

Grindleton Parish Council

Clerk: Andrew Glover 24 Hillside Drive West Bradford Clitheroe BB7 4TG Tel: 01200 428547 Mobile: 07968 486729 Email: andy.glover24@hotmail.co.uk

Minutes of the meeting of Grindleton Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 October 2024 at the Pavilion, Grindleton.

Members present:	Parish Cllr Lorraine Halley (Chair)	
	Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler (Vice Chair)	
	Parish Cllr Paul Atkinson	
	Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell	
	Parish Cllr Chris Brennan	
	Parish Cllr Megan Haslam	
	Parish Cllr Susan Walsh	
	Borough Cllr Kevin Horkin MBE (RVBC)	
Apologies for absence:	None	
Clerk present:	Andrew Glover	
County Cllr present:	: County Cllr Ged Mirfin (for minute item 13)	
Members of the public Ms Julie Skorupka		
present:		

1.	Declarations of Interest		
	a)	Standing orders suspended	
		None	
	b)	Standing orders resumed	
2.	Public Participation		
	None		
3.	Minute	es / matters arising	
a)		olve that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 August e signed as a correct record.	
	cont		

	Proposer – Cllr Haslam Seconder – Cllr Bramwell	
	Resolved Members agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 August 2024 should be signed as a correct record and published on the Parish Council website	Clerk
b)	Actions taken / matters arising since the last meeting (not covered elsewhere on the agenda):	
	The Clerk had compiled a list of actions for members to note / update briefly on progress since the last meeting.	
	Subject to a guillotine of 30 minutes, members gave verbal updates on their respective actions. These were captured by Cllr Haslam on the list retained by the Clerk.	
4.	Overview of financial position	
a)	Income and Expenditure – August 2024	
	A statement of income and expenditure for the month of August 2024 was provided for members' consideration.	
	Resolved Members approved this statement as an accurate record of transactions during August 2024	
b)	Income and Expenditure – September 2024	
	A statement of income and expenditure for the month of September 2024 was provided for members' consideration.	
	Resolved Members approved this statement as an accurate record of transactions during September 2024	
c)	Budget Monitoring Report – Q2 2024/25	
	The Clerk had completed a budget monitoring exercise for Q1 2024/25. The main points arising were as follows:	
	 income was basically on track, being around £900 short of the yearly target but with c£750 awaited from allotment rents and UT Bank interest; and in terms of expenditure: salary payments to the Lengthsman are under budget (although a salary claim for September is awaited); 	
	- salary payments to the Clerk are under budget; and	

	- no unexpected spend of any significance had been incurred in Q2.	
	Members were pleased to note that, at the mid-way point of the year, the Parish Council held in its current account financial assets of c£10,000, having begun the financial year with c£4250.	
	Resolved Members approved the budget monitoring report for Q2 2024/25	
d)	Concurrent Functions	
	The Clerk was pleased to report that RVBC had awarded a Concurrent Functions Grant of £663 to the Parish Council. This money had now been received in the Parish Council's bank account.	
e)	<u>Lengthsman</u>	
i)	Electronic invoices	
	The Chair and Cllr Walsh had revisited the timesheets used by the Lengthsman. Cllr Walsh now held an electronic record of all paper copies (timesheets and salary claims) submitted by the Lengthsman. Cllr Walsh had met with the Lengthsman and explained to him what information the Parish Council required before it would be in a position to facilitate payment. This session was felt to have gone well, with the Lengthsman demonstrating an improved ability to meet members' expectations in this regard.	
	 Other points discussed included: the Lengthsman did not want receive payment directly via an app; the Clerk would send Cllr Walsh any future timesheets / salary claims submitted, for her to add to her electronic record; there was a discrepancy of £19.50 (arising from the Lengthsman's clerical error) which the Chair would resolve in due course; and the Lengthsman's current salary rate was commensurate with that paid by other parishes. 	
	Resolved Clerk to forward future copies of any timesheets / salary claims to Cllr Walsh	Clerk
f)	Grant application	
	"Brown Owl" had contacted the Chair in July asking her to write a letter of support for a funding application being made to Arnold Clarke. This had now been done.	
5.	Improving PC effectiveness	
a)	Shared document storage	
i)	Microsoft 365	

At the August meeting, Cllr Atkinson had reported that he had been unsuccessful in his attempts to persuade Microsoft that the Parish Council was a "not for profit" organisation (which would have allowed free access to its Microsoft 365 service). Should the Parish Council wish, as an alternative, to subscribe to a paid service from the company, the cost would be £2.50pcm per user (equating to £240 pa). Furthermore, Microsoft was adamant that payment for the service would need to be through a payment card – a facility which the Parish Council currently lacked. As a result, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Lloyds Bank and establish whether the Parish Council was entitled to possess an appropriate charge card.

Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to progress this matter as yet. However, Cllr Atkinson now presented a viable alternative to the Microsoft system. He had set up an account with Google, using the email address grindletonparishcouncil@gmail.com. Using a password, members could then access free document storage up to 15 gb (with additional storage available to purchase at a nominal rate). This facility could be populated with Parish Council documents, which could then be worked on / added to by the Clerk and other members.

Cllr Atkinson gave a brief demonstration of the Google service, which was well received (members noting that it was secure, easily accessible and cheaper than the Microsoft alternative). Members thanked Cllr Atkinson for his efforts, and It was agreed that this option would be pursued and assessed once in place.

Resolved

Cllr Atkinson to meet with the Clerk and arrange for Parish Council documents to be transferred (via a pen drive) to the proposed Google facility

PA / Clerk

ii) Village communications

The Parish Council had previously sought to engage with village residents by using an email distribution list compiled and retained by GRGC. However, this would no longer be viable as GRGC was contemplating a move to wider access via a multiple account and verification facility (Mail Chimp).

GRGC had offered the Parish Council single user access to the Mail Chimp facility, which would cost c£29pa. In principle, members were in favour of proceeding with Mail Chimp, but again identified certain GDPR issues which would need to be addressed. In particular:

- any members of the public currently on the GRGC distribution list would need to consent to receive emails from the Parish Council; and
- all recipients would need to be "blind copied" into the message to avoid wider disclosure of their identity.

Resolved Chair to pursue Mail Chimp access with GRGC

Chair

6. External audit 2023/24 a) Update The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council's obligations under the Public Rights regime – which allowed any resident who wished to view the Parish Council accounts to do so within a fixed timeframe - had ended on 9 August 2024. No request to view the accounts had been received, and this therefore concluded the audit process for 2023/24. 7. **New draft Financial Regulations** At the August meeting, members had considered a draft of proposed new financial regulations (based upon a template produced by the National Association of Local Councils). Members had accepted the need to update their financial procedures, but also acknowledged the importance of ensuring that any new approach adopted was both relevant and appropriate. It had therefore been agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Bramwell would meet in advance of the October meeting, in order to (i) further examine the content of the proposed draft regulations and (ii) iron out any inconsistencies that may arise with the current Standing Orders. Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to progress this matte. It was agreed that he and Cllr Bramwell would meet prior to the December meeting, and report back to members at that time. Resolved Clerk **Clerk and Cllr Bramwell to progress** / TB 8. Planning applications to be considered Applications on which the Parish Council is a consultee a) i) Planning Applications No: 3/2024/0439 and 3/2024/440 Proposal: Application for planning permission for change of use from public house with living accommodation to residential use. Demolition of side and rear extensions and construction of single-storey extension to side and detached garage. Alteration to vehicle access and creation of domestic curtilage Location: Duke of York Inn, Grindleton Brow, Grindleton BB7 4QR This application remained registered. Members noted that the County Council – as Highway Authority – had not objected to the proposed development, and a number of 3rd party responses from local residents had appeared divided on whether to support the proposal or not. ii) Planning application No: 3/2023/0973 Proposal: Retention of 14 solar panels on the South east facing roofslope. Resubmission of 3/2023/0297 Location: Rushton House Lower Chapel Lane Grindleton BB7 4QT APPEAL REFERENCE: APP/T2350/D/24/3344365 APPEAL STARTING DATE: 2nd July 2024

An appeal against the Borough Council's decision to refuse this application had been lodged, but had yet to be heard.

iii) Planning Application No: 3/2024/0721

 $\label{proposal:Proposed} \mbox{Proposed dormer to front and rear roofslopes and widening of the} \\$

existing driveway entrance.

Location: Four Winds, Whitehall Lane, Grindleton BB7 4RL

Details of this application had been circulated to members by the Chair on 18 September. The deadline for submission of any consultation response was 8 October 2024.

A copy of the LCC Highways comments relating to this application had been provided by County Cllr Mirfin and was provided for members' information.

After due deliberation, members expressed no objection to this application. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a letter to RVBC, prior to the above deadline, in confirmation of this view.

Resolved

Clerk to write to RVBC by 8 October

Clerk

iv) Planning Application No: 3/2024/0643

Proposal: Proposed reduction in size of garage from two-cars to one and

construction of two storey extension to rear. Location: 1 The Spinney, Grindleton BB7 4QE

Details of this application had been circulated to members by the Chair on 18 September. The deadline for submission of any consultation response was 7 October 2024.

A copy of the LCC Highways comments relating to this application had been provided by County Cllr Mirfin and was provided for members' information.

After due deliberation, members expressed no objection to this application. It was agreed that the Clerk would submit a letter to RVBC, prior to the above deadline, in confirmation of this view.

Resolved

Clerk to write to RVBC by 7 October

Clerk

b) Planning matter – confidential

Members considered this matter *in camera*, and agreed that details of this matter should be reported to officers at RVBC Planning Enforcement for their consideration.

Resolved

Clerk to pursue

Clerk

9. Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)

a) Planning application 3/2021/0661 - update

At the August meeting, members had considered details of a briefing provided by HARP representatives to West Bradford Parish Council. As a result, and in relation to Grindleton parish, the Clerk had been asked to approach United Utilities (UU) on a number of issues. The following responses had now been received:

- UU had offered reassurance to Grindleton residents that it appreciated the
 need for pre-commencement surveys of affected properties to be carried out
 within the parish. It was envisaged that UU would either provide these for
 affected residents or (where appropriate) contribute to the cost of private
 surveys commissioned by residents themselves; and
- funding had been earmarked as "Section 106" monies, as a form of remuneration to affected parishes. It was understood that the parish would qualify for a share of such monies, and further information on this matter would be provided when available.

Members noted that, since the August meeting, representatives of UU had accepted an invitation to appear before members and update them in person on the situation. This update would now be given at the December meeting. Members considered whether to invite local residents to attend this presentation, but concluded that it would be better for members to privately engage in a fact-finding exercise with UU representatives before circulating a summary of the discussion to interested parties.

Cllr Horkin confirmed that he and Cllr Mirfin were calling for an economic impact assessment on the HARP project to be carried out, expressing surprise that – given the scale and impact of the initiative – such a measure had not yet been undertaken.

April 2025 remained the anticipated start date for work on the HARP project to begin.

10. **Footpaths**

A) Log of footpath concerns

It had previously been agreed that any member who walked a footpath and identified a problem with it should bring a report to the following meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk would then capture this information and, as required, update the master copy of the spreadsheet kept to capture such matters. The Parish Council would then seek to pursue a solution to the issue with the landowner (whilst again acknowledging that it had no power to compel any action in this regard). Should no repair be forthcoming, the matter would then be referred to LCC PROW for officers to address.

The latest version of the log was presented for members' information.

	Since the August meeting, the following referral has been made to LCC PROW officers:	
	Bridleway BW 0321038 – defective sign at Grindleton Forest / Fell Rd end	
В)	New concerns raised	
	A local resident had contacted the Chair with regard to the following concerns:	
i)	a stile on the path from Back Lane to Sawley road had fallen apart - footpath 321054 (What 3 words - curries.inquest.reseller).	
	Resolved Clerk to report this matter to LCC PROW	Clerk
ii)	the footpath from West Clough to Heys Farm (3444016) was impeded by a number of fallen trees and was completely blocked at the top (What 3 words - digests. blazers.hatter).	
	It was understood that this footpath fell within West Bradford parish and the matter had therefore been passed to West Bradford Parish Council for members there to consider.	
	Members also debated a number of other footpath-related issues, including:	
	the need to repair a double stile at Dobson's farm	
	Resolved Cllr Haslam to check on its condition	МН
	overgrown vegetation at a stile near Steelands Farm	
	Resolved Cllr Brennan to check / clear as appropriate	СВ
11.	Other reports submitted to LCC and other bodies	
	None	
12.	Ribble Valley Local Plan - Review of Settlement Boundaries and Revision of	
	Facilities/Services Data Within Settlements	
	At the August meeting, members had been invited by the Borough Council to consider a range of documentation provided, and then:	
	complete the form entitled "Settlement Boundary and Open Space	
	Review" by reference to the maps provided; and o complete the "Services and Facilities" form provided.	
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The Chair confirmed that she had completed both of the above and returned them to RVBC prior to the deadline. A copy of the returned forms was provided for members' information.

13. **RVBC Strategic Housing Local Allocation**

The meeting was attended by County Cllr Ged Mirfin, who - along with Cllr Horkin – sought to update members on this issue.

Cllr Mirfin reported that, given the new government's emphasis on house building, RVBC would receive an annual target of 331 houses per year (rising from the previous 114). Historically, the Borough Council had accepted applications for the majority of local house building to take place in its areas of conurbation (Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley). However, for reasons of sustainability. this emphasis was likely to shift to Tier 2 and 3 villages (such as Grindleton).

In this regard, Cllr Mirfin stressed the importance of documents such as the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA, which considered the issue of housing supply and demand across the borough) and the Strategic Housing Land Allocation (SHLA, which identified pockets of land across the parish on which development could take place). Given that, in his opinion, Grindleton could be expected to provide 15-20 new houses per year, Cllr Mirfin pointed out the importance of the Parish Council seeking to understand these documents. (Members noted, however, that - whilst the 2013 SHLA was currently in the public domain - no later documentation was yet available from RVBC).

Members thanked ClIr Mirfin for his interest in what was clearly a significant local topic, but were unsure what further action – other than adopting a watching brief – could be taken at this time. It was considered that the situation remained fluid, with the possibility that a number of other factors outside members' control (such as the planned large-scale house building in Mellor) could yet erode the local impact of any house building agenda.

Resolved

Cllr Mirfin to forward to the Clerk any further information which may cast light on the situation and which he was able to share

GM

14. Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2024

a) Judging - update

The Parish Council had reached the final round of judging, held on 20 and 21 August.

Members noted that – should the parish not prove successful – as runner-up it would not receive a metal plaque. However, members agreed that in this event a plaque should be purchased and displayed in the village.

b)	Attendance at the presentation event	
	The presentation event was to be held on 14 October 2024 at Eaves Hall, West	
	Bradford. The Chair would attend the event, along with a local resident (Suzanne Macfarlane) who had kindly assisted with preparations around the parish.	
15.	Events	
a)	Proposed celebration to mark the re-opening of footpaths in the Millennium Wood	
	The Parish Council had been invited to participate in the proposed celebratory event to mark the completion of upgrade to the paths in the Millennium Wood.	
	The celebratory event was now scheduled to be held on Saturday 12 October at 2.30pm. It would involve a walk around the wood, followed by refreshments at the Rum Fox. Attendance was free, but members were required to pre-register via the Pavilion's Ticket Master facility.	
b)	Remembrance Day 2024	
	Cllr Haslam reported on progress made with regard to the following:	
	 Cllr Haslam had identified 2 silhouettes from the website of the Royal British Legion (one of a soldier and one relating to women at war). These were to be inscribed with Grindleton Parish Council around the base, and would cost c£300 for the pair; and she had now designed a poster containing a QR code which linked to historical data on local servicemen and women. The final wording of the poster – which would be portable and displayed around the village - would be approved by members via WhatsApp. It was now necessary for the historical data to be displayed on the Parish Council website, so that the QR code could link to it. 	
	Resolved Cllr Haslam to proceed with purchases Clerk to make an initial approach to the website administrator before involving Cllr Haslam in this process	MH Clerk
	Cllr Bramwell requested that Cllr Haslam forward him a copy of the poster, so that he could add it to the wreath to be laid at the Remembrance Day service.	
	Resolved Cllr Haslam to forward to Cllr Bramwell	MH / TB
c)	VE Day commemoration – 2025	
	It was intended to hold a commemorative event at the Cherry Trees, and the Chair reported that it was possible to acquire lamp lights to be used at this event. The organisers wished to emphasise the symbolic importance of lights at commemorations nationwide, and the use of lamp lights would fit in with this themed approach.	

	The Chair undertook to bring the proposed costings for the acquisition of lamp lights to the December meeting.	
	Resolved Chair to provide	Chair
16.	Allotments	
a)	General issues	
	It was agreed that arrangements to close off the water supply before winter would be finalised at the forthcoming tenants' meeting.	
b)	Tenants' meeting	
	Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to progress arrangements for the tenants meeting as yet.	
	Resolved Clerk / Cllr Bramwell to meet and make arrangements for a meeting towards the end of October	Clerk / TB
c)	1981 lease agreement / possible areas of conflict with tenancy agreement to be explored	
	Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to pursue this matter with RVBC.	
	Resolved Clerk to approach RVBC for an update and report to the December meeting	Clerk
d)	Complaint – unauthorised pruning of tree	
	Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to pursue this matter with RVBC.	
	Resolved Clerk to approach RVBC for an update and report to the December meeting	Clerk
f)	Request for shed	
	Due to personal circumstances, the Clerk had been unable to pursue this matter with RVBC. Cllr Bramwell confirmed that he had provided the tenants of plot 6 with a holding response regarding their request.	
	Resolved Clerk to approach RVBC for an update and report to the December meeting	Clerk

17. Rural Prosperity Fund

a) Permissive footpath

Since the August meeting, the Chair and Cllr Atkinson had met to explore how best to pursue a funding bid for this proposal. The Chair had then entered into correspondence with LCC on the merits of the proposal, and received a response which – though supportive – emphasised the need for relevant landowner consent to be obtained.

Cllr Atkinson had spoken to Bowland High School. Representatives there had repeated their concern that the lack of lighting for the proposed path could undermine its usefulness during the darker winter months.

18. Update from Ward Councillor present

Under the new government's devolution agenda, it was possible that the introduction of an elected "metro mayor" for a pan-Lancashire combined authority would be pursued. Cllr Horkin referred to recent moves in the Borough Council to oppose such a development, including the motion passed by full council which authorised public expenditure to hold a referendum on any such proposal (thereby identifying the level of local support / opposition for the introduction of a mayor / combined authority).

On a related topic, the Borough Council was concerned that the introduction of a combined authority for the county would result in the loss of the £17.5m in reserve funding which the Borough Council had carefully preserved for many years. As a pre-emptive measure, the Borough Council was now seeking to tender for the construction of a new swimming pool, to replace the ageing Roefield site. In addition, the sum of £0.5m had been identified to fund further refurbishment to Clitheroe town centre, and it was possible that extra money (possibly in the form of a one-off allocation to all parishes) would yet be made available.

19. Other meetings

- GGRC Cllr Wheeler reported that in his role as Parish Council representative he had encouraged greater communication and cooperation between the Parish Council and GRGC, in order to make best use of the synergy arising from such like-minded bodies. This stance had been well received by GRGC. It was also noted that preparations for the forthcoming Bonfire Night celebrations were underway, with tickets having to be acquired through the Pavilion's Ticket Master facility.
- Parish Councils' Liaison Committee Cllr Atkinson had attended this meeting, held on 12 September 2024. There had been a presentation from Homewise, a body which provided support with domestic tasks (both small and large scale) for residents aged above 65.

Resolved

The Parish Council would seek to promote this valuable service Cllr Atkinson to provide details from the presentation to the Clerk

PΑ

As previously agreed, ClIr Atkinson had raised the issue of possible relocation of the Henthorn Rd waste disposal site to a more accessible location. He considered that the published minutes of the meeting did not reflect the tone of the debate (in which he had sought to establish RVBC's views on the long-term future of the site), and hence would be challenging the wording of the minutes as recorded

WASP – the meeting held on 14 August 2024 had been poorly attended, although the Chair and Cllr Bramwell had represented the Parish Council. LCC had seemed reluctant to carry out much of the work requested by parishes, and had imposed a cost for carrying out even relatively straightforward measures such as the re-painting of existing road markings (an approach which members felt undermined the Highway's Authority's commitment to road safety).

Cllr Bramwell reflected on LCC's reluctance to engage with residents' concerns about speeding vehicles on East View. He had received letters from residents there, detailing speed-related incidents which had occurred in previous years, and undertook to bring these to a future meeting.

Resolved

Cllr Bramwell to bring letters to a future meeting

TB

20. Correspondence received

a) Gambling Act 2005 – Statement of Principles

The Gambling Act 2005 required each Licensing Authority to update its Gambling Policy Statement at least every 3 years. The Gambling Policy Statement set out the principles that the authority would apply when exercising its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. Members noted that the Borough Council – in its role as Licensing Authority – was therefore now reviewing its Gambling Act 2005 'Statement of Principles', but declined the opportunity to comment.

b) Parish and Town Council Conference

Members noted that this event would be hosted by LCC on Saturday 2 November 2024 at the Exchange, County Hall, Preston. However, no member was available to attend.

c) <u>Forest of Bowland National Landscape funding opportunity - Diamond Landmark</u>
Trees

Members were made aware that, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape, officers at that organisation were willing to fund the planting of a Landmark Tree. Bids would be welcome from the 6 parish councils which fell within the boundaries of the Forest of Bowland National Landscape. However, members did not feel it appropriate to pursue this potential funding stream at this time.

d) RVBC – establishment of dedicated email address for parish council issues Members noted that Ribble Valley Borough Council had now set up an email address dedicated to responding to Parish Council administrative issues/queries. As such, if the Clerk or any member wished to email RVBC about matters such as vacancies, the provision of information/documents (eg acceptance of office and declarations of interests forms) or Parish Council Liaison Committee issues etc, the following email address should be used: parishinfo@ribblevalley.gov.uk e) RVBC – grant funding for Xmas lunch groups The Clerk had been advised that RVBC was accepting applications for voluntary and charitable organisations to apply for £250 towards the cost of their Christmas lunches. Any completed applications need to be returned to Sarah Wells at sarah.wells@ribblevalley.gov.uk Resolved Chair Chair to forward details of the grant funding to GRGC 21. **Any Other Business** a) B4RN The Chair reported that, against a target of £300,000, investment had unfortunately stalled at £176,000 (including £50,000 from the Rural Prosperity Fund in relation to Sawley). It was acknowledged that this was a significant shortfall, and a way forward would be considered by the volunteer group when it attended the B4RN head office later that week. It was suggested that RVBC may potentially be able to offer some further financial assistance, and the Chair undertook to make an approach to Cllr Kevin Horkin. Resolved Chair to pursue Chair The Chair was still seeking to work with residents to resolve wayleave issues around the snickets. b) Wildflower seeds Members restated their intention to commence work after Xmas on ground preparation. It was agreed that, in the meantime, Cllr Walsh would work with the relevant members of GRGC to ensure that all parties were happy with the proposed way forward. Resolved Cllr Walsh to pursue SW cont

	The next meeting of Grindleton Parish Council will take place at 7pm on Tuesday 3 December 2024 at Grindleton Pavilion.	
	The Chair reiterated her view that the two signs displayed on Main St by LCC had been completely ineffective (having been aware of at least 3 incidents which had occurred since the signage had been erected).	
c)	"Slow Down Save Lives" signage	
	In addition, contact would be made at some point with the primary school and Brownie pack to see if they were willing to be involved in planting.	

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed by:		
	Date: 3.12.24	Cllr L Halley (Chair)