



**Grindleton Parish Council**

Clerk: Tracey Boswell  
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**Minutes of the meeting of Grindleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm at The Pavillion, Sawley Road, Grindleton.**

Members present:	Parish Cllr Lorraine Halley (Chair) Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell Parish Cllr Megan Haslam Parish Cllr Susan Walsh Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler Parish Cllr Chris Brennan Borough Cllr Kevin Horkin MBE (RVBC)
Clerk in attendance:	Tracey Boswell
Members of the public present:	Christine Bamforth
Apologies:	Parish Cllr Paul Atkinson

<b>A</b>	<b><u>Procedural Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
1	<u>Apologies for absence</u>  Parish Cllr Paul Atkinson	
2	<u>Declarations of Pecuniary, Other Registrable and Non-Registrable Interests</u>  None	
3	<u>Public Participation</u>  Christine Bamforth had been invited by the parish council to update them on the bookstore and other community initiatives she is leading in the Grindleton Bridge community within the parish.	

	<p>Christine explained that the community at the bridge included the bridge itself, the business centre, ~24 houses, the cabin in the woods and the farmhouse. Christine went on to explain that the bridge area is a key location with lots of entry points to the village including the bus stops and the Ribble Way, she explained that activities had been active and successful thanks to help from a number of named individuals and agencies including for example the Women's Institute.</p> <p>Christine gave a slide presentation and general description of the area and its activities including its successful applications for grant funding from the Ribble Rivers Trust and the United Utilities Communities Fund.</p> <p>Lorraine thanked Christine for everything she and her team had done and for the value they provided to the village, all agreed to stay linked on any opportunities for grants and importantly the need to be co-ordinated. Lorraine went on to extend an open invitation to Christine to attend parish council meetings and talk to the parish council to ensure everyone is co-ordinated.</p>	
4	<p><u>Minutes/Matters Arising</u></p> <p>a) To resolve that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025, be signed as a correct record.</p> <p>Proposer: Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell  Seconded: Parish Cllr Susan Walsh</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b>  <b>Members agreed that the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 should be signed as a correct record and published on the Parish Council website.</b></p> <p>b) <u>Actions taken/matters arising since the last meeting (not covered elsewhere on the agenda)</u></p> <p>Members reviewed the open action log and reported on progress since the last meeting. These were captured by the Clerk on the list retained by her.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>B</b>	<b><u>Financial Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
5	<p><u>Overview of financial position</u></p> <p>a) A statement of income and expenditure for the month of October 2025 was provided for members' consideration.</p>	

	<p><b>Members resolved to: Approve this statement as an accurate record of transactions during October 2025.</b></p> <p>b) A statement of income and expenditure for the month of November 2025 was provided for members' consideration.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Approve this statement as an accurate record of transactions during November 2025.</b></p> <p>c) A statement of income and expenditure for the month of December 2025 was provided for members' consideration.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Approve this statement as an accurate record of transactions during December 2025.</b></p> <p>d) <b>Precept 2026/27</b></p> <p>The Clerk reminded councillors of their decision to increase the 2025/2026 precept of +5% for the 2026/2027 precept.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Formally record their decision which is to request an increase on the 25/26 precept of +5% from £9933 to £10429.</b></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>C</b>	<b><u>Governance Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
6	<p><u>Governance</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<b>D</b>	<b><u>Planning Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
7	<p>a) Application number 3/2025/0987 4 West View, Main Street, Grindleton BB7 4RB</p> <p>Members had previously reviewed the application referenced and had no objections/observations or comments.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Formally note this decision for parish council records.</b></p> <p>b) Application number 3/2026/0040 Duke of York, Grindleton Brow, Grindleton BB7 4QR</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Members reviewed this recent application and had no objections/observations or comments.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to:</b>  <b>Authorise the Clerk to write to RVBC to confirm this decision.</b></p>	Clerk
<b>E</b>	<b><u>Standing Business Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
8	<p><u>Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)</u></p> <p>Matt Postlethwaite, Project Engagement Lead, United Utilities attended the meeting at 7.30pm to give an update on the HARP project.</p> <p>Representatives attending with Matt were:</p> <p>Andrew Ward, Director of Corporate Affairs, United Utilities  Jane Williams, Cascade Design and Construction  Patrick Gallagher, Cascade Communications Manager  Mike Lewis, Head of Technical Services Strabag – Design and Quality</p> <p>Members received a slide desk presentation from the HARP team. Key points in the presentation were:</p> <p>Construction Traffic Routes: this slide showed the number of vehicles and the number of movements. The CTR1 shown was for the stage to build the bridge estimated at ~9 months, once that is complete traffic will cease <b>on this route</b>.</p> <p>Surveys: councillors were informed that there is work yet to be defined in detail on Asset Protection, this will include surveys on houses yet to be identified, the assessment is in train for this, it is possible that everyone will be offered a pre and post survey assessment.</p> <p>Walls and passing places: at the moment there are no walls identified to come down to create passing places, this may change. Lorraine Halley made it clear that the view of the parish council is that Grindleton do not want straight roads as any part of a modernisation/improvement plan, the character of the village is narrow winding roads, and these should remain.</p> <p>Temporary bridge: Mike Lewis explained that this would be made up of segments, similar to an old-fashioned girder style, the span would be dictated by the width of the river, visualise as a giant Meccano set.</p> <p>Parking and controls: Matt Postlethwaite confirmed that they are aware of concerns over parking issues in Grindleton and</p>	

<p>Chatburn, details will come out after further analysis, feasibility of a car park in Chatburn is planned, all will be subject to community liaison.</p> <p>Community benefits: Patrick Gallagher stated that there are massive opportunities to create benefits for the community.</p> <p>Workforce: at its peak there will be ~2000 workers spread across all corridors of work. Workers work 10/2 hour days M-F and a half day Saturday.</p> <p>Park and Ride: this will be provided at Pimlico Link Road, this will be for the workforce for the Newton compound when tunnelling at full pelt commences, there is a commitment to liaise with residents on this.</p> <p>Biodiversity: HARP are working with Ribble Rivers Trust and other key fishing groups on the Ribble and Hodder. Biodiversity net gain is +10%. Slaidburn Wastewater Treatment Works will be upgraded.</p> <p>Communications: HARP confirmed that their team is working with communities to inform and educate them on the project, a Stakeholder Community Engagement Plan is being produced, support can be offered to create a FAQ's page on the Grindleton Parish Council website. Lorraine acknowledged that whilst the impact at Grindleton may be perceived as less than in neighbouring villages it is still high, a discussion about a future public exhibition or similar event ensued, it was agreed that once Community Liaison Officers are appointed this can scale up.</p> <p>Those present agree that a 'wish list' of opportunities for the village arising from HARP should be produced for discussion with the Community Liaison Officer once appointed. Noted now are –</p> <p>A Fishing Spot Footpath to the High School</p> <p>Lorraine Halley thanked the HARP team for their attendance and presentation at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to:</b>  <b>Start a 'wish list' and add the two items above to it</b>  <b>Request a copy of the slide deck for parish council records</b>  <b>Revisit opportunities for further updates towards the end of the calendar year</b></p>	<p>Clerk</p>
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9	<p><b>Footpaths</b></p> <p>a) <u>Steelands Farm Footpath</u></p> <p>Councillors considered a report and photographs raised by John Smith, Footpath Secretary, Clitheroe Ramblers.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Contact the landowner to enquire if there is an alternative accessible gate.</b></p>	Chair
10	<p><b>Other reports submitted to LCC and other bodies</b></p> <p>a) Councillors considered a report already made of a damaged school sign outside the primary school.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Email for an update on progress</b></p> <p>b) Back Lane Ivy on lamp</p> <p>LH updated councillors that she has tried to pursue this however the response to date has been that this is on unadopted land; notwithstanding this the report has been made and is on a 22-day programme.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Monitor progress.</b></p> <p>c) Councillors considered a report received about cars parking outside of The Pavillion. Councillors agreed that the parking is inconsiderate but also that GPC cannot control this.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Raise this at the Pavillion meeting and make a request not to park in this way.</b></p> <p>d) Councillors considered a request for a dog bin on the fell. Cllr LH confirmed that she had 'phoned RVBC and the response has been a no for this site, also that RVBC are not putting any new bins in place.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Note the response from RVBC.</b></p> <p>e) Cllr LH reported an opportunity to have a defibrillator through the British Heart Foundation. Cllr Halley has approached a resident who has a cabin at the proposed site, and he has agreed that the</p>	<p>Cllr SW</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Cllr GW</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>defibrillator can be installed there and that access to the power supply there will be made available. Cllr Halley has made the application on this basis and advised members that if agreed then the British Heart Foundation will also put a training course on.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Note the application and monitor progress with the application.</b></p>	Chair
<b>F</b>	<b><u>Other Business Items</u></b>	<b>Lead</b>
11	<p>a) <u>Ribble Valley Shared Prosperity and Jubilee Fund</u></p> <p>Members were informed that the application to this fund was unsuccessful.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Note that there is a need to be more joined up with The Pavillion who have on this occasion been successful in their bid.</b></p> <p>b) <u>Little Green Bus grant application</u></p> <p>Members reviewed a request received for financial support from The Little Green Bus Company.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Carry forward this request into the new financial year and write to The Little Green Bus Company to advise them of this. Obtain a list of LCC grant opportunities.</b></p>	Clerk Cllr SW
12	<p><u>Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition</u></p> <p>Cllr Halley informed members that the competition will not run in 2026 due to funding issues. Members are however still keen to promote keeping the village looking good to all residents, this might involve setting up a working group.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Organise an event for the village, this to include litter pickers and equipment from RVBC</b></p>	Chair
13	<p><u>Events</u></p> <p>None</p>	

14	<p><u>Allotments</u></p> <p>Members are continuing to review the lease agreement with RVBC, further advice needs to be sought.</p> <p><b>Members agreed to: Progress with further enquiries and report back once additional information is available.</b></p>	Clerk
15	<p><u>Update from Ward Councillor present</u></p> <p>Borough Cllr Kevin Horkin MBE (RVBC) attended and gave his update to all present at the start of the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Horkin informed those present that although he had been the Deputy Mayor in 25/26, he has taken the decision that he will not continue as Mayor this year. He explained that in his capacity as Mayor he would be required to lose his vote and right to speak on key matters, mindful of the significance of the HARP project on those he represents he did not want to lose this right, and so whilst it was with some regret he had taken the decision to not continue into the role of Mayor as he felt he could better serve his constituents by standing down from that position.</p> <p>Cllr Horkin updated councillors on developments with the proposed new ‘Super Authority,’ the preference expressed by RVBC is to join with Preston and Lancaster, the outcome will be known in summer 2026. He went on to explain that options to combine with other neighbouring authorities such as Blackburn with Darwen into an East Lancashire body risked an increase in council tax for his constituents, RVBC having the largest council tax take in Lancashire. Importantly Cllr Horkin confirmed that the Government is not consulting Parish Councils as stakeholders in this process and this raises questions on the influence of parish councils.</p> <p>Further, Cllr Horkin expressed his concern that the ‘brand’ of Ribble Valley could be lost, and this presented a risk to local businesses.</p> <p>Parish Cllr Susan Walsh queried whether proposals included any boundary changes with surrounding areas having high levels of social deprivation; this matter is unclear.</p> <p>Cllr Horkin explained that the new Chief Executive at RVBC has said that the liberalisation of planning laws and the reconfiguration of Local Government are the highest priorities for central government. In the immediate term RVBC are committed to £6.5m spend on major projects such as the Clitheroe Castle Investment</p>	

	<p>Scheme and that a further £2m has been ring fenced for the new swimming pool; whilst RVBC has financial reserves beyond this, projects were limited by capacity.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Horkin for his attendance at the meeting and for the information and update he provided.</p>	
16	<p><u>Other meetings</u></p> <p>a) <u>Parish Council Liaison Committee</u> This item is carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Rural Wildlife Crime Conference – (Appendix 8)</u> An update from the 2025 conference held in November 2025 planned to be shared with members is carried forward to the next meeting.</p>	
17	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>a) Councillors noted receipt of a Christmas card from Maya Ellis MP.</p> <p>b) Councillors noted correspondence received from LALC inviting applications to nominate a Mayor/Chairperson or staff member into the ballot to be awarded a pair of tickets to attend the Buckingham Palace Royal Garden Party 2026.</p> <p><b>Members resolved to: Submit an application for the Royal Garden Party</b></p>	Chair
18	<p><u>Other Business Items</u></p> <p>a) Christmas arrangements – this item to be carried forward to the next meeting.</p> <p>b) Spare Christmas Stars – this item included under another item on this agenda.</p> <p>c) Primary School connections – Cllr Halley confirmed that she had been into school on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026, the emphasis of dialogue was to focus on connections between the parish council and the school. Cllr Halley confirmed that she had contacted the Woodland Trust regarding setting up a Forest School in Greendale Wood and no objections had been raised. The school confirmed that they are keen to be involved on the Swift Box project and to develop the garden area at the front of the school for children to maintain.</p> <p>d) Hub posters and Grindleton Hub volunteer – a Duke of Edinburgh Award participant is taking on the renovation project as part of his award.</p>	

e)	Wildflowers – not discussed at this meeting.	
	The next meeting of Grindleton Parish Council will be held at 7pm on <b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026</b> at the Pavilion, Sawley Road, Grindleton in the upstairs room.	

This meeting closed at 10.50pm.

Signed by:		
	Date:	Cllr L Halley