

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1 September, 2022 held at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor David Hindle (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
4 members of the public

46. (22/23) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety Announcements

There were no apologies for absence. 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.

47. (22/23) Declarations of Interest

Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 15 – Land close to Grimsargh Wetlands as Chairman of the Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 15 – Land close to Grimsargh Wetlands as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust.

48. (22/23) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 July 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49. (22/23) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the members of the public who had come along to the meeting. One member of the public had come along to discuss the Planning Application reference 06/2022/0745 relating to Land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Preston. This was an outline application for employment use. The member of the public had previously attended the Parish Council when the scoping application was submitted and at that time had raised concerns about the proposed application. He informed the Parish Council that he lived close to the site and although the local residents had not been individually contacted, individual objections to the proposals had been submitted. Councillor David Hindle also confirmed that he had submitted an individual objection to the application and he was particularly concerned about the impact on the SSSI. The member of the public raised a number of concerns regarding the Traffic Impact Assessment and whether it was providing an accurate reflection of the traffic situation due to the fact that a number of people were still working at home following

the Covid pandemic. Concerns were also raised regarding the increase in traffic travelling through Grimsargh village to Longridge and also the Police had advised additional lighting to reduce the possibility of crime. However, this would impact on the local residents with continual lighting during the night. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the Parish Council were really concerned about traffic and its impact on the village, and that the further traffic data collection, which would be discussed by the Parish Council later at the meeting would also help provide evidence on the increase of traffic in Grimsargh.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the member of the public for attending the meeting and for discussing the application with the Parish Council. He advised that the Parish Council would be discussing the application under the Planning Item on the Agenda and they would take into account the points raised by the member of the public present and also comments received from residents via email. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Stephen Whittam advised the Parish Council that he was awaiting a response from Preston City Council (PCC) regarding a meeting to discuss the Village Green with PCC and the Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG), and that hopefully this matter would have progressed by the next Parish Council meeting.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that the Christmas Events Working Group would be meeting before the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk reminded the Working Group that the first task was to decide the location of the Crib so the electricity ducting could be put in place.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked if the seat at Redrow could be cleaned as it was looking a bit tarnished and the Clerk said she would speak to the Lengthsman about this.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked about advertising signs in gardens and asked if residents were allowed to do this. The Clerk said she would check with the Planning Department.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also informed the Parish Council that she had been contacted by a number of residents on Langden Fold Grimsargh regarding the height of the trees and hedge at The Plough and that it was interfering with residents TV signals and blocking their light. The Clerk advised that this was a very difficult area to deal with although trees overhanging neighbouring properties could be trimmed and the branches given back to the owner. The Clerk would look into this and speak to the Landlord at The Plough.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

50. (22/23) Parish Council Vacancy

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed Simon Rusling to the meeting who was interested in one of the vacancies on the Parish Council. Simon informed the Parish Council that he had been a resident in Grimsargh for the last 18 years and he

lived on the Redrow estate. He said he was very community minded and liked to be involved in community events and would like to join the Parish Council.

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

Resolved

That, Simon Rusling is co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.

51. (22/23) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2022/0745 - Land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Road Preston. Outline application for employment area comprising of general industrial (Class B2), warehouse (Class B8) and ancillary business (Class E (g)(i)) uses with access from Roman Way seeking approval for access (all other matters reserved).
- 06/2022/0937 - 274 Longridge Road, Preston PR2 5SA
Additional vehicular access.
- 06/2022/0833 - 45 Douglas Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5JB
Extension of front porch and windows to replace garage door.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0745 which had been discussed earlier at the meeting under public participation. The Clerk also reported that a resident had sent an email to all the Parish Council which included their reasons for objecting to the Planning Application. After discussion the Parish Council agreed to formally object to the application for the following reasons: -

The application site is a greenfield site and although accepted can be used for employment, is an over intensification use of this site. The Parish Council were particularly concerned about the traffic impacts on the surrounding area which is already gridlocked at peak times of the day. The applicant indicated that there will be 714 parking places and 3,000 new jobs created. This will have a severe impact on traffic travelling from Preston through to Grimsargh and vice versa. Highways England had previously stated on numerous occasions that there was a lack of capacity in that area and also around junction 31a. The Parish Council totally supported the response from Highways England that a full comprehensive traffic assessment needed to take place, and that a decision on this application should not be made until Highways England has seen the further traffic assessments requested which will enable them to make an informed judgement on the impact of this development. Of particular concern was that the site was in close proximity to the

ancient Red Scar and Tun Brook SSSI. It was of paramount importance that the SSSI was protected and although a buffer zone was proposed, it did not appear to be enough to mitigate the construction of 12 large industrial units with 714 parking spaces, which would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in that area. The historical Roman Road should also be preserved.

The Parish Council were disappointed to hear from local residents close to the site that they had not been consulted on the proposals, and the Parish Council shared their concerns regarding the detrimental impact on their properties. The Parish Council noted that the Police had recommended lighting to reduce the possibility of crime in the area, but this lighting would be a constant glow and would affect the properties nearby. Although the application was only for outline and access at this current time, the Parish Council raised their concerns that if this application was granted then the industrial units should be not overbearing in height and scale, and should blend in with the surrounding area.

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2022/0937 and 06/2022/0833, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council noted that with regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0844 relating to Land South of Whittingham Lane, Grimsargh, the Parish Council did not ask for any extra time to consider this application as the Clerk asked the Parish Council for any concerns via email and none were received as there were no issues. The application was to seek variation to some of the types of houses on the development relating to outline planning permission 06/2018/0781 pursuant to 06/2019/1049 to seek variation of condition no 1 "Approved Plans".

The Parish Council also noted that a Certificate of Lawfulness had been granted for a proposed single storey rear extension to 226 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JS. This was not subject to consultation.

The Parish Council further noted that no response was received in relation to the request to a meeting with the proposed owners of the children's home on Douglas Lane. There was therefore nothing further the Parish Council could do. Councillor Simon Rusling informed the Parish Council that he had been in contact with Ben Wallace MP regarding the Certificate of Lawfulness for the Children's home, he had also been looking at covenants on the estate but these were hard to enforce.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2022/0745, the Parish Council agreed to object to the application for the following reasons: -

The application site is a greenfield site and although accepted can be used for employment, is an over intensification use of this site. The Parish Council were particularly concerned about the traffic impacts on the surrounding area which is already gridlocked at peak times of the day. The applicant indicated that there will be 714 parking places and 3,000 new jobs created. This will have a severe impact on traffic travelling from Preston through to Grimsargh and vice versa. Highways

England had previously stated on numerous occasions that there was a lack of capacity in that area and also around junction 31a. The Parish Council totally supported the response from Highways England that a full comprehensive traffic assessment needed to take place, and that a decision on this application should not be made until Highways England has seen the further traffic assessments requested which would enable them to make an informed judgement on the impact of this development. Of particular concern was that the site was in close proximity to the ancient Red Scar and Tun Brook SSSI. It was of paramount importance that the SSSI was protected and although a buffer zone is proposed, it did not appear to be enough to mitigate the construction of 12 large industrial units with 714 parking spaces, which would have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in that area. The historical Roman Road should also be preserved.

The Parish Council were disappointed to hear from local residents close to the site that they had not been consulted on the proposals, and the Parish Council shared their concerns regarding the detrimental impact on their properties. The Parish Council noted that the Police had recommended lighting to reduce the possibility of crime in the area, but this lighting would be a constant glow and would affect the properties nearby. Although the application was only for outline and access at this current time, the Parish Council raised their concerns that if this application was granted then the industrial units should be not overbearing in height and scale, and should blend in with the surrounding area.

ii) That, regard to Planning Applications 06/2022/0937 and 06/2022/0833, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

iii) That, the update on further planning issues as outlined above is received and noted.

52. (22/23) Wetlands Trust AGM - feedback

Councillor Terry Cryer reported on the Wetlands AGM that he attended on behalf of the Parish Council on 20th July. He highlighted the excellent work being done by the Trust and also their fundraising successes. He referred to the proposal submitted by Eileen Murray at the meeting regarding the increased membership fees without consultation with its members. This had been voted on at the AGM. Eileen Murray had also raised the issue about Corporate Sponsorship as opposed to Corporate Membership at the meeting as it was indicated that this meant that the Parish Council would not have a vote. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam in her capacity as Secretary to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust explained that the Trust had subsequently discussed the issues raised at the AGM and a letter had been sent to all members to clarify the situation. Grimsargh Parish Council would continue to be a Corporate Member and as such would have one vote at the AGM. Other businesses who supported the Wetlands Trust would be Corporate Sponsors and would not have a vote. This would minimise any conflict of interests. The Wetlands Trust had agreed to keep the lifetime membership at a cost of £250 which was in line with other similar wildlife organisations.

Councillor Terry Cryer also informed the Parish Council that SSSI status for the land was discussed. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam in her capacity of Secretary to the

Wetlands Trust explained that this was an initial idea and the cost, details and implications of this would need a lot of further discussion and agreement with both the Trust and the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked Councillor Terry Cryer for the feedback from the Wetlands Trust AGM.

Resolved

That the report from the Wetlands Trust AGM is received and noted.

53. (22/23) Whittingham Lane & traffic issues

It was noted that at the last meeting the Parish Council had discussed carrying out a further data collection on vehicles entering and exiting the village. It was further noted that some data collection had been carried out by Rennie Pinder but due to Whittingham Lane being temporarily closed and the school summer holidays, it was felt that further data should be collected to obtain an accurate picture of traffic issues in Grimsargh. The Parish Council needed to formally agree to this further expenditure and this was unanimously agreed. The estimate for the additional work would be approximately £350 depending on if cameras and/or the van was used.

It was noted that the further data collection would take place in September and that Rennie would present to his findings to either the October or November meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given to a further data collection on vehicles entering and exiting the village at an estimated cost of £350, and that a report on the findings is presented to the Parish Council at either their October or November meeting.

54. (22/23) Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC)

The Clerk had circulated some information regarding LANPAC to the Parish Council. It was noted that LANPAC was a unique collaboration between Lancashire Constabulary, Lancashire Businesses and Public Services working together to reduce levels of crime and disorder across the county. All Parish Councils had recently received an application form and information regarding LANPAC and asking if they wished to join. After discussion the Parish Council unanimously agreed to join LANPAC at a cost of £60.

Resolved

That the Parish Council agrees to become members of LANPAC at a cost of £60.00 per year.

55. (22/23) Land behind Village Hall – feasibility study

The Clerk had circulated information from PSD Agronomy regarding a feasibility study on land behind Grimsargh Village Hall to look at options for using the land as a potential mini multi use games area (MUGA). The Clerk reported that as the land was owned by Preston City Council (PCC) they had confirmed that PSD Agronomy

were their preferred contractor to carry out the feasibility study, and that this study was a requirement to ensure that the land was suitable for the proposed use. It was reported that the cost of the topographical survey was £800.00 but if PCC already had this information, then a further topographical survey was not required. The feasibility study including the technical appraisal of the site would cost £1,695.00. The Parish Council had previously agreed that a mini MUGA or something for younger people in the village was their priority project, therefore, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to pay for the feasibility study at a cost of £1,695.00 and, if required, the topographical survey at a cost of £800. The total cost would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

Resolved

That approval is given to PSD Agronomy to carry out a feasibility study on the land behind the village hall at a cost of £1,695.00. In addition to this approval is given to a topographical survey if required at a cost of £800. The total cost to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

56. (22/23) Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2023

The Parish Council considered the dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2023 and the following dates were unanimously agreed: -

Thursday 12 January 2023 *(note change of date)
Thursday 2 February 2023
Thursday 2 March 2023
Thursday 6 April 2023
Thursday 11 May 2023 *(note change of date due to Elections)
Thursday 1 June 2023
Thursday 6 July 2023
Thursday 7 September 2023
Thursday 5 October 2023
Thursday 2 November 2023
Thursday 7 December 2023

Resolved

That approval is given to the dates for the Parish Council meetings for 2023 as outlined above.

57. (22/23) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £188,642.54 in the Nat West bank as at 5 August 2022.

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

Cllr Mrs Joyce Chessell replacement cheque for Platinum Jubilee expenses £734.97 (Cheque no 1155).

Simon Rusling for prizes for Platinum Jubilee £45.00 (Cheque no 1156).

Clerk's salary 15 July - £1,203.11 (Cheque no 1157).

Adam Cooper Contractor May 63.5 hours @£15 per hour = £952.50 + 50p underclaimed from last year as highlighted by Internal Auditor = total £953.00 (Cheque no 1158).

Adam cooper Contractor June 68 hours @£15 per hour = £1,020.00 (Cheque no 1159).

Clerk's salary August £1,203.31 (Cheque no 1160).

Sal Gorton – for website admin December 2021 – July 2022 £266.69 (Cheque no 1161).

JRB Enterprise for dog bin bags £130.26 + underpayment £10.80 from last invoice = total £141.06 (Cheque no 1162).

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Clerk's Salary 15 September - £1,203.11.

ii) HMRC Q2 Tax and NI - £499.27.

iii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed.

iv) Village Hall invoice – for use of small hall for Parish Council meetings March- July 2022 5 x £15 = £75.00 + village hall use at Platinum Jubilee Event £50 = total £125.00.

v) Village Hall for Summer Crafting Group, grant as previously agreed £180.00. (It was noted that one cheque would be issued to the Village Hall covering both this invoice and item iv above).

58. (22/23) Clerk's report – for information only

There were no further issues for the Clerk to report.

59. (22/23) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 6 October 2022 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.

Local Government Act 1972

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

60. (22/23) Land close to Grimsargh Wetlands (para 3)

(Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as Secretary of the Wetlands Trust and left the meeting. Likewise, Councillor David Hindle declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as Chairman of the Wetlands Trust and left the meeting).

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in bidding for the land close to Grimsargh Wetlands and that Stephen Greenwood from Farley's Solicitors were now acting on behalf of the Parish Council to complete the transfer of land. The estimated Solicitors cost were £1,600 + VAT.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.