

Grimsargh Parish Council

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

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Charlotte Hamer; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Simon Rusling.

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

112. (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.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynda Cryer, Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver, and PCSO Ellie Burke.

113. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

114. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th February 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

115. (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.

A number of residents had come along to the meeting to object to Planning Application 06/2026/0163 which related to a Permission in Principle for 2 detached bungalows on land at Maple Grove.

One resident outlined his objection and also stated that there were a number of inaccuracies in the application, including the site which was described as being located in Goosnargh and not Grimsargh where it was located. He explained that the site was totally unsuitable for development and part of the site was in close proximity to a Biological Heritage Site which was an important existing woodland in the area. Concerns were also raised about the culvert that ran through the land, and reference was made to historical planning applications on the site which had all been refused.

Concerns were further raised about the contaminated land, and access and parking to the site. The resident gave a copy of their objection to the Clerk.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer said that she had written a joint letter with Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell, to the Planning Department formally objecting to the application. She agreed with the concerns and objections raised by local residents, and confirmed that she had objected on public safety, flood risk management, infrastructure capacity and the wellbeing of existing residents. Councillor Charlotte Hamer agreed to send a copy of their objection to the Clerk.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the residents for attending and said that the Parish Council would consider the Planning Application later in the meeting. He then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item.

Councillor Stephen Whittam informed the Parish Council that he had been dealing with incidents of speeding on Longridge Road, and also a number of residents had contacted him regarding bins either being removed or not being emptied. Councillor Stephen Whittam said he had arranged a meeting with the Neighbourhood Team Manager to look at the bins issue and potential solutions.

The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received the latest crime statistics from PCSO Ellie Burke who could not be present this evening. For the period between 4 February 2026 – 4 March 2026, there had been no burglaries, no nuisances and no robberies. There had been 4 RTC's damage only, 1 vehicle crime and 10 suspicious circumstances. It was noted that crime was relatively low in the area, but residents needed to report all incidents to the police so these could be investigated.

The Clerk reported that Preston City Council were looking at finalising a scheme for the hoggin path through the village green, as our consultant had now completed her work.

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

116. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2026/0163 - Land at Maple Grove, Grimsargh
Permission in principle for 2no detached bungalows.

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2026/0163, this had been discussed earlier at the meeting with the local residents who had raised their concerns and objected to the use of the land for development.

After discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the application for the following reasons: -

The land at Maple Grove had been an area of open space since the properties were built in 1968-1970. The area had been used by many residents and children over

the years as a local green area. There had been at least one previous application for this site which was refused as the land was unsuitable for development due to a culvert running through it. This still remained the current situation that a large culvert runs through the site and any buildings on the site would directly impact the culvert and would cause it to collapse.

In addition to this the area was contaminated and local residents were aware of historical dumping of waste on this site including agricultural and chemical materials prior to the construction of the Maple Grove and Lindale Avenue estates. The land was very unstable and over the years had shown significant signs of movement. It had also been prone to flooding due to the movement of the land.

The Clerk was also asked to clarify with the Planning Department that the land was in Grimsargh and not Goosnargh as stated on the application, and that the comments from the Highways Officer (letter dated 20 February 2026) related to Tunley Lane which was not in Grimsargh.

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

Resolved

That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2026/0163, the Parish Council agrees to formally object to the application for the reasons outlined above.

117. (25/26) Local Government Reorganisation Consultation

The Parish Council gave consideration to responding to the Local Government Reorganisation Consultation, details of which had been circulated to the Parish Council. It was noted that the closing date for comments was 26 March 2026.

As the Parish Council had not been involved in any previous discussions about Local Government Reorganisation or potential options, the Parish Council agreed they were unable to provide an official response. However, individual Parish Councillors could respond to the consultation if they wished to do so.

Resolved

That with regard to the consultation on Local Government Reorganisation, it was agreed that individual Parish Councillors could respond to the consultation if they wished to do so.

118. (25/26) Activities for Young People - update

The Clerk reported that after discussion with the Partnership Officer at the Vault, it was suggested that the games activities for young people should be held on Friday 27th March at the Village Hall. The Clerk had provisionally booked the village hall for this date. This would give time to finalise the details and promote the event. The Clerk agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for the Working Group so the arrangements for the event could be agreed, and a meeting could be held with the Partnership Officer who was facilitating the event on behalf of the Parish Council.

Resolved

That the update on the youth event to be held on 27 March is received and noted

119. (25/26) Parish Council newsletter

The Parish Council discussed potential items for the summer newsletter which included an update on the hoggin path, dog fouling, the youth event, respectful parking, heritage corner, the wetlands and the orchard. It was noted that the items would be signed off at the Parish Council's May meeting.

120. (25/26) Funding request Grimsargh St Michael's PTFA

The Parish Council considered a further funding request from Grimsargh St Michael's PTFA on behalf of Grimsargh St Michael's Primary School. An updated business case outlining the proposals and additional information from both the PTFA and the Head Teacher at the school had been circulated to the Parish Council.

It was noted that the PTFA had contacted a number of businesses in the area but had been unsuccessful in securing any additional funding towards their play area. They had therefore revised their scheme to defer the science elements to a later phase to reduce current costs. After lengthy discussion, the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton proposed to give an additional £10,000 from Parish Council CiL monies towards the new play area. He also recommended that the Parish Council should give up to £20,000 (maximum) as match funding if the school could match this. So, for every pound raised by the school up to £20,000 then the Parish Council would give this amount (to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies). This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer also asked about the sustainability of the equipment, and the Clerk agreed to include this in the response to the school, particularly regarding the equipment lasting longer than 10 years.

Resolved

i) That approval is given to provide a further £10,000 towards the play area and Grimsargh St Michael's CE Primary School to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

ii) That approval is given to a further £20,000 maximum towards the play area, as match funding to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

121. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £149,349.56 in the Nat West bank as at 5th February 2026. It was noted that we had received £90.56 from Beachcroft CLA for our policy excess for the accident involving our bus shelter.

It was also noted that the following invoices had been paid since last meeting: -
David Steele Contractor inv8 80 hours @ £19 per hour = £1520. (Cheque no 1359).
Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary February 2026 £1067.54. (Cheque no 1360).
Membership of SLCC for Clerk shared with Farington Parish Council £158.00
(Cheque no 1361).
We had paid Directs bank charges up to 2 Jan £4.50 and Nest Pension for Clerk
£67.71 on 8th January 2026.

Resolved

i) The following invoices were approved for payment: -
Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary March 2026 £1067.54.
HMRC Q4 Tax & NI £1976.73

122. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

There was nothing further for the Clerk to report.

123. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

Due to the absence of the Chairman at the next meeting, it was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would now be held on Thursday 14th May. The next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 2nd April 2026 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.