

## **Grimsargh Parish Council**

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2 April, 2026 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** - Councillor Trevor Haines (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Charlotte Hamer; Councillor David Hindle and Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver.

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

### **124. (25/26) Apologies for Absence/Chairman's Health & Safety announcements**

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines chaired the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines 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 Peter Burton, Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer, Councillor Simon Rusling, and PCSO Ellie Burke.

### **125. (25/26) Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **126. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting**

#### **Resolved**

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

### **127. (25/26) Adjournment for Public Participation**

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

Dominic Best had come along to the meeting as a new Trustee on Grimsargh Wetlands Trust to ask for the support of the Parish Council on the expansion/restoration of the Great Crested Newt habitat on the Wetlands which would be discussed by the Parish Council later on the agenda.

Dominic explained that Lancashire Wildlife Trust had started a new funding scheme for pond development/restoration for landowners. The Wetlands Trust were looking to apply for the funding to restore the ponds in The Fen, but as the Parish Council

were the landowners the Trust was seeking the Council's approval. At this stage, the Wetlands Trust if the Parish Council were agreeable, would apply for funding and as the Great Crested Newts had been found bordering the Wetlands site, the Trust felt that they had a strong case for funding. Councillor David Hindle said that Dominic was doing a great job, and the Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines said he was sure that the Parish Council would support this project.

The Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines thanked Dominic for attending the meeting, and then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under this item. One member of the public said that there were issues with potholes around the area especially around Whittingham Lane. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that highways came under Lancashire County Council but the easiest way to report was via the Love Clean Streets App. Councillor Stephen Whittam also added that if people reported directly then it was more likely to be dealt with as the app was data driven. The Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines agreed with this and he had found the app easy to use. The member of the public said he would provide his email at the end of the meeting so information about the app and reporting to Lancashire County Council could be forwarded to him by the Chairman.

One member of the public also raised the issue of the padlocked gate near the Freshfields new builds/Moss Nook Drive and that someone was locking it and then someone would break the lock. It was not clear if there should be a locked gate there and this had been reported by both the Clerk and Councillor Stephen Whittam.

One member of the public also raised the issue of dog fouling, the Parish Council would put an item in their summer newsletter, and again the resident was asked to report issues of dog fouling to Preston City Council. This could be done online.

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 1 March 2026 – 1 April 2026, there had been no burglaries, 1 nuisance and no robberies. There had been 1 RTC damage only, 1 vehicle crime and 0 suspicious circumstances. There had been 2 thefts at Chandlers Way and Haighton Green. 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 the hoggin path design was not progressing as there was a capacity issue at Preston City Council. The Clerk had asked our consultant to take this up again and help design and tender for the scheme so we could move it forward. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that all the work connected to the scheme would be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

The Chairman, Councillor Trevor Haines thanked everyone for attending and reconvened the meeting.

## **128. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990**

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

06/2026/0306 - 1 Nook Crescent, Grimsargh PR2 5JU

Rear first floor extension over existing single storey extension and new single storey rear extension.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2026/0306, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.

The Parish Council noted that Planning Application 06/2026/0163 for land at Maple Grove, Grimsargh had been granted permission in principle for 2no bungalows. The Parish Council were very disappointed with this decision, but there would be a further opportunity to comment when the full detailed application was received.

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

### **Resolved**

That, with regard to Planning Application 06/2026/0306, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.

### **129. (25/26) Activities for Young People - update**

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver said the event held on 27<sup>th</sup> March had been a really good event with 15 young people attending. The Partnership Officer and Youth Officers from the Vault had been great and had really engaged with the young people. Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver said it would be good to have further events for young people in Grimsargh. It was suggested that the Working Group could discuss this further and also provide an article for the summer newsletter.

The Clerk confirmed that the Vault had charged £135 for running the event, which was brilliant, and the Parish Council thanked all those involved especially the Partnership Officer and Youth Officers from the Vault who had made it a success.

### **Resolved**

That the feedback from the youth event held on 27 March is received and noted, and that the Working Group discuss the possibility of further events, and provide an article for the summer newsletter.

### **130. (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 hopefully be signed off at the Parish Council's May meeting.

### **131. (25/26) Grimsargh Wetlands**

As discussed earlier at the meeting under public participation, the Wetlands Trust were looking to apply for funding from Lancashire Wildlife Trust to support the expansion/restoration of the Great Crested Newt habitat on the Wetlands. Councillor

Charlotte Hamer said that she thought this was an excellent idea and it should be supported by the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed.

### **Resolved**

That the Parish Council supports the application by Grimsargh Wetlands Trust to apply for funding from Lancashire Wildlife Trust to expand/restore the Great Crested Newt habitat on the Wetlands.

### **132. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking**

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £120,971.19 in the Nat West bank as at 5th March 2026.

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

David Steele Contractor inv9 80 hours @ £19 per hour = £1520. (Cheque no 1362).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary March 2026 £1067.54 + NW Design collective for hoggin path work £528 paid via the Clerk's personal bank account = total £1595.54. (Cheque no 1363).

David Steele Contractor inv10 80 hours @ £19 per hour = £1520. (Cheque no 1364).

JRB for bin bags 3 invoices at £130.26 = £390.78 (Cheque no 1365).

HMRC Q4 Tax & NI £1976.73 (Cheque no 1366)

We had paid Directs bank charges up to 27 Feb £4.50; Nest Pension for Clerk £67.71 on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 and ICO data protection renewal £47.00 on 16 Feb.

### **Resolved**

i) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary April 2026 to be confirmed after the beginning of the new tax year.

The Vault for Youth Event - £135.00.

Grimsargh Village Hall room hire – Sept 25-Feb 26 for Parish Council and Grimsargh Wetlands meetings total £150.00

### **133. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only**

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the next meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting called by the Chairman, and this would be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

The Clerk reported that the new email account had now been set up and she would send each Parish Councillor the log in details and information on how to set up their accounts.

The Clerk also reported that the vacancy notice caused by the sad death of Terry Cryer had been produced by Preston City Council and the closing date for an election to be called was 1 May 2026. The Clerk would speak to Councillor Mrs Lynda Cryer regarding a suitable tribute to Terry.

#### **134. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of the Parish Council, which will be the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall. This will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.