

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held remotely on Thursday 14 January, 2021
at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Councillor David Hindle (Chairman); Councillor Mark Bell (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Peter Burton; Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer; Councillor Terry Cryer and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson.

In attendance:- Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
Councillor Ron Woollam – Preston City Council

49. (20/21) Sound Check, Muting, Voting and Chairman's welcome to attendees

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle welcomed everyone to this month's remote Parish Council meeting.

50. (20/21) Apologies for Absence

None.

51. (20/21) Declarations of Interest

None.

52. (20/21) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the remote Parish Council Meeting held on 3 December 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman at the next face to face Council meeting in accordance with LGA 1972 sch. 12 Part VI para 41 (1).

53. (20/21) Adjournment for Public Participation and Policing Issues

The Chairman, Councillor David Hindle adjourned the meeting for public participation and asked if anyone had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Ron Woollam informed the Parish Council that he had contacted County Councillor Keith Iddon regarding the flooding near to St Michael's School and had been informed that an Officer from Lancashire County Council would inspect the drains again. It was noted that there was an ongoing problem with the drains near to the school.

Councillor Mark Bell referred to a number of incidents caught on resident's CCTV where cars and property had been targeted by potential burglars. The recent cases had been around The Hills estate but a number of other locations throughout Longridge and Grimsargh had been targeted recently. Any CCTV footage was being passed onto the Police to help with their investigations. It was noted that the Pet Warehouse had also been subject to a recent robbery and Councillor Ron Woollam

reported that a car had been stolen from his neighbour's house. The Clerk also reported that sadly the Christmas Tree on the Village Green had been vandalised. There would be a discussion between the Clerk and Preston City Council to look at how the safety/security of our future Christmas trees could be improved.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that due to the ongoing pandemic and the fact that most children were not currently in school she thought it may be a good idea if the Parish Council approached both Primary Schools and asked if anything was needed to help the families in the village, such as computers/laptops. Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that as well as the Parish Council there were two charities in the village which were the John Farington Charity and the Boylton Trust, and together with the Parish Council we could provide help to those families that needed it. The Clerk agreed to contact both schools and if anything required the Parish Council's approval it would be discussed as an Agenda item at our next Parish Council meeting.

There was nothing further to report under this item, so the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle then reconvened the meeting.

54. (20/21) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- 06/2020/1364 - Request for screening opinion Pursuant to Regulation 6 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) comprising the construction of a 9.5km water main (Alston Spade Mill Transfer Pipeline) and associated temporary works between Broughton Water Treatment Works (WTW) which is located to the north of Preston and White Bull (WTW) which is located to the north east of Grimsargh.
- 06/2020/1381 - Land to the east of 329 Preston Road Grimsargh. 3no dwellings with access, landscaping and associated works.
- 06/2020/1426 - 285 Preston Road Grimsargh. Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing utility and conservatory.
- 06/2020/1382 - Land adjacent to 329 Preston Road, Grimsargh 37 no dwellings with landscaping, associated works and access from Preston Road.
- 06/2020/1399 - 14 Fell View Grimsargh. Extension and conversion of existing garage and single storey link extension to the side and rear of dwelling.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1364, the Clerk reported that Grimsargh Wetlands Trust would also be discussing this item with a representative from United Utilities at their meeting on 20 January 2021. It was noted that this application was unlikely to directly affect the village or the Wetlands, however, if the Wetlands Trust meeting received information that this was not the case then the Clerk would consult the Parish Council by email and respond on behalf of the Parish Council

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1381, it was noted that land was part of a larger site that had recently been granted planning permission for 30 homes. The Parish Council were very concerned and disappointed that the applicant had now chosen to divide the land into two separate applications, one for 37 homes which was also being discussed at tonight's meeting and this application for three very large executive homes.

Grimsargh Parish Council agreed to object to this Planning Application as our initial questionnaire on our Neighbourhood Plan highlighted that residents did not wish to see anymore larger homes in Grimsargh and there was a need for more affordable and smaller homes such as bungalows and two/three bedroomed houses. The size and scale of these proposed homes were not appropriate for Grimsargh. There were already an additional 150 houses being built across from this site, which was the Story Homes development. The Parish Council were also concerned about the access onto Preston Road from the proposed three houses, and were surprised that Lancashire County Council had not raised any concerns about this. With the addition of the 150 Story Homes as referred to this would significantly increase the traffic on Preston Road. When the Eccleston Homes development was being considered, which was close to this stretch of Preston Road, Lancashire County Council raised concerns about access to Preston Road and insisted that those houses could not have individual access onto Preston Road. It was disappointing that Lancashire County Council had not insisted on one access for these additional three houses.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1426, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1382, although the Parish Council did not object to affordable homes in the village they were concerned about the density on this proposed site. It was noted that the original application for this land was approved by the Planning Committee (ref 06/2018/1157), and that this was for 30 homes on a much larger plot as the new application has removed a large parcel of the land and put forward an application for 3 executive homes which was under a different planning application (ref 06/2020/1381) and discussed separately by the Parish Council.

For clarity, Grimsargh Parish Council originally supported the 2018 application as the applicant was proposing bungalows which were much needed in Grimsargh and also the threat of the lack of a five-year housing supply meant that the Parish Council would rather have homes they wanted for the village rather than an undesirable scheme. The latest application had now increased the number of homes proposed on the site and had significantly reduced the number of bungalows from 7 down to

2. In addition to this if the application for 37 homes was approved there would be more traffic exiting onto this already busy road.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1399, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1364, it was noted that Grimsargh Wetlands Trust would be discussing this application with a representative from United Utilities at their meeting on 20 January 2021. It was further noted that this application was unlikely to directly affect the village or the Wetlands, however, if the Wetlands Trust meeting received information that this was not the case then the Clerk would consult the Parish Council by email and respond on behalf of the Parish Council

ii) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1381, the Parish Council agreed to object to this Planning Application as our initial questionnaire on our Neighbourhood Plan highlighted that residents did not wish to see anymore larger homes in Grimsargh and there was a need for more affordable and smaller homes such as bungalows and two/three bedroomed houses. The size and scale of these proposed homes were not appropriate for Grimsargh. There were already an additional 150 houses being built across from this site, which was the Story Homes development. The Parish Council were also concerned about the access onto Preston Road from the proposed three houses, and were surprised that Lancashire County Council had not raised any concerns about this. With the addition of the 150 Story Homes as referred to this would significantly increase the traffic on Preston Road. When the Eccleston Homes development was being considered, which was close to this stretch of Preston Road, Lancashire County Council raised concerns about access to Preston Road and insisted that those houses could not have individual access onto Preston Road. It was disappointing that Lancashire County Council had not insisted on one access for these additional three houses.

iii) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1426, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

iv) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1382, although the Parish Council did not object to affordable homes in the village they were concerned about the density of this proposed site. It was noted that the original application for this land was approved by the Planning Committee (ref 06/2018/1157), and that this was for 30 homes on a much larger plot as the new application has removed a large parcel of the land and put forward an application for 3 executive homes which was under a different planning application (ref 06/2020/1381) and discussed separately by the Parish Council.

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v) That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2020/1399, the Parish Council had no comments to make on this application.

55. (20/21) Dog Fouling issues

It was noted that there had been a number of complaints regarding dog fouling in the village and the Parish Council discussed if there was anything else they could do to alleviate the issues. It was noted that there was a number of dual-purpose bins in the village and it was felt that any additional bins were not necessarily required, and would not be supported by Preston City Council. It was reported that the vandalised bin had been replaced on Old Railway Walk by Preston City Council so this was not an issue, and the Parish Council had also supplied a dog bag waste dispenser there as well. The Clerk said she could contact the Dog Warden at Preston City Council to see if we could get some additional signage about the issue and Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson said that the issue was regularly highlighted on our FB page and that residents were reminded about picking up after their dogs. It was noted that the problem was always worse during winter and also when children were off school and walking the pets, however, the Parish Council were limited on what they could do and the problem appeared to be educating people to pick up the dog mess.

Councillor Mrs Lindsay Philipson suggested that the Parish Council could purchase an additional dog bag waste dispenser and this could be put on the ginnel close to the Wetlands as there had been complaints about dog fouling in that area. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Secretary of the Wetlands Trust to see if they wished the Parish Council to purchase this additional dog bag dispenser on behalf of the Trust, however, the Trust would need to keep the bags stocked and it would need to be filled on a regular basis.

Resolved

i) That, the Clerk contacts the Dog Warden at Preston City Council to see if we could have some additional signage for the village.

ii) That, the Clerk contacts the Secretary of the Wetlands Trust to see if they wished the Parish Council to purchase an additional dog bag waste dispenser to be placed on the ginnel close to the Wetlands.

56. (20/21) Lancashire County Council – budget consultation

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Lancashire County Council budget consultation. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 15 January 2021 and that the link to the information had been circulated to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had no comments to make on the consultation.

Resolved

That the Parish Council has no comments to make on the Lancashire County Council budget consultation.

57. (20/21) Parish Council vacancies

The Clerk reported that she had received the standard vacancy notice from Preston City Council giving the option for residents to call an election for the two vacancies on the Parish Council. The notice had been placed on both noticeboards and residents had until 25 January to respond directly to the Elections Officer at Preston City Council. If an election was called then the vacancies could not be filled until the next scheduled elections which would be May 2021 at the earliest. If no election was called then the Parish Council could fill the vacancies by co-opting onto the Parish Council.

The Parish Council discussed the options for co-opting and agreed to adhere to our normal Parish Council procedure which meant that anyone interested in becoming a co-opted member of the Parish Council would be asked to attend two meetings of the Parish Council in advance of the Parish Council making their decision.

Resolved

- i) That, the report is received and noted.
- ii) That, if the Parish Council are able to proceed with co-opting onto the Parish Council, the two vacancies are advertised as per the Parish Council procedure for dealing with vacancies and those interested are asked to attend two meetings of the Parish Council in advance of the Parish Council making their decision.

58. (20/21) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £133,083.83 in the Nat West bank as at 4 December 2020. It was further noted that we were awaiting the January bank statement.

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

- i) Preston City Council for new picnic benches Village Green £1,000 (CiL monies) (Cheque no 1054).
- ii) Sue Whittam, Clerk 15/12/20 - £901.24. (Cheque no 1055).
- iii) Grimsargh Village Hall room hire – Jan, Feb, March 2020 - £45.00. (Cheque no 1056).
- iv) Adam Cooper, Contractor November 2020 – 33 hours at £14.25 per hour = £470.25. (Cheque no 1057).

- v) Adam Cooper, Contractor December 2020 – 50 hours at £14.25 per hour = £832.50. (Cheque no 1058).
- vi) Village Hall new roof match funding to LEF £3,300. (Cheque no 1059).
- vii) HMRC Q3 Tax and NI - £1,069.01. (Cheque no 1060).

Resolved

1) The following invoices were agreed for payment: -

- i) Sue Whittam, Clerk 15 January 2021 – new rate of £14.90 per hour backdated to April 2020 as agreed - £1,291.33 + back pay £657 = £1,948.33 – tax and NI = £1,397.44.
- ii) Adam Cooper, Contractor January 2021 to be confirmed.
- iii) Awaiting invoice from Preston City Council for December newsletter.

The Parish Council also noted that the Village Hall were successful with their new roof bid, so the match funding as agreed has been paid see vi) above.

In addition, the Parish Council noted that the Wetlands Trust were also successful in their bid to LEF but the match funding was not now required as the LEF Trustees had agreed to match fund their project.

59. (20/21) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the Licence for the football pitch on the Village Green had now been received by the Parish Council and the Chairman, Councillor David Hindle had signed this. The Clerk would return the document to our Solicitor for final completion by Preston City Council.

The Clerk also asked if any Parish Councillor would be willing to look after the dropbox account now that former Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray had left the Parish Council. Councillor Mark Bell said he would be happy to take on this role and he would contact Eileen directly.

Councillor Peter Burton agreed to take on a permanent role on Preston Area Committee (PAC) instead of former Councillor Mrs Eileen Murray and the Reserve on PAC would remain vacant at the moment.

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

60. (20/21) Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 4 February 2021 at 7.30 pm and this would be a remote meeting.