

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5th September, 2024 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
8 members of the public

40. (24/25) 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.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Whittam, Preston City Council.

41. (24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

42. (24/25) Minutes of the Last Meeting

In relation to 36 (24/25) Councillor Trevor Haines asked if the Clerk could obtain an estimate of the costs of extending the footpath from Lancashire County Council (LCC) as he thought this had been agreed at the last meeting. The Clerk agreed to contact LCC.

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

43. (24/25) 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.

Five young people had come along to the meeting to ask about the possibility of having some mountain bike jumps on the village green. They explained that they enjoyed mountain biking but needed somewhere to go with friends. They would need around 50 metres of land to establish the jumps which were made of earth mounds. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said there was an area of overgrown land on the village green that may be suitable, but the land was owned by Preston City Council and any changes to the green would have to be agreed by them and also by Fields in Trust as the green was a designated Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said it was also worth speaking to John Baron and Tony Cookson who were the Friends of Grimsargh Green (FOGG). The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton suggested that one of the parents got in touch with the Clerk so that this could officially be looked into. He thanked the young people for coming along to the Parish Council meeting and showing some initiative.

A member of the public had come along to see what could be done about the state of the pond on the Redrow Estate. He said that some local residents were willing to get involved and help to clear the pond if this was allowed. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the land was owned by Preston City Council, but it may be worthwhile getting some support and advice. The Clerk explained that the pond was due to be cleared out some time ago by Preston City Council but twice they had tendered for the works and twice they had been let down by the potential contractors. The Clerk would contact the Deputy Director of Parks and ask when the pond was likely to be cleared and explore the possibility of residents becoming involved. She asked the resident to leave his contact details in the attendance book.

One member of the public had come along to the meeting to raise his concerns about the possibility of widening the skew bridge. He said that a previous Head Teacher at Grimsargh St Michaels School had said that it would be dangerous to widen the bridge as it would cause a fatality and that there had been no accidents in the area and therefore no need to widen the bridge. The Clerk said that the widening of the bridge would be funded via Lancashire County Council through the Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP), and that the Parish Council were awaiting further details on the works, the timescales and the routing of the traffic while the works took place. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said she had been aware of a fatality on the road near the school but it had been some years ago. The Clerk said she would find out further information when it was available and also would ask for accident data and send this to the resident.

There then followed a discussion on the lack of infrastructure in the village and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer that the Parish Council write to our new MP, Maya Ellis to raise our concerns about the housebuilding in Grimsargh and the lack of infrastructure. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam and unanimously agreed.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed Geoff Carefoot, from Grimsargh Wetlands Trust to the meeting. Geoff had come along to talk about the funding of the footpath closure notice needed by the Wetlands Trust while works were undertaken to replace the fencing on the wetlands. He explained that even though the works would only take a short time, the Wetlands Trust still had to go ahead with the official footpath closure order which would cost around £1,100 which was a lot of money for the Trust to fund. The Clerk explained that the Wetlands Trust could ask for money from the dowry that the Parish Council had ringfenced to the Wetlands, at any time. Geoff asked if the Trust could apply for CiL monies and it was explained that CiL monies are given to the Parish Council from some developments in the village, it was not something that the Trust could apply for directly from the City Council. The Parish Council agreed that the Wetlands was a major asset that needed funding and support, and the Chairman, Councillor Peter

Burton reiterated the Parish Council's total commitment to the Wetlands and that releasing funds was not an issue.

Councillor Trevor Haines asked about the path on the village green, as the developers had now finished on site. The Clerk said she would speak to Planning Enforcement about this issue.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked about the welcome pack and the Clerk advised that the website administrator was looking at setting this up and hopefully this would be progressed by the next meeting.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam asked about the proposed community orchard, and the Clerk confirmed that a grant had been applied for and she was awaiting the outcome.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam also asked about the bench on the village green and the request to turn this around to face the road. The Clerk confirmed that the Parks Department had put this on their list of jobs, and so it should be actioned shortly.

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

44. (24/25) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2024/0804 - Bel Ombre, 6 Swarbrick Avenue, Grimsargh
Single storey side extension.
- 06/2024/0806 - 16 Crofts Drive, Grimsargh PR2 5LW
Change of use from residential (Class C3) to children's home for up to 3no children (Class C2).
- 06/2024/0675 - Elston Old Hall Farm, Elston Lane, Grimsargh
2no replacement agricultural buildings following Demolition of 2no existing agricultural buildings.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0804, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0806, the Parish Council noted that no comments had been received from residents regarding this application, and that this was purely a planning application, and did not address any details regarding the children and their care which would be regulated outside of the planning rules.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2024/0675 the Parish Council 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 06/2024/0804, 06/2024/0806 and 06/2024/0675, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

45. (24/25) Christmas Events 2024

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam suggested that the Christmas Events should be held this year on Friday 6th December at 6.30pm. This was unanimously agreed. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that she would contact Field Day for their help and she would obtain a price for the selection boxes as per last year. The Parish Council agreed to provide a maximum budget of £300 towards the events.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council needed to confirm that they required a Christmas Tree this year as per usual from Preston City Council. This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved

- i) That approval is given to the Christmas events being held on Friday 6th December at 6.30pm and that a maximum budget of £300 is allocated towards the events.
- ii) That approval is given to the purchase and installation of the Christmas Tree from Preston City Council.

46. (24/25) Grimsargh Wetlands – update & request for funding

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam informed the Parish Council that the Wetlands Trust AGM would be held on Wednesday 16 October at 7.00 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. It was noted that the Parish Council is represented by Councillor Terry Cryer at the AGM and if he is not able to attend, the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton will represent and vote on behalf of the Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam gave an update on the proposed fencing works on the Wetlands and referred to the temporary footpath closure order as discussed earlier in the meeting. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to fund the temporary footpath closure order at a cost of £1,185.

Resolved

That the date of the Wetlands Trust AGM on 16 October is noted, and that approval is given to fund the temporary footpath closure order while works are undertaken on the Wetlands at a cost of £1,185.

47. (24/25) Neighbourhood Plan update

The Clerk reported that the new Government was currently consulting on changes to the planning rules and at this time it was not clear what changes would be made to Neighbourhood Planning. She was attending a webinar on the proposed changes this week so she would hopefully update the Parish Council on any potential

changes needed. The Clerk would speak to our planner with help on a further consultation on the draft Grimsargh Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk also reported that as the Parish Council had previously applied for a grant for neighbourhood planning, we were unable to apply for a further grant.

Resolved

That the update is received and noted.

48. (24/25) Best Kept Village/planters

It was noted that Grimsargh had been unsuccessful in this year's Best Kept Village Competition and that Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam was currently thinking about ways to make the village more appealing. The Parish Council agreed to discuss this further at their meeting in January next year in advance of the Best Kept Village Competition.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to award a £20 So Plants voucher to each planter parent (14) for looking after the planters and making the village more attractive. The total cost for vouchers was £280.

Resolved

That approval is given to award a £20 So Plants voucher to each planter parent at a cost of £280, and that the Parish Council will discuss further ideas to make the village more appealing in January next year.

49. (24/25) Police & Crime Commissioner Consultation

The Clerk reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner was currently carrying out a Consultation on the Police and Crime Plan. The Consultation was via an online survey and the closing date for comments was 30th September 2024. It was agreed that individual Councillors should complete the online survey if they wished to do so.

Resolved

That individual Councillors should complete the online survey in response to the Police and Crime Plan Consultation if they wished to do so.

50. (24/25) Parish Council Newsletter

The Parish Council gave consideration to items for the Parish Council newsletter, including an item on the mobile library, the Wetlands, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas events. It was noted that the newsletter would be signed off at the November meeting of the Parish Council.

51. (24/25) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £193,430.08 in the Nat West bank as at 5 August 2024. It was further noted that we had received £4,480 and £820 from Zurich for the bus shelter claim. We had also received the £800 for the public rights of way/biodiversity grants scheme.

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

HMRC Q1 Tax and NI £879.91. (Cheque 1272)

JRB x 2 invoices for bin bags £260.52. (Cheque 1273)

Lancashire Environmental Fund (LEF) 3rd party contribution to Grimsargh Wetlands Trust grant for new fencing and associated works - £1,210 (Cheque no 1274).

Sue Whittam, Clerks Salary 15 July £1,258.17 + ink, stationery and zoom for 12 months from June 2023 – June 2024 = total £414.21 = total £1,672.38 (Cheque 1275).

Replacement bus shelter £6,480 (Cheque no 1276).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 August £1,257.97 (Cheque no 1277).

Preston City Council Newsletter £715.50 (Cheque no 1278).

We had been advised that bank charges for 1 June to 28 June are £3.15 and 29 June to 2 August are £4.90. Direct debits Nest Pension Clerk 6 June and 6 July £48.88.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Village Hall room hire £110 (April – August 2024) for the Parish Council/Wetlands Trust meetings.

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 September, £1,257.97.

HMRC Q2 Tax & NI £873.31.

2) The Quarter 1 Finance Report was presented to the Parish Council for information.

52. (24/25) Clerk's report – for information only

It was noted that the Clerk and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton had met with the resident to discuss the Community Orchard and he had been very helpful with advice with regard to the type and variety of trees. As discussed earlier at the meeting the Clerk had applied for a grant for the Community Orchard and the outcome was expected shortly.

The Clerk also advised that some residents had expressed concern about the height of the grass on our land earmarked for the Community Orchard and the Clerk had arranged for a contractor to cut the grass and trim the hedge.

53. (24/25) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.