

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 February, 2023 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 Trevor Haines; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam.

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

115. (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.

116. (22/23) Declarations of Interest

Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam declared an interest in item 9, as Chairman and Secretary of the Wetlands Trust respectively, only if there were any issues raised under this item that would result in them having to leave the meeting.

There were no further declarations of interest.

117. (22/23) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 January 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

118. (22/23) Adjournment for Public Participation

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton adjourned the meeting for public participation and welcomed the members of the public to the meeting. He asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

A number of residents had come along to the meeting to raise their concerns regarding the Central Lancashire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation and in particular relating to Land east and west of Dixons Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LG – site reference 19P292. A number of residents spoke to the Parish Council and highlighted issues relating to traffic, loss of green fields, impact on local Biological Heritage Site, loss of wildlife/habitat. It was noted that this site had previously been

put in the preferred options in 2010 but had not been brought forward into the 2012 plan due to flooding issues on the proposed site and traffic issues. It was agreed that these reasons for objecting were still important today especially as the site was in flood zone 3 which had a high risk of flooding. Residents also stated that the site was outside the village boundary and was in open countryside and as Preston currently had a 14.6 years supply of deliverable housing, this development was not needed and would have a detrimental impact on wildlife, habitat and traffic. It would also mean the loss of trees and well-established hedges which were important for biodiversity. Additional concerns were raised regarding the lack of infrastructure to support an additional 196 houses as there was a lack of doctors, dentists and school places in the village. A number of residents provided pictures and documentation to support their objections.

It was also noted that since the last Preferred Options Consultation, Grimsargh has greatly increased in size and that a number of properties have also been built at the Whittingham Lane hospital site (950 houses), which was just two miles from Grimsargh and also in Longridge which was in the Ribble Valley Borough Council area but equally impacted on the increase of traffic in Grimsargh.

The Clerk reminded all members of the public to submit their objections/comments in response to the Central Lancashire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation by 24 February 2023. Responses could be made online, by email or in writing, however it was important to use the site references when responding to the consultation.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting to discuss the Preferred Options Consultation and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would object to site reference 19P292 for the reasons outlined above. This would be ratified by the Parish Council under their Planning Item on the Agenda.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed Jenny Coulston-Herrmann and representatives from Elston Lane who had come along to speak about their grant application for a heritage sign to be placed on Elston Lane to reflect the historic importance of the Elston area. Jenny had brought along a "mock sign" to show to the Parish Council and explained that the sign would be displayed prominently on private land as they were unable to place it on highways land. Jenny explained that residents on Elston Lane and Elston Green met on a regular basis and they had a real sense of community and arranged various events to support each other.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the provision of a heritage sign on Elston Lane and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton explained that this would be ratified under the Agenda item later in the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item. Councillor Terry Cryer explained that he had received an email from a resident on Sandstone Court regarding the lack of pavements when walking towards Cow Hill. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the Parish Council continued to highlight the lack of pavements when new developments were being considered by Preston City Council but unfortunately our concerns were usually ignored. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that the Parish Council were also

General

The site was on greenfield land and outside the village boundary in an area of open countryside. Grimsargh had seen a huge number of developments over the last few years due to Preston City Council not having a five-year supply of deliverable housing land. Preston City Council currently had 14.6 years supply and therefore sites that were only small scale and infill should be provided within Grimsargh Village.

Flooding

The proposed site had a history of flooding and was located in Flood Zone 3 which meant that there is a high risk of flooding.

Schools

The local schools were already full with parents not being able to obtain their first choice for their children to go to schools in Grimsargh or on the boundary of Grimsargh. Children were having to travel further to get to school which impacted on the increasing traffic in the village. (See below).

Traffic

Grimsargh was already gridlocked at peak times of the day due to the increase in housing and the necessity to take children to school by car rather than walking, due to the distance needed to travel. Longridge whose boundary was close to Grimsargh was designated as a service centre as part of Ribble Valley Borough Council's local plan, which had also increased the traffic in Grimsargh. The main B6243 which was the main route through Grimsargh was a bottleneck and Preston City Council had agreed to install air quality/pollution monitors to gather evidence on the air pollution in the village. There was a health risk due to the slow-moving constant stream of traffic. The additional 196 houses would increase the traffic by 25% in the village which was not sustainable. Access to the site would cause further congestion and exacerbate the traffic issues.

Infrastructure

There was a lack of dentists, doctors and other services. There were no pavements and where there were pavements these were narrow and dangerous, resulting in many residents with prams or using any mobility aids having to walk on the road. There were issues in connecting to the utilities including electricity and gas.

Loss of wildlife/impact on Biological Heritage Site

The site was within close proximity to The Wetlands Biological Heritage Site (BHS) which would have a detrimental impact on this important site.

The site was currently home to many hares, deer, rabbits, hedgehogs, breeding curlew, lapwings, snipe, redwing and fieldfare and also bats and barn owls. There were well established hedges, trees and habitat which would be lost. We should be protecting and enhancing our biodiversity and look to mitigate against climate change by increasing trees and supporting wildlife.

Impact on Grade II listed building

The site was close to Dixons Farmhouse which was a Grade II listed building, therefore the development would have a detrimental impact on this important architectural and historical building which dates back from 1736. The historic landscape was that of ancient enclosure which was rapidly diminishing in the Ribble Valley and surrounding area including Grimsargh.

With regard to the areas of separation referred to in the consultation, the Parish Council agreed to support areas of separation between Grimsargh and Longridge and also Grimsargh and Preston (Policy EN1).

With regard to the employment land at Preston East Junction (ref 19P141) – this was earmarked for employment last time but had not as yet come forward during this plan. Although the Parish Council did not have any particular objection to this land being used for employment, the Parish Council did agree that access to the site should not be through Grimsargh and any employment buildings should be sympathetic to existing local residents and the countryside.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2023/0099, the Parish Council had no objection to the proposed dwelling but did have some concern regarding the positioning of the detached garage which was close to the road and could impact on the sightline, and they agreed to ask if it could be moved back slightly to allow traffic to flow safely at the junction.

ii) That, with regard to the Central Lancashire Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation that the Clerk responds to the consultation as outlined above.

120. (22/23 Grant Application – Elston Lane heritage sign

The Parish Council gave consideration to a grant request for a heritage sign for Elston Lane. Representatives from Elston Lane had given a presentation to the Parish Council under public participation including a “mock sign” that they wanted to be placed in Elston Lane. An original quote had been submitted to the Clerk but after discussion with the sign designer, an amended quote which was lower than the original quote had been submitted to the Parish Council. The total amount for the new sign would be £925.60. Details of the grant had been circulated to the Parish Council with the Agenda.

It was noted that although the applicant did not have a constituted bank account, as with other groups in similar circumstances, the Parish Council could pay the supplier direct. The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support this grant application and agreed to fund the total cost of the sign at £925.60. The Clerk would arrange to pay the amount directly to the supplier.

It was also agreed that this would make a great article for the June newsletter and Councillor David Hindle agreed to write the article for our popular feature on “heritage corner”. It was hoped that pictures of the new sign and residents would be available for inclusion in the newsletter.

Resolved

That approval is given to award a grant for the purchase of a heritage sign for Elston Lane at a cost of £925.60, which would be given direct to the supplier of the sign due to the applicant not having a constituted bank account.

121. (22/23) King Charles III Coronation

The Parish Council gave consideration to a possible event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III to be held in May 2023. It was agreed that a working group should be established to look at this and then report back to the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Trevor Haines; Councillor Simon Rusling and Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam agreed to be part of the working group and report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

Resolved

i) That approval is given to the establishment of a King Charles III Coronation Working Group consisting of Councillors Mrs Chessell, Haines, Rusling and Mrs Woollam to look at possible ideas for an event to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III in May 2023.

ii) That an update is presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held in March 2023.

122. (22/23) Air Quality Monitors

This item had been deferred from the last meeting until the site meeting had been held between Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam and the Environmental Health Officer from Preston City Council to discuss the monitors. Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam reported that the meeting had now been held and that Preston City Council had agreed to install air pollution monitors at suitable locations within the village. These would be in place for about one year and then a report would be provided on the outcome. The monitors would monitor nitrogen dioxide but not particulates due to cost and hopefully these would be installed as soon as possible. Any information/data gathered would help influence the effects of future development and traffic issues.

The Parish Council were very supportive of this and welcomed the monitors being placed in the village.

Resolved

That the report is received and noted.

123. (22/23) Wetlands update

Councillor Mrs Jayne Woollam, as Secretary to the Wetlands Trust informed the Parish Council that the Trust at a recent meeting were looking at putting sheep on

the Wetlands to control the scrub land. The Parish Council had no objection in principle but asked the Trust to ensure that there was suitable fencing to keep the sheep on the land and also that the farmer assumed responsibility for the sheep and any damage. It was suggested that the Trust should enter into an agreement with the farmer and that it was important that the local residents close to the Wetlands were aware of this.

Resolved

- i) That the update on the Wetlands is received and noted.
- ii) That the Parish Council has no objection in principle to sheep being placed on the Wetlands to control the scrub land. However, there should be suitable fencing to keep the sheep safe on the land and also the farmer should assume responsibility for the sheep and any damage. The Parish Council advised that the Trust should enter into an agreement with the farmer and also that local residents close to the Wetlands should be made aware of the sheep on the land.

124. (22/23) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £204,838.19 in the Nat West bank as at 5 January 2023. This was the same amount as reported at the last meeting as we were still awaiting the February bank statement.

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

Clerks Salary 15 January 2023 - £1,265.50 (Cheque 1182).

Adam Cooper, Contractor Nov £540 and December £585.00 (Cheque nos 1183 and 1184).

Euroshel final payment for bus shelters - £14,812.06 (Cheque no 1185).

It was also noted as reported last month, that bank charges for the period 1st Oct – 4 November were £5.60 and £4.20 up to 30 December 2022. The Parish Council had also paid NEST pension (Clerk) £48.88 on 7 November 2022 and 16 Dec £97.76 (£48.88 x2 to cover Dec and Jan). Water bill for Nellie Carbis 6 Dec 2022 £17.61 (Direct Debit).

Resolved

- 1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -
 - i) Clerks Salary 15 February 2023 - £1,265.50.
 - ii) Adam Cooper Contractor – to be confirmed at the next meeting.

125. (22/23) Clerk's report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

126. (22/23) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 2 March 2023 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.