

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7 December, 2023 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

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

### **73. (23/24) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer, Councillor Trevor Cryer, and Councillor Simon Rusling.

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.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton informed the Parish Council that there was an item of Urgent Business relating to a proposed memorial for Andy Small, which could not wait until the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council due to the timescales involved in arranging a suitable memorial. It was agreed by the Parish Council that this should be considered as an item of Urgent Business.

### **74. (23/24) Declarations of Interest and written requests for dispensation**

The Clerk confirmed that written requests for dispensation had been received from all present in order for them to consider the precept up to the 31 March 2027 in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no further declarations of interest.

### **75. (23/24) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd November 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **76. (23/24) 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.

Councillor Stephen Whittam, Preston City Council said he had reported the solar powered lights on the Village Green as only three out of the four lights were working and they were only on for about ninety minutes or so each evening. Councillor Mrs

Joyce Chessell said that when she was involved with FoGG she had to remind Preston City Council to alter the solar lights each winter to ensure they came on at the correct time, and that this could be part of the issue with the lights.

Councillor Stephen Whittam also said he had been in touch with the Parks Department regarding a footpath through the Village Green from the new Duchy Homes estate and he was awaiting a response.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that the Christmas tree lights switch on/carols around the crib had been very well attended and that Reverend Andy Williams and Father Doyle had led a lovely service. The event had been well within the budget and had cost £226.70 in total. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton agreed that it had been a great event and thanked everyone who had helped with the organisation and had made it a success. It was noted that perhaps a PA system would be useful at our events, and it was agreed to add this as a potential item of expenditure for next year's budget.

Councillor Trevor Haines referred to an issue on the Willbrook estate regarding a rented property that was being used as a children's home. The members of the public present lived close to the property and it had been established that the property had not applied for the relevant planning permission or change of use. There were also issues with parking and overflowing bins relating to the property. It was noted that the owners of the property were not aware that the property was being used as a children's home and they were looking into what could be done about this. Local residents had the option to report to the Planning Enforcement Team in necessary, but it was hoped that this issue could be sorted without having to resort to enforcement.

The two members of the public present raised the issue of the lighting not working on Parkway Close, and it was noted that this was the responsibility of the developer as the estate had not currently been adopted. The members of the public had also come along to raise their concerns regarding speeding near Whittingham Lane and also the lack of pavements near the new Duchy Homes development. This would be discussed further under the Road Safety Working Group item.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell referred to the temporary closing of the Skew Bridge and said she hoped that the Parish Council would be properly consulted if the bridge was going to be widened. The Clerk said she would ensure that the Parish Council would be consulted on any proposals, and she would seek assurance that this would be the case.

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam said that it was probably around a year now since the pollution monitors had been installed. The Clerk would check on this and ask for any data gathered from the monitors.

Councillor David Hindle said he had some information relating to the Nellie Carbis Millennium Woodland and he gave it to the Clerk to put in the archives at Lancashire County Council.

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver said that the Redrow pond and fencing still needed sorting by Preston City Council and Councillor Stephen Whittam said he would contact Mark Taylor at Preston City Council regarding this.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then reconvened the meeting.

## **77. (23/24) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

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

- 06/2023/0994        -        5 Nook Glade, Grimsargh PR2 5JX  
Single storey and two storey extension to side and rear, with roof lantern to single storey rear extension, following demolition of garage.
  
- 06/2023/1154       -        North of Church House Barn, Preston Road PR2 5SD  
3no dwellings.
  
- 06/2023/1312       -        Land to rear of 24 and 26 Salisbury Avenue PR2 5LF  
1 no new dwelling.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0994, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2023/1154, it was noted that there was a previous permission for one larger dwelling on this site but the applicant was now looking to build three detached properties. Although the Parish Council had no objection to the application, they did wish to raise a couple of concerns regarding the increase in the number of vehicles using the properties and also accessing Preston Road. Three properties as opposed to one property would increase the number of vehicles exiting the site. The Parish Council were also concerned about the increasing number of developments in Grimsargh that were either one, two or three large homes which brings with them additional traffic. Concern was also raised about the access onto Preston Road.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2023/1312, as with the application referred to above, the Parish Council had no objection to the application, but they did wish to raise a couple of concerns. It was noted that this application was an extension to the new development in the area, the plot was quite large and the Parish Council were surprised that the applicant had not tried to put more than one home on the plot. If the application is approved, the Parish Council would wish to see this limited to one dwelling only, and they would not wish to see a subsequent application putting an additional house on there. The Parish Council were also unsure about the access to the plot as it was difficult to ascertain from the application, however, it was presumed that access would be through the new estate, which was acceptable but there should not be a separate access. Finally, the Parish Council were already concerned about traffic in Grimsargh and by adding on more and more homes to approved new developments was just exacerbating the situation with regard to traffic issues.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton referred to the Planning Application for land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Road (Planning reference 06/2022/0745), and the recent email sent to the Parish Council from a local resident. It was noted that the Planning Committee at Preston City Council had approved the application and that Highways England had withdrawn their original objection to the application due to there being a lack of capacity on the Highways network and in particular the motorway junction. The Parish Council were very disappointed that the application had now been approved, as there had been a number of objections including from the Parish Council to the development. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Preston City Council confirming the Parish Council's disappointment with the approved application as this would result in further traffic congestion in Grimsargh.

## **Resolved**

- i) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0994, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.
- ii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/1154, it was noted that there was a previous permission for one larger dwelling on this site but the applicant was now looking to build three detached properties. Although the Parish Council had no objection to the application, they did wish to raise a couple of concerns regarding the increase in the number of vehicles using the properties and also accessing Preston Road. Three properties as opposed to one property would increase the number of vehicles exiting the site. The Parish Council were also concerned about the increasing number of developments in Grimsargh that are either one, two or three large homes which brings with them additional traffic. Concern was also raised about the access onto Preston Road.
- iii) That with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/1312, as with the application referred to above, the Parish Council had no objection to the application, but they did wish to raise a couple of concerns. It was noted that this application was an extension to the new development in the area, the plot was quite large and the Parish Council were surprised that the applicant had not tried to put more than one home on the plot. If the application is approved, the Parish Council would wish to see this limited to one dwelling only, and they would not wish to see a subsequent application putting an additional house on there. The Parish Council were also unsure about the access to the plot as it was difficult to ascertain from the application, however, it was presumed that access would be through the new estate, which was acceptable but there should not be a separate access. Finally, the Parish Council were already concerned about traffic in Grimsargh and by adding on more and more homes to approved new developments was just exacerbating the situation with regard to traffic issues.
- iv) That with regard to the Planning Application for land at Roman Road Farm, Longridge Road (Planning reference 06/2022/0745), and the recent email sent to the Parish Council from a local resident, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Preston City Council confirming the Parish Council's disappointment with the approved application as this would result in further traffic congestion in Grimsargh.

## **78. (23/24) Item of Urgent Business – memorial for Andy Small**

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Ann Small regarding a potential memorial for Andy Small to be placed on Grimsargh Wetlands. The family wished the memorial to be made of stone together with a memorial plaque and they were hoping for this to be in place in March 2024 around the time of Andy's birthday. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that there were some large pieces of stone that were on the Wetlands and they may be appropriate and he had taken some pictures so that these could be forwarded to Andy's family. There was a discussion regarding the positioning of the memorial due to the Wetlands being a closed site, however it was noted that the family would wish to have the memorial close to their property which backed onto the Wetlands. The Parish Council had no objection in principle to a memorial for Andy Small but this would also need to be discussed by the Wetlands Trust, who managed the Wetlands on behalf of the Parish Council, at their meeting to be held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The final details with regard to the siting of the memorial would need to be agreed between the Wetlands Trust and the family of Andy Small. The Clerk agreed to contact Ann Small to confirm that the Parish Council were happy in principle with what was proposed, subject to the agreement of the Wetlands Trust and the final details to be agreed between the Trust and the family.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council agree in principle to a memorial on the Wetlands in memory of Andy Small, subject to the agreement of the Wetlands Trust and, that the final details are agreed between the Wetlands Trust and Andy Small's family.

## **79. (23/24) Road Safety Working Group**

Councillor Trevor Haines gave an update to the Parish Council regarding the Road Safety Working Group and in particular the issues relating to Whittingham Lane. He explained that a reply had been received from Highways in response to the email sent to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Lancashire County Council (LCC), Councillor Rupert Swarbrick. The email in summary said that there was no indication of speeding on Whittingham Lane so there was no justification to provide additional measures on this road at the present time.

Councillor Trevor Haines said he had now discussed this at length with the Working Group and in particular they felt that the response from LCC needed a further challenge for the following reasons: -

The data for injury collisions over the past five years was flawed as there had been a number of new developments in the area which had significantly changed the vehicles using Whittingham Lane. Therefore, any historic data could not be relied on as this did not give an accurate reflection of the current situation.

That due to a blind bend, the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile was not relevant as vehicles had to reduce their speed due to the bend. The maximum speed of vehicles approaching the crossing and stopping distances from the blind bend therefore needed to be considered.

The Working Group recommended that a meeting with the relevant Officer at LCC was requested so the issues could be discussed in more detail. It was noted that a reply had not been received from Preston City Council regarding the planning issues and the lack of a footway. However, the Parish Council had asked for a footway to be included at the time and also asked for a footpath through the Village Green but none of these had been approved by Preston City Council.

The Clerk suggested looking at the original Planning Application and subsequent approval for the new development as this would have information on the traffic study which was undertaken at the time.

The Parish Council agreed that Councillor Trevor Haines, on behalf of the Road Safety Working Group, could draft a follow up email to LCC and that the Clerk, Councillor Rupert Swarbrick, Andy Pratt (Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner) and Houghton Parish Council should be copied into the correspondence.

A further point was made regarding the chicane at D'Urton Manor and the criteria for this being put in place. Councillor Trevor Haines agreed to include this in his email.

### **Resolved**

That the update from the Road Safety Working Group is received and noted, and that approval is given to Councillor Trevor Haines to send a further email to LCC and others in line with the above comments.

### **80. (23/24) Annual CiL Report**

The Clerk presented the Annual CiL report (year end 31 March 2023) for approval, and for publication on the Parish Council website. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council and a copy of the report is presented in the Minute Book.

### **Resolved**

That the Annual CiL report (year end 31 March 2023) is approved for publication on the Parish Council website, and that a copy of the approved report is presented in the Minute Book.

### **81. (23/24) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £207,959.63 in the Nat West bank as at 3 November 2023. It was noted that the CiL payment £35,717.12 for April 2023 – September 2023 had now been credited to our account.

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

Sal Gorton – Website admin – August 2022 to November 2023 - £310.78. (Cheque no 1236).

Selection boxes Christmas event, reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Jayne Woollam - £108.00. (cheque no 1237).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 November 2023 £1,265.50. (Cheque no 1238).

Adam Cooper Contractor July 2023 33.5 hours @ £15.00 per hour = £502.50 + August 2023 26.5 hours @£15.00 per hour = £397.50 = total £900.00. (Cheque no 1239).

Adam Cooper Contractor September 2023 26 hours @£15.00 per hour = £390.00 + October 23 hours @£15.00 per hour = £345.00 = total £735.00. (Cheque no 1240).

Preston City Council for Greenspace contribution £3,190. (Cheque no 1241).

We had also paid Nest Pension Clerk £48.88 on 9 October – direct debit.

### **Resolved**

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam, Clerk's Salary 15 December 2023 - £1,265.30 (It was noted that the payment for the delivery of the newsletter would be added to this amount once received). (It was further noted that the Local Government Pay Award has been agreed so the calculated back pay will be added to the January salary).

ii) HMRC Q3 Tax and NI - £587.51

iii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the next meeting.

iv) Reimbursement to Cllr Mrs Jayne Woollam for Christmas events food/drinks – £17.70 for bread buns.

v) Reimbursement to Field Day Committee – John Willan for mulled wine and refreshments for the Christmas events - £99.39.

2) It was noted that the Parish Council would need to sign off the budget for 2023/24 and agree the precept at their January meeting. The Clerk asked for any additional budget items to be forwarded to her by the end of December so they could be included in the budget.

### **82. (23/24) Clerk's report – for information only**

The Clerk reported that the Planning Department at Preston City Council had confirmed that permission would be needed for any works around the war memorial including changes to the paving. Once a revised quote had been received the Clerk would contact the Planning Department and seek the necessary approvals.

### **83. (23/24) Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.