

Grimsargh Parish Council

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

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

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

27. (26/27) 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 Simon Rusling and Councillor Harry Landless (Preston City Council). PCSO Ellie Burke apologised for lateness due to dealing with an incident in Grimsargh.

28. (26/27) Declarations of Interest

None.

29. (26/27) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 4 June 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. (26/27) 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.

One member of the public raised the issue of the numerous road works in and around Grimsargh that were causing huge delays to residents of Grimsargh and at many times of the day the village was gridlocked. There were currently additional road works at the industrial estate and also at Red Scar. Houghton Green Lane was also due to be closed for two days on 20 July 2026. Councillor Daniel Nuttall said he would refer these issues to County Councillor Maria Jones.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell raised her concerns about Recycling Lives and the number of fires that had happened over the last three years. Although just outside Grimsargh they had a detrimental impact on the health of residents due to the fumes from the fires. The Clerk agreed to find out if the Recycling plant was allowed to

store batteries, which had been known to cause previous fires, and also what measures were in place to mitigate fires at the site.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer raised concerns about harassment by the press to residents on Chandlers Way. PCSO Ellie Burke advised that all incidents should be reported to the Police as this would help the Police target their resources. Incidents could be reported online and could also be reported anonymously.

Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver highlighted that the Redrow Estate was looking overgrown and that the site lines needed trimming back. The Clerk agreed to contact Preston City Council who owned the land to ask for the maintenance of the land to be carried out as soon as possible.

One member of the public also raised the issue of pot holes in the area. Councillor Daniel Nuttall said he would refer these to County Councillor Maria Jones.

PCSO Ellie Burke apologised for her lateness, as she had just caught someone riding an illegal e-bike in Grimsargh. She explained to the Parish Council that she was moving on from her role at Grimsargh and going forward PCSO Sofia Canales would be covering Grimsargh, Goosnargh and Whittingham. With regard to crime in our area, PCSO Ellie Burke reported that for the period 1 June to 1 July there had been 2 nuisance issues; 1 burglary at Moss Nook Drive; 1 RTC damage only; 1 suspicious circumstance and 1 vehicle crime at Cow Hill.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell raised an issue about a local farm and PCSO Ellie Burke said she would look into this.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said that the football pitch on the Hills was looking great and at some stage the Parish Council may receive a grant application, subject to the permission of the developer who owned the land.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton also said that Field Day had once again been a great success and thanked the Field Day Committee and all those involved in the event for their hard work and commitment to making it a fantastic day.

There being no further matters raised, the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked everyone for attending and reconvened the meeting.

31. (26/27) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

06/2026/0601 - 263 Preston Road, Grimsargh PR2 5JR
Outbuilding for storage/garage and garden room.

With regard to Planning Application 06/2026/0601, the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.

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

Resolved

That with regard to Planning Application 06/2026/0601 the Parish Council had no comments to make on the application.

32. (26/27) Parish Council Vacancies

The Parish Council gave consideration to co-opting two candidates to fill the two vacancies on the Parish Council. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton welcomed Thomas Fisher to the meeting. Mr Fisher said he was new to the area and was a software engineer. He had attended a number of Parish Council meetings and had found them interesting and he wished to get involved in the local community.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton then welcomed Stephen Whittam to the meeting. Mr Whittam said he was actively involved in the community, he was a Trustee on Grimsargh Wetlands Trust and had a genuine interest in the rural areas. He had recently been the local City Councillor for the last four years.

The Parish Council then voted on co-opting Thomas Fisher and Stephen Whittam onto the Parish Council and this was unanimously agreed. Councillor Thomas Fisher and Councillor Stephen Whittam then signed their acceptance of office.

It was noted that this would be the last meeting for Councillor Trevor Haines as he was moving out of the Parish. The Parish Council agreed to start the procedure for filling the vacancy, and the Clerk would contact the Officer at Preston City Council to start the statutory procedure.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton and members of the Parish Council took the opportunity to thank Councillor Trevor Haines for all his work and commitment during the last few years and wished him well for the future.

Resolved

- i) That Councillor Thomas Fisher and Councillor Stephen Whittam are co-opted onto Grimsargh Parish Council with immediate effect.
- ii) That approval is given to start the procedure for filling the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Trevor Haines, and that Councillor Trevor Haines is thanked for all his work and commitment to the Parish Council.

33. (26/27) Hoggin Path Update

The Clerk reported that she had held a meeting with North West Design Collective, who were acting on behalf of the Parish Council, and representatives from the Parks Department at Preston City Council to look at the hoggin path and finalise the details. Once the plan had been agreed then this would go out to tender. To complete the whole path, the Clerk advised that this could be around £25,000. Originally it had been planned to complete the path in stages, but it would be more cost-effective to tender for the whole path as one tender. The next stage was for the City Council and North West Design Collective to meet with the adjoining landowner – Seddon's to agree the final scheme. The Parish Council had previously agreed to

fund the hoggin path from their Parish Council CiL monies, and this was again unanimously agreed at the new estimated cost of £25,000.

Resolved

That the update on the hoggin path is noted, and that the Parish Council agrees to fund the path at the new estimated cost of £25,000, to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.

34. (26/27) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £173,354.45 in the Nat West bank as at 5th June 2026. It was noted that we had received the £60,000 precept from Preston City Council.

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

David Steele Contractor inv 0202 80 hours @ £19 per hour = £1520. (Cheque no 1376).

Sue Whittam, Clerk reimbursement for LALC annual subscription £578.48, and North West Design Collective for work on hoggin path £1,227.60 (CiL). Paid from Clerk's personal bank account, total £1806.08. (Cheque no 1377).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary June 2026 £1377.44 (Cheque no 1378).

HMRC Q1 Tax and NI £1042.13. (Cheque no 1379).

We had paid Direct Debits – bank charges up to 1 May £6.40; Nest Pension for Clerk £72.10 on 14th May 2026; Nellie Carbis Water Plus bill 5 June £21.24.

Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell asked if the Parish Council could have an update on the investments for the next meeting and this was agreed.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Sal Gorton for website admin up to March 2026 £303.75.

ii) Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary July 2026 £1377.24 + JPP media for newsletter distribution £187.20 = total £1564.44.

2) That approval is given to the opening of a current bank account with Unity Trust Bank and that online authorisation will be the Clerk and the Chairman, but in the absence of the Chairman it will be the Clerk and one other member of the Parish Council to authorise.

3) That approval is given to authorise the Clerk and the Chairman to look at savings accounts with Unity Trust Bank and transfer funds accordingly.

4) That an update on the Parish Council investments is presented to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

35. (26/27) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that there had been recent changes to the Localism Act 2011 which inserted a new section 32A with effect from 29th June 2026, that a Councillor's residential address must not be published on the Parish Council's website or in the public Register of Members' interests unless the Councillor specifically requests their address to be published. The address must, however, still be registered confidentially with the Monitoring Officer at Preston City Council. The legal change aimed to improve Councillor safety, reduce risks of harassment, modernise transparency rules and ensure that personal data is handled proportionately. All Parish Councillors present agreed to have their home addresses protected in line with the above.

The Clerk reported that the new email addresses would be used going forward as the two new Councillors would only have a .gov email address, which would be set up as soon as possible.

The Clerk reported that she was looking at replacing the old bench on Preston Road opposite Turner's as a tribute to the late Terry Cryer.

36. (26/27) Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled Meeting of the Parish Council, would be held on Thursday 3rd September at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.