

Grimsargh Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 1 September, 2026 at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall

Present: - Councillor Peter Burton (Chairman); Councillor David Hindle MBE (Vice-Chairman); Councillor Mrs Joyce Chessell; Councillor Thomas Fisher; Councillor Charlotte Hamer; Councillor Simon Rusling; Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and Councillor Stephen Whittam

In attendance: - Sue Whittam – Clerk to the Council
PCSO Ellie Burke – Lancashire Police
PCSO Chloe 7324 – Lancashire Police
22 members of the public.

37. (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.

There were no apologies for absence.

38. (26/27) Declarations of Interest

None.

39. (26/27) Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved

That the minutes of the Meeting held on 2 July 2026 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. (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.

A number of residents had come along to the meeting to discuss the Planning Application for Damson Orchard (Ref 06/2026/0642), which was a Permission in Principle application for 4 dwellings. Residents outlined their concerns about the application, including inaccuracies in the application, the loss of large mature trees, the effect on amenity and the loss of wildlife areas. Residents had written to Preston City Council objecting to the application and had copied the information to both the Clerk and Councillor David Hindle MBE (Vice-Chairman). They also informed the Parish Council that the contractors working on the site had partially demolished the existing house and had set fire to the remaining contents. This had been reported to planning enforcement at Preston City Council but nothing had been done to deal with this. Residents were asking for the Parish Council to support the residents. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton explained that as the application was for

Permission in Principle it basically was a planning test to establish if the land was suitable to be built on. As the land already had a bungalow, albeit partly demolished on site then it was difficult to argue that the land was not suitable for development. He explained that if the application was approved, residents and the Parish Council would have another opportunity to comment when the detailed application came forward. This would be when the full details of the dwellings, including height, scale and size would be available.

Councillor Charlotte Hamer advised residents to gather information about the land, as any issues would form part of a robust objection. She highlighted a recent objection that she had sent to Preston City Council regarding Maple Grove, and the Clerk agreed to share the details with the residents. It was also important that residents submitted individual objections as petitions were only counted as one objection.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked the residents for coming along and then asked if anyone else had anything to raise with the Parish Council. A number of residents had come along from the new estates on Whittingham Lane to raise some concerns with the Parish Council. These had also been raised with the Police. The Parish Council were also concerned about these issues, and the Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, reminded all residents to report any issues/crimes to the Police. This could be done by ringing 101 or by filling in a form online. Residents could also report anonymously to Crimestoppers online or by phone on 0800 555 111. It was very important that residents continued to report so the issues could be dealt with by the Police. PCSO Chloe Burke advised residents that they were looking at having a drop in event at the Village Hall to enable residents to talk to them. A date had not been arranged as yet, and it was likely to involve other statutory agencies.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, thanked the residents and the Police for attending and then welcomed Phil and Dom from Grimsargh Cricket Club, who had come along to the meeting to update the Parish Council on their Club. Dom circulated to the Parish Council their latest development plan for 2026-2031 which covered their current plans and also their ambitions for the future. Dom explained that with the Parish Council's help the Club was no longer asking how to survive, but how the facilities are further improved to serve the local community. Dom explained that the practice netting facility was now completed; membership continued to grow and had increased by 25%; a women's cricket team had been formed and the facilities that the Parish Council had helped support were thriving.

However, there were a number of upgrades needed before the clubhouse phase of the plan. Dom explained that net fencing was needed to align a safe, secure and appropriate boundary solution. Additional storage was needed to store their equipment and the Club were also considering using FrogBox to promote Grimsargh, showcase the cricket club, increase match viewership and create stronger sponsor inventory. Moving forward, improvements were needed to the clubhouse, especially as the club now had a women's team. Improvements were needed based on safety, hygiene, inclusion, capacity, community and sustainability. The clubhouse phase was a target for the next 4-5 years in the plan. Dom outlined potential funding models for the clubhouse investment. He also explained that the club would like a

closer relationship with the Parish Council which could be a named Parish Council representative or the club reporting back to the Parish Council on a regular basis.

The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton thanked Phil and Dom for attending and advised that the Parish Council would be discussing the club later on the agenda and that the Clerk would be in touch with any decisions made by the Parish Council.

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

41. (26/27) Town and Country Planning Act, 1990

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

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| 06/2026/0819 | - | 24 Elston Lane, Grimsargh PR2 5LE
Single storey rear extension, following removal of attached outbuilding. |
| 06/2026/0694 | - | 36 Chandlers Way, Grimsargh PR2 5DY
Single storey garage extension to side and rear, single storey extension to rear and alteration to ground level to side. |

With regard to Planning Applications 06/2026/0819 and 06/2026/0694 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

The Parish Council noted that an objection had been submitted relating to land at Maple Grove for two self-build dwellings (Planning Application 06/2026/0553). Preston City Council had been reluctant to grant any additional time to the Parish Council for this to be considered at their September meeting.

The Parish Council further noted that an application for Permission in Principle for 4 dwellings at Damson Orchard (Planning Application 06/2026/0642) had been received and discussed with residents earlier in the meeting. At this stage the Parish Council had no grounds for objection and the closing date for comments had now passed.

The Clerk explained that to enable her to respond to additional planning applications, it would be helpful if she had delegated authority to deal with these on behalf of the Parish Council. This was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

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

Resolved

i) That with regard to Planning Applications 06/2026/0819 and 06/2026/0694 the Parish Council had no comments to make on these applications.

ii) The Parish Council noted that an objection had been submitted relating to land at Maple Grove for two self-build dwellings (Planning Application 06/2026/0553).

iii) The Parish Council further noted that an application for Permission in Principle for 4 dwellings at Damson Orchard (Planning Application 06/2026/0642) had been received and discussed with residents earlier in the meeting. At this stage the Parish Council had no grounds for objection and the closing date for comments had now passed.

iv) That delegated authority is granted to the Clerk to deal with Planning Applications on behalf of the Parish Council.

42. (26/27) Longridge Community Hospital

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been approached by the Vice-Chairman of Whittingham Parish Council, seeking support to prevent the closure of Longridge Community Hospital. The Parish Council were asked to consider providing support, including a letter from the Chairman of the Parish Council in support of the campaign. Further information had been circulated to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council were fully supportive of keeping Longridge Community Hospital open as it was used by many Grimsargh residents and provided valuable services for the community.

Resolved

That Grimsargh Parish Council supports the campaign to prevent the closure of Longridge Community Hospital and that the Chairman is authorised to send a letter of support on behalf of the Parish Council.

43. (26/27) Christmas Tree and Events 2026

The Parish Council discussed this year's Christmas events. It was unanimously agreed to purchase the Christmas Tree for the Village Green as in previous years via Preston City Council. The Parish Council also agreed that the switch-on for the lights would be on Friday 4th December at 6.00 pm. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton would contact both Vicars and schools to make the arrangements and also purchase the selection boxes for the event, which would be reimbursed by the Parish Council.

Resolved

That approval is given for the purchase of the Christmas Tree and associated costs from Preston City Council, and that the Parish Council Christmas events are held on Friday 4th December at 6.00 pm.

44. (26/27) Grimsargh Village Green maintenance/lighting/hoggin path

The Clerk reported that there had been no further progress with a meeting between the Parks Department at Preston City Council, the Developer and North West Design Collective. The plans still needed to be finalised and agreed and then go out to tender. The Parish Council were very disappointed with the lack of progress and the

Clerk was asked to speak to the Director of Parks and potentially involve the Member of Parliament. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton said he was happy to be involved with any meetings if available.

Resolved

That approval is given for the Clerk to speak to the Director of Parks and potentially involve the Member of Parliament to progress the hoggin path scheme which is being funded by the Parish Council.

45. (26/27) Grimsargh Cricket Club

The Parish Council considered the presentation given by representatives of Grimsargh Cricket Club earlier in the meeting. The Parish Council was very supportive of clubs, societies and community groups in Grimsargh and wished to see Grimsargh Cricket Club continue to grow and succeed.

The Parish Council considered the club's immediate priorities, which were net fencing needed due to recent vandalism. (Cost £10,000). Additional storage; however, it was unclear whether any further permissions would be needed. (Cost £10,000). FrogBox to increase match viewership. (Cost £2,500). The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton proposed that the Parish Council fund the net fencing at a cost of £10,000 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. This was seconded by Councillor Mrs Agustina Oliver and unanimously agreed. It was further agreed that Councillor Stephen Whittam would be the liaison representative between Grimsargh Cricket Club and the Parish Council.

Resolved

- i) That approval is given to fund the net fencing at Grimsargh Cricket Club at a cost of £10,000 to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies.
- ii) That Councillor Stephen Whittam is appointed as the liaison representative between Grimsargh Cricket Club and the Parish Council.

46. (26/27) Village Planters

The Clerk reported that sadly Grimsargh Gardening Club had informed the Parish Council that they would not be looking after the planter at the Alston end of Grimsargh after the summer bedding plants had finished. The Parish Council took the opportunity to thank Grimsargh Gardening Club for all their work in helping to keep Grimsargh looking lovely. The Clerk said that unfortunately with the Best Kept Village Competition being cancelled this had impacted on the planters and planter parents.

It was agreed that an article would be included in the December newsletter to encourage residents to get involved in making Grimsargh green and beautiful.

Resolved

That the update on the planters is received and that an article is included in the December newsletter to encourage residents to get involved in making Grimsargh green and beautiful.

47. (26/27) Dates of Parish Council Meetings 2027

The Parish Council gave consideration to the Parish Council meeting dates for 2027 and agreed as follows: -

Thursday 14 January 2027 *(note change of date)

Thursday 4 February 2027

Thursday 4 March 2027

Thursday 1 April 2027 (Annual Parish Meeting)

Thursday 20 May 2027 *(note change of date due to Parish Council/Unitary Elections) (Annual Parish Council Meeting)

Thursday 3 June 2027

Thursday 1 July 2027

Thursday 2 September 2027

Thursday 7 October 2027

Thursday 4 November 2027

Thursday 2 December 2027

Resolved

That approval is given to the Parish Council Meetings for 2027 as outlined above.

48. (26/27) Financial Matters and banking

It was noted that we currently had an estimated £169,869.20 in the Nat West bank as at 5th August 2026. It was further noted that we had received £5,830 for the bus shelter insurance claim. (£5,930) cost of new shelter - £100 excess).

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

Sal Gorton for website admin up to March 2026 £303.75. (Cheque no 1380).

David Steele Contractor invoice 0203 80 hours @ £19.00 per hour = £1,520.00 + £15.09 fuel for strimmer total £1535.09. (Cheque no 1381).

JRB x 2 invoices for dog bin bags = £260.52. (Cheque no 1382).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary July 2026 £1377.24 + JPP media for newsletter distribution £187.20 = total £1564.44. (Cheque no 1383).

Euroshel for new bus shelter including installation and VAT £7,116.00. (Cheque no 1384).

David Steele Contractor invoice 0204 80 hours @ £19.00 per hour = total £1,520. (Cheque no 1385).

Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary August 2026 £1,377.44. (Cheque no 1386).

David Steele Contractor invoice 0205 80 hours @ £19.00 per hour = total £1,520. (Cheque no 1387).

We had paid Direct Debits – bank charges up to 30 June 2026 £4.50 and up to 31 July 2026 £4.50; Nest Pension for Clerk £72.10 on 6 June 2026 and 6 July 2026.

Resolved

1) The following invoices were approved for payment: -

i) Sue Whittam, Clerk's salary September 2026 £1,377.24 + £1.06 for DAC Beachcroft (VAT element) for previous bus shelter claim; + £85.67 to Macintosh electronics for setting up new email accounts; + £223.20 to NWDC for work carried out on hoggin path (CiL) reimbursed to Clerk as paid from Clerk's personal bank account = total £1,687.17.

ii) HMRC Q2 Tax and NI £1,042.33.

2) The Parish Council noted the investment report as presented to the Parish Council.

3) The Parish Council approved the payment to Grimsargh St Michaels towards their new playground. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton, had checked the figures, so a final cheque for £24,745 was agreed to be funded from Parish Council CiL monies. The Chairman, Councillor Peter Burton agreed to present the cheque to the school on behalf of the Parish Council.

4) It was noted that the new bank account would be set up shortly.

49. (26/27) Clerk's report – for information only

The Clerk reported that the vacancy due to the resignation of Trevor Haines would be advertised on Friday 4th September 2026.

The Clerk reported that she was due to have an operation on 5th November so would be unavailable to attend the November meeting. It was agreed to cancel the November meeting of the Parish Council.

50. (26/27) Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled Meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Thursday 1st October at 7.30 pm at Grimsargh Village Hall.