



Grindleton Parish Council

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Minutes of the special meeting of Grindleton Parish Council held on Thursday 24 November 2022 at the Parish Room, Sawley Rd, Grindleton.

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| Members present: | Parish Cllr K Hutton (Chair) Parish Cllr L Halley (Vice Chair) Parish Cllr Steve Dobson Parish Cllr Peter Raywood Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler |
| Apologies for absence: | Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell Parish Cllr Alan Fielding Borough Cllr K Horkin MBE (RVBC) |
| Clerk present: | Andrew Glover |
| Members of the public present: | None |

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| 1. | Welcome The Chair welcomed parish councillors to the meeting and explained its rationale. | |
| 2. | Declarations of Interest a) Standing orders suspended As a member of the GRGC, Cllr Raywood declared an interest with regard to minute item 6 below and did not participate in the discussion on that item. b) Standing orders resumed | |
| 3. | Fixing of Parish Precept 2023/24 The Chair advised that the Parish Council had been asked to officially confirm its requested precept to RVBC by no later than Friday 23 December 2022. Members were invited to consider a document, prepared by the Clerk, which outlined the financial implications of a range of options available to members for fixing the level of precept. | |

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| | <p>Members were reminded that the current financial situation was exceptionally gloomy, with the Financial Statement published on 17 November having stated the government’s intention to raise taxes and lower public spending. In particular, the rate of inflation (as calculated under the Consumer Price Index) had risen by 9.6% in the 12 months to October 2022.</p> <p>Members discussed the options before them at length, taking into account the above national picture as well as Parish Council’s current financial resources. Members were keen to fully acknowledge the financial pressures to which local residents were subject. However, it was felt that – if the Parish Council were to maintain its current activities around the village – an appropriate increase to the precept would be required. It was noted that the precept had only risen on one occasion (2020/21) during the past 5 years, and then by only £500. After careful consideration, a consensus around an increase of 10% emerged; this would raise the precept from £8000 to £8800. Such a rise essentially reflected (but did not significantly exceed) the current rate of inflation, and equated to a relatively modest increase of £2.24 for each of the 356 Band D households in the parish. Any future increases could then be assessed on a year-by-year basis, with prevailing inflationary and other cost of living pressures to be taken into account at that time.</p> <p>Accordingly, a motion was proposed by Cllr Wheeler (and seconded by the Chair) that the precept should rise by 10% during 2023/34. A vote was taken and the motion was adopted unanimously.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Members agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the precept by 10% during 2023/24, to £8800 from the current £8000; • authorize the Chair and Clerk to sign off the documentation confirming the level of increase; and • ask the Clerk to forward the completed documentation to RVBC by the stated deadline of Friday 23 December 2022. | Clerk |
| 4. | <p>Proposed revision of parliamentary constituencies by the Boundary Commission</p> <p>This matter had been discussed at the Parish Council Liaison Committee meeting held on 10 November, attended by the Chair and Cllr Fielding. As a result, the Chair was able to inform members that the Boundary Commission was currently revisiting the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies with a view to ensuring that they contained a number of electors no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062.</p> <p>Under its latest proposals, the Boundary Commission would split the current Ribble Valley constituency into two, roughly along the line of the River Ribble. Grindleton and other villages north of the Ribble would be placed into the redrawn constituency of Ribble Valley CC; communities lying south of the River Ribble</p> | |


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| | <p>(including Clitheroe) would be taken into the new constituency of Pendle and Clitheroe CC.</p> <p>The Boundary Commission was seeking consultation responses to this proposal before 5 December 2022.</p> <p>Members debated this issue at some length, with the consensus being to oppose the proposed changes. It was felt that – irrespective of administrative considerations such as population size – the current parliamentary boundaries worked well for local residents and it was hard to discern what benefits the proposed changes would bring. There was a general fear that splitting the current constituency boundaries in the manner proposed could have a negative impact on tourism and consequently the financial wellbeing of the area. The overwhelming view could be summed up as “if isn’t broke, don’t fix it”.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to draft a response for submission to the Boundary Commission by 5 December (after approval for the wording had been received from the Chair and Vice Chair)</p> | Clerk |
| 5. a) | <p>Xmas arrangements</p> <p><u>Xmas lights – switch-on</u></p> <p>At the meeting on 1 November, members had discussed the proposed arrangements for the switch-on of the Xmas lights (scheduled to take place on 2 December) and a number of actions had been agreed. Cllr Halley gave an update on progress and a number of key points / further actions were identified, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the lights had now been placed on the village Xmas tree, although new ones at an anticipated cost of £250 would probably be needed in the near future; <p>Resolved Clerk to research potential grant funding from RVBC and place on the agenda for the January meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the switch-on of the lights would take place on 2 December, with members to assemble at the cherry trees at 5.30pm for the ceremony at 6pm; • a choir from Grindleton C of E Primary School would perform at the switch-on, with a pupil identified who would perform the switch-on itself; • unfortunately, Bowland High School would not be able to send a choir but the school had offered to work with the Parish Council on future events; • the Chair undertook to provide mulled wine and punch, as well as paper cups and sweets for the children; • two-dozen mince pies would be provided by each of Cllrs Bramwell, Dobson, Raywood and Wheeler, with others to be provided by local residents. Any surplus would be donated to the children’s Xmas party; | Clerk DKH TB, SD, |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Halley would obtain torches and hi-vis from the Pavilion for use by traffic marshals. It was agreed that 3 marshals, one to patrol each access route to the village, would be needed to slow traffic down; • prior to the event, Cllr Halley would deploy traffic cones to prevent vehicles parking at key locations in the village; • Cllr Halley would obtain carol sheets from the vicar; • the cost of reimbursing a resident for electricity to power the tree lights would need to be decided (£10 in previous years) <p>Resolved Clerk to diary for the January meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the fee for use of the cherry picker to erect and take down the lights (estimated at £120) would need to be paid. <p>Resolved Clerk to diary for the January meeting</p> | <p>PR, GW</p> <p>LH</p> <p>LH</p> <p>LH</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 6. | <p>Application for grant funding – Living Room project</p> <p>In September 2022, the outgoing Clerk had been approached by a resident associated with the Living Room project, asking whether the Parish Council wished to be associated with an application for grant funding for the above pilot project. Due to an oversight the matter had not been considered at the November meeting. The Vice Chair had suggested that further consideration was necessary before the Parish Council could determine its stance on the issue.</p> <p>Prior to this meeting, the GRGC trustees had provided the anticipated costs for the Community Living Room for the 9-week period from 21st October until 16th December (£150.75). Members considered these figures, which were based upon the known costs for the four weeks when the project had already been in operation and then multiplying these up.</p> <p>The trustees had maintained that the project was “appreciated by the community for the benefits of companionship as well as a warm space.” Members were aware that another bid to an alternative funder had been unsuccessful.</p> <p>Members considered the merits of the scheme, its take-up and its likely prospects for success in the future. It was determined that, whilst the financial support requested on this occasion would be granted, this was on a one-off basis and any further long-term support would require formal dialogue between the two parties.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Halley to inform the applicant and arrange for transfer of funds as requested</p> <p>Members also asked the Clerk to explore other funding opportunities which may be available to the applicant and advise the Chair / Vice Chair accordingly.</p> | <p>LH</p> |

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| | <p>Resolved Clerk to pursue</p> | Clerk |
| 7. | <p>Footpath off Eccles Terrace</p> <p>As agreed at the November meeting, and in order to progress this matter, Cllr Halley had liaised with officers at the Peak & Northern Footpaths Society (PNFS) and Lancashire County Council (PROW Officer).</p> <p>The Clerk had now identified a contractor who appeared willing to undertake construction of the footbridge, and a site meeting to assess the situation had been proposed. Whilst consent for the work had been secured from the landowners, it was appropriate that the persons renting the land would be represented at any such meeting.</p> <p>Members agreed that a site meeting was required in order that the contractor could view the location and provide an accurate quote, which would then enable further discussion with potential funders. It would also allow the Parish Council to seek appropriate reassurances from the contractor (eg adequate public liability insurance).</p> <p>Resolved Members agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Clerk would contact the contractor and agree a date for a site meeting; • all parties could meet at the cherry trees and walk from there to the site; • the Chair and Vice Chair would represent the Parish Council. | <p>Clerk</p> <p>DKH / LH</p> |
| 12. | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a) <u>Southern end of the village</u></p> <p>Cllr Raywood again raised concerns that residents at the bottom of Grindleton Brow did not see themselves as included as part of the village. It was agreed that this issue would be revisited at the January meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Junction of Grindleton Rd, Grindleton Brow and East View</u></p> <p>Cllr Dobson pointed out that there were no white lines marked on the road at this junction, which could amount to a potential traffic hazard.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to raise with LCC Highways</p> | Clerk |

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| c) | <p><u>Potholes</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the condition of the road surface on East View was severely affected by potholes.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to raise with LCC Highways</p> | Clerk |
| | <p>The next meeting of Grindleton Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 January 2023 at Grindleton Pavilion</p> | |

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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| Signed by: |  | |
| | <p>Date: 3.1.23</p> | <p>Cllr K Hutton Chair</p> |