meeting last year they were prepared to sell the former Reservoirs on favourable terms, however, the potential interested parties required a financial dowry to cover the future maintenance of the site. United Utilities were unable to fund this due to their current budgetary commitments.

United Utilities confirmed that in the intervening period they had been in discussions with a number of groups and sources of funding for the project. Although to date they had no concrete proposals, they were continuing with this dialogue and hoped they could provide more positive news to the Parish Council in due course.

After receiving a copy of the reply by email from the Clerk, Councillor David Hindle had asked if the reply could be forwarded to Councillor Neil Cartwright at Preston City Council. Councillor Cartwright had arranged a meeting with representatives from Preston City Council to see what they could do to help. It was noted that the

meeting would be held on 3 October at 10.00 am at Preston City Council and would involve Councillor David Hindle; the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray; Councillor Neil Cartwright and officers from Preston City Council.

Councillor Hindle asked the opinion of the Parish Council on changing the name of the reservoirs to Grimsargh Wetlands – as they were no longer reservoirs and he felt that wetlands gave a more accurate description of their biological importance. There were no objections to using this from Members of the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray said it would be really useful if United Utilities could give a ball-park figure on what is needed to buy the wetlands. Alf Clemson said he would speak to Ben Wallace and see what pressure could be put on United Utilities to get things moving.

With regard to the overgrown seasonal vegetation on the path to the wetlands, the Clerk explained that the Parish Council did receive an amount each year from Lancashire County Council towards the cost of seasonal strimming and she would therefore ask the Lengthsman, Adam Cooper to cut back the seasonal vegetation on the public rights of way at the wetlands. If Adam was unsure of what needed doing then he would contact Councillor David Hindle for advice.

Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann asked about United Utilities response to the health and safety issues at the site. The Clerk confirmed that UU had said that routine maintenance is carried out at the site but with regard to people swimming the site was fenced off and it was impossible for this to be monitored by UU.

62. (12/13) Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland

Councillor Ron Woollam explained to the Parish Council that unfortunately due to the summer break he had not had the opportunity to speak to Steve Hutson and David Leech about the possibility of a joint noticeboard with the Parish Council or the work/quotes needed on the Nellie Carbis Woodland. He felt that it was maybe time to organise a meeting with Steve and David to decide what needed to be done. The funding of the works also needed looking at and Councillor Ron Woollam was grateful for the list of contacts provided by Councillor Mrs Chessell but now needed to explore what was available.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss this further once a meeting had been held with Steve Hutson and David Leech about works on the woodland.

63. (12/13) Community Engagement Working Group

Councillor Andy Ellis gave a quick overview of the Community Engagement Working Group held on 11 July, 2012 in particular the next newsletter and the establishment of a youth council had been discussed. It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 12 September 2012.

64. (12/13) Conservation Area Status Working Group

Councillor David Hindle informed the Parish Council that following the last meeting he had arranged a meeting with Nigel Roberts to discuss the procedure relating to Conservation areas. Councillor Neil Cartwright had also attended the meeting and Nigel Roberts had looked at the draft map and was supportive of the proposals.

A meeting of the Conservation Area Status Working Group had been held on 1 August and the notes had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Working Group had suggested a public consultation meeting should be held at Grimsargh Club followed by a vote at the same time as the Police Commissioners vote on 15 November in the Village Hall. Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer said she was unsure if you could hold two separate votes on the same day as the legislation that governed elections was very strict and had to be adhered to.

There followed a general discussion on what would happen if some people wanted to be included in the conservation area and others were opposed to it. Councillor Neil Cartwright said ultimately the Cabinet Member at Preston City would give final approval to the conservation area and would consider all comments received. It was felt that those people directly affected by the proposals should have a say on if they wanted to be in a conservation area or not. Councillor Mrs Lynn McCann said that the Parish Council needed to consult with those residents directly affected and if they supported the idea then a wider consultation should be the next step forward.

Councillor David Nicholson said it was extremely wrong for a vote to be carried out at the moment and may result in the conservation area being imposed on the few affected. It would be important for any vote carried out that people knew where the votes were coming from.

Councillor Neil Cartwright said that this needed to be explored a lot more. The idea of a conservation area was a good one but the right process needed to be carried out. It would be a long and consensual process but the main problem would be that people may be apathetic to the idea. It was important to forget any vote at the moment.

Councillor Andy Ellis said that consultation was the next major step, but first the Working Group needed to decide how this was going to be done. It was agreed that the Working Group would arrange a meeting to discuss and design a questionnaire; to revise the map, suitable for use on the website, to include Three Mile Cross Farm and Nook Glade and also a timetable that would outline the consultation process should be produced. This would then be presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council for discussion/approval.

65. (12/13) Parish & Town Council Conference and LALC AGM

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Annual Parish & Town Council Conference would be held on the morning of 10 November at County Hall, Preston followed by the LALC AGM in the afternoon. At the moment there was no draft agenda available but the morning event usually covered items from the Better Working Together document between the County Council and Local Parish & Town Councils. The afternoon was the Lancashire Association of Local Councils AGM.

The Parish Council was entitled to send one delegate to the events and there was no cost to the Parish Council. If more than one Parish Councillor was interested in attending then they would go on a reserve list should other places become available.

The Clerk asked for anyone interested in attending should e mail her as soon as possible so a place could be reserved.

It was noted that unfortunately the Chairman could not now attend the LALC Autumn Conference in September as agreed at the last meeting, but there had been no cost to the Parish Council as the place had not been booked.

66. (12/13) Financial Matters, Budget and Banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £25,363.51 in the bank as at 1 August 2012. We were still awaiting the September bank statement. It was noted that we had received £200 from LCC for the opting in to the Public Rights of Way maintenance.

It was noted that since the last meeting we had paid:-

- Preston City Council – Printing of Parish Council Newsletter - £387.77 – cheque no 601.
- S Whittam – Clerk – 2 July, 9 July, 16 July, 23 July, 30 July = 5 weeks at £92 per week. Total £460 cheque no 602.
- Adam Cooper £767.40. (48 hours @ £11.50 = £552.00 + VAT at 20% £110.40 + contribution to waste carriers licence £105 = £767.40 Cheque no 603.
- Water Bill for Nellie Carbis – direct debit - £12.89.
- A cheque for the over 60's event for £150 will be handed over this evening – as agreed at the last meeting. (cheque no 604).

Resolved

1) That, the following invoices be approved for payment

- Strawberry Tea – Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Eileen Murray for strawberries, scones etc and beverages – total £67.52. (cheque no 605).
- Annual Audit fee for BDO - £135.00 + VAT £27.00 = £162.00. (cheque no 606).
- Village Hall hire – November 11 – March 2012 - £120.00 (cheque no 607).
- Sue Whittam – Clerk – 6 August, 13 August, 20 August, 27 August = 4 weeks at £92 per week = £368 + £30 for flowers for Strawberry tea Total = £398.00. Cheque no 000599. (cheque no 608).
- Adam Cooper Lengthsman – 38 hours for August 2012 = £437 + materials /stain for bus shelters £58.00 + VAT @ 20% (£06.20) total = £637.20. (cheque no 609).

2) That the following matter raised by BDO LLP during the annual audit 31 March 2012 is noted.

- Fidelity Guarantee – the auditor raised concern that the amount of fidelity guarantee cover is insufficient in light of the bank balances held at 31 March 2012.

No other matters were brought to our attention by the external auditor.

The Parish Council agreed to ask the Finance Working Group to review the level of Fidelity Guarantee to ensure it is sufficient for the Parish Council's needs.

67. (12/13) Friends of Grimsargh Green (FoGG) – for information only

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell was not present at the meeting but a copy of the latest FoGG report had been circulated to the Clerk and Chairman. The Clerk realised that she had not forwarded the report to all the Parish Councillors so agreed to e mail it to all for information.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray confirmed that she had e mailed Matt Kelly at Preston City Council about the proposed height restriction barrier incorporating the comments received from various service users.

A reply had been received and the following information was reported:-

Matt Kelly had informed the Parish Council that the proposed car park works should start in mid September. He had also received a price and lead time of one month for the car park barrier based on the current design. With regard to the comments submitted by the Parish Council on the car park barrier, Matt had sent these to the Landscape Architect for consideration and to see how many they could accommodate.

It was noted that the price Matt had been given for the barrier may change if alterations were made, but Matt was keen to order so that it fitted in with the completion of the car park works in late September.

Once the scheme was finalised Matt had agreed to update the Parish Council before ordering the barrier to make sure the Parish Council was happy with what was being proposed.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

68. (12/13) Clerk's Report – for information only

The Clerk reported on the following matters for information:-

To note that the results of the Best Kept Village Competition had been circulated and unfortunately we were outside the top eight in our category. The Clerk had asked for a copy of the Judges report and this would be available in October.

To note that Councillor David Nicholson has been selected as a non-voting representative on the Preston City Council Standards Committee.

69. (12/13) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 4 October, 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.