

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 8 January, 2026 at Grimsargh Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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

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

88. (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 also took the opportunity to congratulate Councillor David Hindle on being awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours, and the Parish Council wholeheartedly agreed that this was a great honour.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lynda Cryer and Councillor Terry Cryer.

89. (25/26) Declarations of Interest

None.

90. (25/26) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th Decembre 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

91. (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.

The members of the public present had all come along to the meeting, to discuss with the Parish Council the land for sale at Maple Grove.

One member of the public read out a petition to the Parish Council from residents on both Maple Grove and Lindale Avenue regarding the land for sale. He said that the residents had held a few meetings about the land which was an important area of green space enjoyed by all the residents in the vicinity. They were going to ask if the Parish Council would purchase the land, but they had been informed today that the land had been sold in advance of the auction and was now sold subject to contract.

However, the resident outlined the importance of the land including its use since the surrounding houses were built around 1970. It was noted that the parcel of land had been transferred to different companies over the last few decades, but the land had always been open to the public and maintained so it could be used and enjoyed as a valuable community space.

The resident said that a number of people on the estate were foster families and more than 40 children had been looked after and were able to use the green space which was good for their health and wellbeing. The land was also an important space for wildlife such as birds, foxes and deer.

The resident asked for re-assurance from the Parish Council that the land should not be allowed to deteriorate until any permissions were applied for, or granted. They would also wish to see the land retained as an open space and not used for housing.

The resident said if the sale of the land did not progress then the residents would wish the Parish Council to purchase the land and that some residents of Maple Grove and Lindale Avenue were willing to make a contribution, but they would wish the Parish Council to have sole ownership of the land.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell said that there was a lot of history about the land and in particular past issues with a blocked culvert. She understood that the culvert went across the land and onto the highway. She said as the land had now been sold, it was important to gather all information relating to the land so that any potential planning application could be objected to.

Councillor David Hindle asked if there were any Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) on the trees on the land. One resident said that he did not think there were any TPO's, and he also said that some of the trees had been planted in the past by the Parish Council.

There was a discussion about the trees and Councillor Charlotte Hamer said that the trees, although planted by the Parish Council were the responsibility of the land owner. The Clerk added that specific trees would only be granted a TPO if they had significant amenity value, and this would need to be decided by an arboriculturist.

A further resident also read out a statement about her experience of living on the estate as a foster parent, and how important the land was to her and her foster children.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked all the residents for attending and outlining their concerns about the land. He said that currently the land was sold subject to contract, and the Parish Council would be discussing this further as a confidential item later in the meeting. He then asked if anyone else had anything to raise under public participation.

Councillor Stephen Whittam referred to the fly tipping on the car park at the Village Green and also that 43 cannisters had been dumped on Houghton Green Lane. He said that Preston City Council had responded really quickly to the reports and were removing the fly tipped materials.

Councillor Stephen Whittam also reported that the Environment Agency had been in touch with Grimsargh Wetlands Trust about some culvert repairs on the wetlands which would take place over three weeks in February 2026. He had met a representative from the Environment Agency on site and they were looking at using the compound area for their site cabin, and they would need to remove temporarily a couple of fence panels to access the area. Local residents had been contacted directly by the Environment Agency, as had the Parish Council as owners of the land. Councillor Stephen Whittam said that the Wetlands Trust had no issue with the works which were necessary. In response to a question about financial compensation for use of the land, it was felt that if the Environment Agency wished to make a donation to the Wetlands Trust for using the land, this would gratefully be received.

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver referred to the litter issues on Douglas Lane raised by a resident at the last meeting. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said he would put a reminder on our Facebook page for people to be responsible and put their litter in the bins provided. Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver also asked about the planters, and the Clerk confirmed that she would put these on the agenda for the next meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that the resident who helped look after the Orchard had replaced some of the tree cables as they had disintegrated. This was appreciated by the Parish Council.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked everyone for their contribution, he then reconvened the meeting.

92. (25/26) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 06/2025/1268 | - | 4 Douglas Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5JF
Single storey rear extension and projecting roof canopy. |
| 06/2025/1244 | - | 5 Nook Glade, Grimsargh PR2 5JX
Two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension including roof alterations following demolition of detached garage. |

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2025/1268 and 06/2025/1244, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council noted that the following application had been submitted, but was not subject to consultation: -

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| 06/2026/1303 | - | Land south of Whittingham Lane Grimsargh PR2 5LH
Amendment to reserved matters approval 06/2022/0844 comprising the repositioning of the garage to plot 16 (36 |
|--------------|---|---|

Chandlers Way) (non-material amendment not subject to consultation).

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

Resolved

i) That, with regard to Planning Applications 06/2025/1268 and 06/2025/1244, the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

ii) That Planning Application 06/2026/1303 which was not for consultation is noted.

93. (25/26) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £157,464.68 in the Nat West bank as at 5 December 2025.

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

Cllr Trevor Haines – reimbursement for Santas sack £11.19 (Cheque no 1349).

North West Design Collective Ltd for work between 30 September – 21 November Hoggin Path project £264.00 (Cil monies) + Treestyle for tree survey Grimsargh Green £690 (Cil monies) + £187.20 JPP media for newsletter distribution = total £1141.20 paid to the Clerk via Cheque no 1350 and then the Clerk paid the invoices from her personal bank account.

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary 15 December £1,067.54 + expenses £311.80 zoom April 2024 - November 2025; £23.55 paper; £8.75 postage; £27.54 camping lights for crib; £189.07 stationery and ink = £560.71 total £1,628.25. (Cheque no 1351).

David Steele Contactor inv6 80 hours @ £19 per hour = £1520.00 + £13.50 duracell batteries for crib lights + £96.57 for bench supplies total £1630.07 (Cheque no 1352).

Snap Security for downloading data for police £144.00 (Cheque no 1353).

HMRC Q3 tax and NI £1976.73

It was noted that we had paid by direct debit bank charges up to 31 October £8.30; nest pension £67.71 on 6 November and 5 December.

Resolved

The following invoices were approved for payment: -

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary January 2026 £1067.54.

Grimsargh St Michaels PTFA £25,000 grant (Cil monies). This cheque was handed to the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton for presentation to the school.

94. (25/26) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk confirmed that she had arranged for the Lengthsman to go on a Pesticide Spraying Course at Myerscough College. This would be funded by the Parish Council.

There were no further issues for the Clerk to raise.

95. (25/26) Date of Next Meeting

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

That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there is likely to be disclosure of exempt information which is described in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 which is specified against the heading to each item, and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

96. Land at Maple Grove (para 9)

A confidential discussion was held.