Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 5 February, 2026 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Simon Rusling.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Stephen Whittam – Preston City Council
PCSO Ellie Burke – Lancashire Police
5 members of the public.

97. (25/26) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements

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 sadly reported that our friend and colleague Councillor Terry Cryer had passed away last week. The Parish Council was thinking of Lynda at this time. A minute's silence was then held in respect of Terry.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynda Cryer; Councillor Charlotte Hamer and Councillor David Hindle.

98. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

99. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

100. (25/26) 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.

PCSO Ellie Burke gave an update on crime in the area between the period 1st December 2025 – 4th February 2026. She said there had been one burglary at Whittingham Lane; 3 nuisance incidents at Salmesbury Street (2) and Hopper Close; 3 RTC's damage only; 8 reports of suspicious circumstances and 3 vehicle crimes. Crime was relatively low in the area, but she emphasised the need to report any incidents to the police so they could be investigated.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the Police for attending and then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Stephen Whittam said that there were still issues with “car meets” near Red Scar and unfortunately a young person had been injured. He said that the Police were aware of the meetings, but all incidents needed to be reported directly to the Police.

Councillor Stephen Whittam also reported that a large quantity of cannisters had been dumped in the layby at Haighton Green Lane, this had been reported to Preston City Council who had arranged a quick removal. Fly tipping had also been reported on the car park at the Village Green and likewise Preston City Council had responded quickly and removed it.

The members of the public present had all come along to the meeting, to discuss issues relating to dog fouling on the new Freshfields estate. In particular they were concerned that a number of dog walkers were letting their dogs foul on their gardens which was unpleasant. They also had some CCTV footage showing the issues. It was noted that the new estate had not been adopted as yet. Councillor Stephen Whittam said he would meet the residents the following day to look at the issues.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton advised the Clerk that the bin on the Hills needed emptying. He then thanked everyone for attending and reconvened the meeting.

101. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2026/0046	-	6, Nook Crescent, Grimsargh, PR2 5JU Single storey side/rear extension (following demolition of existing separate side and rear annexes) and formation of new raised patios (following removal of existing prefabricated garage structure).
06/2026/0049	-	276, Longridge Road, Grimsargh, PR2 5SA Single storey rear extension (following demolition of existing single storey rear extension and conservatory), and alterations to existing single storey side extensions
06/2026/0073	-	Church House Barn, Preston Road, Preston, PR2 5SD Construction of 2no. self-build detached dwellings with outbuilding and garages (1no.part retrospective- Plot 1) (Resubmission of planning application ref: 06/2024/0677 dated 01/10/2024)

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2026/0046, 06/2026/0049 and 06/2026/0073 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council noted the following Certificate of Lawfulness which is not subject to consultation.

06/2026/1238	-	209, Preston Road, Grimsargh, PR2 5JR Certificate of lawfulness for proposed use of shed for beauty treatments.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2026/0046, 06/2026/0049 and 06/2026/0073, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

ii) That Planning Application 06/2026/1238 which was not for consultation is noted.

102. (25/26) IT Policy

The Clerk reported that as part of the new audit regulations the Parish Council had to have an IT Policy in place. A draft Policy which was based on a NALC template was circulated to the Parish Council and this was unanimously agreed. A copy of the approved IT Policy is placed in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That the draft IT Policy as now presented is approved by the Parish Council and a copy is placed in the Minute Book.

103. (25/26) Small Plots of Land in Grimsargh

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda as she had concerns about the small parcels of land in Grimsargh that appeared to change hands frequently and sometimes were maintained at a minimum. In particular clarity was needed about new parcels of land that were attached to new housing estates and the rules regarding the management companies that were appointed to undertake the maintenance of the new sites.

It was agreed that clarity was needed and the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department at Preston City Council regarding management companies and also whose responsibility was it to ensure that the management companies carried out their allocated roles.

Resolved

That the Clerk contact the Planning Department at Preston City Council in line with the above.

104. (25/26) Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service – Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) Consultation

The Clerk had circulated an email from the Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service who were currently consulting on their five-year CRMP. It was noted that the closing date for responding was 15th March 2026. The Parish Council agreed that individual Councillors could respond to the consultation if they wished to do so.

Resolved

That with regard to the consultation by Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service on their CRMP, it was agreed that individual Councillors could respond to the consultation if they wished to do so.

105. (25/26) Activities for Young People – update

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton reported that there had not been a recent meeting of the Working Group but the Clerk had recently had a meeting with the Partnership Officer at the Vault which was the new youth facility in Preston. There would be an opportunity for the Parish Council to engage with the youth officers at the Vault and this would cost an estimated £15.00 per hour per youth worker + expenses. The Clerk had obtained a number of dates when the village hall was available, and after discussion it was agreed that Friday 13 March may be the best date. The aim was to have a games night which would be facilitated by the youth workers.

The Clerk agreed to go back to the Partnership Officer at the Vault to progress this project. It was also agreed that she would ask the Officer to have an initial meeting with the Working Group to finalise the arrangements.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to contact the Partnership Officer at the Vault to progress the youth event in Grimsargh with a potential date of Friday 13 March 2026.

106. (25/26) Planters 2026

The Clerk confirmed that the current “planter parents” had agreed to carry on looking after their planters in the village, which was very much appreciated by the Parish Council. It was also noted that sadly the Best Kept Village Competition would not be held this year, but it was still important to keep the village looking nice and the planters were an integral part of this.

The Parish Council agreed to give each “planter parent” a £20 gift voucher from Asda to be spent on plants for their planters.

Resolved

i) That the Parish Council approve a gift voucher of £20 for each “planter parent” as appreciation for the work carried out by those residents who look after the planters, and help to make Grimsargh look lovely.

ii) That the cancellation of the Best Kept Village is sadly noted by the Parish Council.

107. (25/26) Financial Rules and Regulations

The Parish Council reviewed the Financial Rules and Regulations that had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Clerk was recommending one amendment under 3.4 that the amount of expenditure that the Clerk could incur on behalf of the Parish Council was increased from £200 to £500, this was for any repair, replacement or other work which was of such extreme urgency that it must be done at once, whether or not there was any budgetary provision for the expenditure. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council. A copy of the approved Financial Rules and Regulations is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Rules and Regulations as presented, including the amendment to section 3.4 to increase the expenditure that the Clerk could incur on behalf of the Parish Council from £200 to £500 in line with the above. A copy of the approved Financial Rules and Regulations is presented in the Minute Book.

108. (25/26) Financial Risk Assessment

The Parish Council reviewed the Financial Risk Assessment; it was noted that there were no suggested amendments at the Risk Assessment was currently up to date. The Parish Council unanimously agreed the Financial Risk Assessment and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

Resolved

That approval is given to the Financial Risk Assessment as now presented and a copy is presented in the Minute Book.

109. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £153,161.23 in the Nat West bank as at 5th January 2026.

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

HMRC Q3 Tax and NI £1,976.73 (Cheque no 1354).

Grimsargh St Michaels PTFA £25,000 grant (Cil monies) (Cheque no 1355).

David Steele Contractor inv7 40 hours @ £19 per hour = £760. (Cheque no 1356).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary January 2026 £1067.54. (Cheque no 1357).

Preston City Council newsletter design and print £621.28. (Cheque no 1358).

It was noted that we had paid by direct debit bank charges up to 28 November £5.10 and water bill for Nellie Carbis £21.25.

Resolved

i) The following invoice was approved for payment: -

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary February 2026 £1067.54

ii) The Parish Council approved the appointment of Jessica Dibble as the internal auditor at a cost of £120.

110. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that after discussion with other Parish Council's it was not appropriate for our Lengthsman to undertake weed spraying, as this could only be carried out on land owned by the Parish Council, and the new regulations had changed use of pesticide and its storage. If any weed spraying was required then this should be done via a qualified external contractor or through Preston City Council.

The Clerk had received confirmation that the new email accounts should be up and running shortly.

There were no further issues for the Clerk to raise.

111. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next Parish Council meeting would be held on Thursday 5th March 2026 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.