



Grindleton Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting of Grindleton Parish Council on Tuesday 5 September 2023 at the Pavilion, Grindleton.

Members present:	Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler (Acting Chair) Parish Cllr Paul Atkinson Parish Cllr Tony Bramwell Parish Cllr Susan Walsh
Apologies for absence:	Parish Cllr L Halley (Chair) Parish Cllr Megan Haslam Borough Cllr K Horkin MBE (RVBC)
Clerk present:	Andrew Glover
Members of the public present:	Peter Raywood

	Part 1 – routine business	
1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The Acting Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. It was explained that this would be a two-part meeting; the first section would cover routine business, and the second part would be devoted to a discussion of possible bids under the Rural Prosperity Fund.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>a) Standing orders suspended</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Re minute item 21 below, Parish Cllr Atkinson indicated that he had been a former employee of Bowland High School.</p> <p>b) Standing orders resumed</p>	
3.	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>None</p>	

<p>4.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>i)</p>	<p>Minutes / matters arising</p> <p><u>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 August 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2023 were signed by the Acting Chair as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Bramwell Seconded by: Cllr Walsh</p> <p>Resolved The Acting Chair was authorised to sign off the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2023, and it was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be posted on the Parish Council website</p> <p><u>Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda):</u></p> <p><u>Speeding vehicles – East View – concern raised by Cllr Bramwell</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, members had considered a report from LCC on the implications of erecting a SID on East View and, in light of its content, had agreed to reverse their previous decision to support such an initiative. Instead, it had been agreed that the Chair and Cllr Bramwell would attend the next meeting of the WASP campaign group on 16 August.</p> <p>In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Bramwell updated members on the WASP meeting. Topics discussed at the meeting had included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed introduction of 20mph zones could only be achieved through the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order, which would require an application fee of £5,000 and could take 9 months for central government to determine; • as a result, WASP had stepped back from its original intention to secure the introduction of 20mph maximum speed limits in rural locations across the County. However, in the longer term, the group would still seek to gather support from LCC on this issue; • as a more immediate alternative, WASP had asked parish councils to map the physical methods used to slow traffic in their villages (chicanes, rumble strips etc) and assess their condition. The Chair had already commenced work on this issue, compiling a photographic record of the village’s current traffic controls / concerns which she had circulated to members on 31 August. Further work would be carried out on the Chair’s return from holiday; • other options discussed at the meeting had included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the use of speed cameras; - hand-held radar guns deployed by residents to record the speed of vehicles for data-gathering (rather than enforcement) purposes. The purchase of such radar guns would probably need to be made from a parish council’s precept; and - increased signage (possibly sponsored by local businesses); 	<p>Clerk</p>
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- it was hoped that a representative of LCC (as Highways Authority) would attend the next WASP meeting; and
- parishes may wish to consider further lobbying of their borough / county councillors (as well as their MP) on this issue.

Members thanked the Chair for her considerable efforts to date in compiling a map of physical devices intended to curtail speed in Grindleton. It was agreed that some devices, such as rumble strips, could usefully be renovated to increase their impact on drivers.

Resolved

Chair and Cllr Bramwell to attend the next meeting of WASP in October 2023 and report back

Chair
/ TB

ii) “Welcome to Grindleton” signage

At the August meeting, members had discussed a number of options for positioning a Welcome to Grindleton sign near to Grindleton Bridge (although no final decision had been made). In the course of this discussion, the Chair had presented the findings of her research into the types of signage available – some of this was extremely expensive (up to c£8500), whilst small / plain signs were available for around £300 each. It had been agreed that further research should be carried out on the availability and design of smaller / cheaper signs, with the possibility of erecting a more high-profile sign in a prominent village location at a future (post-HARP?) date.

Members agreed that, in the Chair’s absence, it was appropriate to defer further consideration of this matter to the October meeting.

Resolved

Clerk to place on the agenda for October

Clerk

iii) Rum Fox – parking issues

Following concerns expressed by a local resident at the July meeting, the Chair had researched the availability of small wall signs to remind drivers to park courteously. The Chair had identified small red signs (with a capital letter “P” crossed out) which may suffice at a cost of £20. She had also established that a local resident would be happy for such signs to be affixed to his wall in a suitable location.

Whilst willing to progress the above, prior to the meeting the Chair had expressed her desire to keep the scale of the issue in perspective. There remained a number of other “parking hotspots” around the village where inconsiderate parking occurred, and it was important not to view the Rum Fox issue in isolation.

Cllr Walsh had also been able to confirm that the owner of the Rum Fox had included a statement in his online booking form asking customers to park responsibly.

(cont)

iv)	<p>Resolved Further discussion to be deferred until October – Clerk to diary</p> <p><u>B4RN</u></p> <p>Members confirmed that there been no further developments since the presentation given by Mr David Ryall at the August meeting.</p>	Clerk
v)	<p><u>Defibrillators</u></p> <p>Georgie Hutton had confirmed that the 3 defibrillators for which she assumed responsibility had now been registered with The Circuit.</p> <p>Members acknowledged Georgie’s role in registering the defibrillators and thanked her for her efforts.</p>	
5.	<p>Overview of financial position</p> <p>a) <u>Monthly accounts – August 2023</u></p> <p>The Clerk submitted details of income and expenditure for the month of August 2023 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the acting Chair.</p> <p>Resolved That the record for August 2023 as presented would be signed off</p> <p>b) <u>United Trust (UT) Bank:</u></p> <p>i) <u>Removal of former councillor Keith Hutton from mandate / addition of Cllr Wheeler to mandate</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that he still awaited confirmation from the UT Bank as to whether the requested mandate change had been actioned.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to pursue UT Bank for an update</p> <p>ii) <u>Transfer of funds to the UT deposit account</u></p> <p>At the July meeting, members had agreed that, given the rising level of interest rates, it was appropriate to transfer £10,000 from the current account to the 100-day UT deposit account.</p> <p>However, this transfer had not yet been actioned as UT Bank had not yet confirmed that Cllr Wheeler has been added to the mandate.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to pursue with UT Bank</p>	Clerk

c)	<p><u>Payments to Lengthsman</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, members had noted the rise in payments made to the Lengthsman and had asked Cllr Walsh to further explore this situation. The Clerk had – as requested - forwarded to Cllr Walsh copies of all invoices, timesheets submitted by the Lengthsman during 2022 and 2023, and as a result Cllr Walsh had produced an assessment of the hours worked / salary claimed by the Lengthsman since March 2022.</p> <p>Members thanked Cllr Walsh for her efforts, maintaining that the assessment document produced by her was a useful record to which future payments could be added. Given that detailed timesheets had only been submitted by the Lengthsman since February 2023, Cllr Walsh’s document would allow members to better monitor the position over time. Members noted that higher claims coincided with peak periods for the Best Kept Village competition, in which the village had enjoyed recent success. They were also reassured that the July claim was at a lower level than for previous months, and – in the view of the Clerk – payments made did not seem out of kilter with those for neighbouring parishes,</p> <p>Moving forward, it was noted that – as more salary data is compiled – members may wish to set a budget for the Lengthsman’s work and discuss with him what level of service would be provided for that sum.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members would continue to compile a record of hours worked / payments claimed • Payment of the July claim (£295.50, of which £70 related to additional work at the allotment) would be paid 	Clerk
6. a)	<p>LCC Funding</p> <p><u>PROW – Local Delivery Scheme (LDS) / Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme 2023/24</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that, as in previous years, the Parish Council had been invited to apply for funding under the above schemes.</p> <p>The LDS scheme would provide a grant of £500; this was not intended to cover work to stiles, but did include recompense for the cost of vegetation clearance, waymarks etc. The Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme provided a further one-off payment of £300, intended to support local biodiversity-related projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that an application should be made for funding from both of the above grant schemes.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Clerk to submit an application form relating to both the Local Delivery Scheme / Biodiversity Small Grant Scheme prior to the deadline of 15 September</p>	

b)	<p><u>PROW – Local Delivery Scheme 2022/23</u></p> <p>It was understood that the Parish Council had neither applied for (nor received) the above grants during 2022/23. On this occasion, there was therefore no requirement to complete a copy of the relevant feedback form.</p> <p>However, members were reminded that - should an application for grant funding in 2023/24 be successful – they would then be obliged to complete such a return prior to bidding for similar funds in 2024/25.</p>	
7.	<p>Matters arising from resignation of Parish Cllr Raywood</p> <p>a) <u>Update on process</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, members noted that Cllr Raywood had submitted his written intention to resign as a parish councillor, effective from 2 August. Consequently, and in accordance with information displayed by RVBC on its website, the following actions had been taken by the Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the draft notice of vacancy had been completed by the Clerk and had been displayed on the Parish Council noticeboard by the Chair for 14 days from 2 August; • the Clerk had sent a copy of the notice to RVBC on 2 August (RVBC acknowledging receipt on 3 August); and • the Clerk had subsequently been advised by RVBC that no/insufficient voters had come forward requiring an election to be held. It was therefore in the Parish Council’s gift to co-opt a replacement for Cllr Raywood at the September meeting. <p>b) <u>Proposed co-option of Mr Chris Brennan as a parish councillor</u></p> <p>The Clerk advised members that Mr Brennan had now completed all paperwork relating to his co-option. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Declaration of Acceptance of Office; and • a Declaration of Interests Form. <p>In addition, as a result of previous correspondence with the Borough Solicitor on the co-option process, it had been suggested that the Parish Council may wish to reassure itself that any co-optee would meet the same criteria as is required for election, ie those criteria set out in form 1c of the electoral nomination pack. Criteria which would disqualify an applicant include a criminal conviction, bankruptcy etc. Mr Brennan had also completed and signed this form.</p> <p>Resolved Members agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • endorse the co-option of Mr Chris Brennan as a member of Grindleton Parish Council; and • authorise the Clerk to advise RVBC accordingly 	Clerk

c)	<p><u>Potential successor to former parish councillor Peter Raywood as representative on GRGC</u></p> <p>Cllr Wheeler offered to act as the Parish Council’s representative at future meetings of GRGC.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to provide Cllr Wheeler with the dates of future meetings</p>	Clerk
8.	<p>Approval of governance documents</p> <p>a) <u>Asset Register</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, the Clerk had presented an initial draft of a revised Asset Register. However, it had been agreed that the content of the document required further input from an experienced member with extensive local knowledge. Accordingly, the Clerk had been asked to meet with the Chair and seek to revise the content of the draft. This meeting had been held on Tuesday 29 August.</p> <p>Whilst the meeting had been productive, there remained some areas where further clarification was required. (For instance, the document now included a reference to beacons used for commemorative events, and further information around Xmas lights was being sought). The Clerk therefore proposed to carry out further work with the Chair and bring a final version back to the October or November meeting.</p> <p>The final version of the Asset Register would henceforth be presented to members for re-adoption at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May of each year.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members noted the interim revised Asset Register presented by the Clerk, and agreed that a final version should be presented to a future meeting • The final version of the Asset Register would henceforth be presented to members for re-adoption at the Annual General Meeting to be held in May of each year (Clerk to diary) 	Clerk
9.	<p>Member training</p> <p>a) <u>New Councillors and Clerks - a whistle stop tour of powers and responsibilities</u></p> <p>The Clerk reminded Cllrs Atkinson, Haslam and Walsh that they were booked onto this Zoom course, to be held on Monday 23 October 2023 (7-9pm).</p> <p>Cllr Walsh confirmed that she had yet to receive the email link to access the course.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to pursue</p>	Clerk

<p>10.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Improving Parish Council effectiveness</p> <p><u>Shared document storage</u></p> <p>At the suggestion of Cllr Walsh, Cllr Wheeler had given further consideration to the use of Microsoft 365, which – subject to licensing issues – could potentially allow shared access through Teams, SharePoint and One Drive. Unfortunately, however, Cllr Wheeler had ascertained that Microsoft 365 could only be accessed free of charge by a maximum of 6 users; as the Parish Council required access for 7 parish councillors and a Clerk, the access charge (£15 per user per month) was prohibitive.</p> <p>A different option could be the use of a secure page on the Parish Council’s website, to which access would be password restricted. This would allow the Clerk to place key documents (agendas, draft minutes etc) on the secure page for members to read in advance of the meeting, although they would not be able to edit them. (An alternative approach would be required for any large policy documents being actively worked on by a number of members at once). In addition, any documents would need to be uploaded onto the page directly by the Clerk – rather than by the administrator – in order to avoid any Data Protection issues.</p> <p>It was agreed that the proposal of a secure page on the Parish Council website was worthy of further exploration, and the Clerk was asked to approach the website administrator and discuss its feasibility.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to approach website administrator and report back</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>11.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>External Audit 2022/23</p> <p><u>Period of Public Rights</u></p> <p>The period of public rights (during which residents of the parish were entitled to inspect the Parish Council’s accounts) had concluded on 11 August 2023. As no residents had expressed a wish to inspect the financial records of the Parish Council, the process of external audit for 2022/23 had now come to an end.</p> <p>Resolved Members noted the successful conclusion of the 2022/23 audit process</p>	
<p>12.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Planning applications to be considered</p> <p>Planning Application No: 3/2023/0274 Proposal: Proposed demolition of the existing agricultural building and erection of one new detached dwelling. Location: Laneside Barn, Grindleton Road, Grindleton BB7 4QH</p> <p>Members noted that this application had been refused by RVBC on 4 August 2023, with the following grounds cited:</p>	

- the proposed development would have created an extra dwelling outside the settlement boundary, in contradiction of planning policy; and
- it would have caused the loss of a “heritage asset” and also “introduce an incongruous and unsympathetic form of development that would fail to assimilate within the surrounding open countryside, resulting in undue harm to the visual amenities of the immediate area and setting of the wider AONB landscape”.

It was acknowledged that a number of members had contributed to the final draft of the letter, a process which had been an example of good teamwork.

b) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0587

Proposal: Proposed replacement of doors and windows.

Location: Low Barn, Barret Hill Brow, Lane Ends, Bolton by Bowland BB7 4PH

Details of this application had been circulated to members on 2 August; as no adverse comments were received, no submission had been made to RVBC.

c) Planning Application No: 3/2023/0297

Proposal: Proposed addition of 16 x 395kw solar panels on the south east facing roofslope.

Location: Rushton House Lower Chapel Lane Grindleton BB7 4QT

Details of this application had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Following a number of responses from members, it had been agreed with the Chair that a letter would be submitted to RVBC, emphasising the need to balance the ecological benefits of solar panels with their aesthetic impact, whilst indicating the Parish Council’s support for the use of solar panels whose appearance was less intrusive. A copy of the letter submitted to RVBC on 26 August was provided for members’ information.

With the agreement of the Chair, a letter had also been drafted and sent to the applicant (copy also made available to members).

Particular thanks went to Cllr Walsh for her extensive research on the topic of solar panels.

With regard to future planning applications regarding solar panels, Cllr Walsh had also suggested that a “green energy” section should be included on the Parish website, with links to articles outlining the various types of solar panel available (and their respective merits). Members remained supportive of this as an idea, but agreed that it would be appropriate to await the outcome of planning application 3/2023/0297 before progressing this suggestion further.

Resolved

Clerk to diary for a future meeting

Clerk

<p>d)</p> <p>e)</p>	<p>Planning Application No: 3/2023/0658 Proposal: Proposed two-storey and single-storey extension to front. Dormer extension to rear Location: Foxley Bank Stables, Sawley Road, Grindleton BB7 4QS</p> <p>Details of this application had been circulated to members on 26 August. Members had expressed no concerns and therefore no submission would be made to RVBC.</p> <p><u>Potential planning application – query from local resident</u></p> <p>The Chair had received a query from a resident who was keen to understand the Parish Council’s likely stance on her interest in forming a parking area on land within the Conservation Area.</p> <p>Whilst the Parish Council had no decision-making role and could not provide any form of pre-application advice, members had considered the approach by email and were generally not inclined to oppose it.</p>	
<p>13.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p>	<p>Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)</p> <p><u>Planning application 3/2021/0661</u></p> <p><u>Update</u></p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Horkin, members were not able to receive a specific update on HARP. However, it was understood that there had been little (if any) substantive change since the August meeting.</p> <p><u>Local Publicity</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, Cllr Bramwell had observed that several new residents had recently moved onto East View, and he feared they may be unaware of the likely impact the project would have upon their residential amenity. Whilst members had felt they had gone to great lengths in the past to warn local residents about HARP, it had been agreed that some further warning publicity would be appropriate. However, in order to convey the scale of the issue, the Clerk had been asked to seek updated information on the likely vehicle movements over Grindleton Bridge during the construction phase (this information having been now removed from the UU website). Accordingly, the Clerk had drafted a question on this topic for discussion at the next Parish Council Liaison Committee, to be held on 14 September. After its submission, the Clerk had been informed that RVBC had opted to forward it directly to UU, and as a result UU had now provided detail of the proposed planning condition to which they would need to adhere. This confirmed that:</p> <p>a) the average number of HGVs using this corridor, in any projected forthcoming year in line with their latest programme, would be no more than 2 in each direction in any one working day (total 4 two-way movements);</p> <p>b) notwithstanding (a) above, no more than 7 HGVs would use this corridor in each direction in any one working day (total 14 two-way movements);</p> <p>and</p>	

	<p>c) the average number of HGVs using this corridor, in any working day, would be no more than 1 in each direction in any one working hour (total 2 two-way movements).</p> <p>Members discussed at length whether – in light of this information - it would be better to update residents now or await further clarification of the timescale for work to begin. On balance, members inclined towards the latter, and it was agreed that plans to update residents should be deferred until a more comprehensive picture could be presented to them.</p> <p>b) <u>Correspondence between a resident of Newton in Bowland and RVBC</u></p> <p>The Clerk had been copied into correspondence sent to RVBC by a resident of Newton in Bowland, seeking to challenge the Borough Council’s assertion that it had handled the UU planning application “strictly in accordance with local and national planning policies”. The Borough Council has subsequently responded and defended the approach it had taken.</p> <p>This correspondence had been circulated to members, who noted that it was perhaps symptomatic of the difficult relationship already arising between the parishes and RVBC following the decision of the Secretary of State not to call in the Borough Council’s decision of 16 March.</p>	
<p>14.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p>	<p>Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2023</p> <p><u>Entry for 2023 competition</u></p> <p>Since the last meeting, the Chair had been delighted to confirm to members by email that the village had successfully proceeded to the final of the Small Village class of the competition (the other finalist being Roughlee).</p> <p>Judging for the final round had been held on Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 August, with the results due to be announced at the awards ceremony to be held at Eaves Hall, West Bradford, on Wednesday 16 October 2023.</p> <p><u>Presentation of awards</u></p> <p>The Chair had confirmed that she usually attended the award ceremony, in conjunction with one of the several volunteers who had assisted in recent weeks with preparations for the judging. (The Chair had yet to determine who she would invite for the 2023 ceremony).</p>	
<p>15.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>i)</p>	<p>Public Rights of Way (PROWs)</p> <p><u>Footpath off Eccles Terrace</u></p> <p><u>Email correspondence – LCC</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, the Clerk had informed members that he had written to Steve Williams (a manager at LCC PROW team) and asked if Steve would be in a</p>	

	<p>position to encourage his member of staff (Geoff Leneveson) to confirm LCC's intentions with regard to this matter.</p> <p>As no response had been received, and the landowner had previously indicated his likely refusal of consent for a permissive path across his land, on 15 August the Chair had written to both LCC and PNFS setting out the current impasse and exhorting all parties to move towards a resolution.</p> <p>It would seem that PNFS was now once again indicating support for the erection of a footbridge, and LCC had not ruled out repairing the stepping stones. However, given the multiple agencies involved, the Chair remained keen for PNFS and LCC to communicate directly with each other on this issue.</p> <p>Resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This matter would be revisited at the October meeting; Clerk to diary • If no progress has been made by the October meeting, options to encourage dialogue between LCC and PNFS would be discussed <p>ii) <u>Proposed information board at the entrance to the woodland at Buck Street</u></p> <p>The Parish Council awaited further information from the Woodland Trust on this matter.</p> <p>b) <u>Footpath FP0321047 - rotted stile</u></p> <p>The Clerk continued to await a response from LCC confirming whether a kissing gate could be provided here, and at what cost.</p> <p>c) <u>Footpath FP0321045 – rotted stile</u></p> <p>The landowner had confirmed to the Chair that he had received the Parish Council's request to repair the stile, but had not yet had the opportunity to address the problem.</p>	Clerk
16.	<p>Allotments</p> <p>a) <u>Lead Member – allotments</u></p> <p>With the agreement of Cllr Bramwell, the Clerk had arranged for the proposed meeting with allotment tenants to take place at 7.30pm on 25 September 2023, at the Pavilion. The meeting would be chaired by Cllr Bramwell and members noted the suggested format of the agenda. Invitations had been sent out today and so far two tenants had confirmed their attendance.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to arrange for payment of the £18 cost of room hire for the meeting</p> <p>b) <u>Tenancy – Plot 1</u></p> <p>Following a further complaint by the tenant of Plot 1 regarding the continuing presence of items left behind by the previous occupant, Cllr Walsh and her</p>	Clerk

	<p>husband had visited the plot on 5 August and disposed of a number of items. However, it had not proved possible to remove some of the items present, eg 3 wooden fence stakes (due to their length) and a blue plastic barrel (containing effluent). These remaining items had been inspected by Cllr Bramwell and the Clerk during a visit on 23 August, and had not been considered to pose a major ongoing problem. It was felt that the items could be offered to other tenants for use on the allotment during the proposed tenants meeting.</p> <p>Resolved Members thanked Cllr Walsh for her efforts, and noted the proposal as to how to deal with the remaining items</p>	
c)	<p><u>Tenancy – Plot 8</u></p> <p>After concerns had been raised about the condition of Plot 8, the Clerk had approached the tenant and received an assurance that he wished to retain the entirety of the plot and would cultivate it accordingly. As a result, the Clerk and Cllr Bramwell had held a site meeting with the tenant on 23 August, where the following matters had been agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the boundaries of the plot had been explored and agreed; • the tenant had committed to cutting back the overgrown vegetation in the coming weeks, so as to enable wider cultivation in the next growing season; and • the tenant was considering installation of a greenhouse but confirmed that he would not do so without prior discussion with Cllr Bramwell / the Clerk. 	
17.	<p>Update from Ward Councillor present</p> <p>None given.</p>	
18.	<p>Other meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>GRGC</u> – no feedback given • <u>Parish Councils’ Liaison Committee</u> – next meeting to be held on 14 September 2023 (Chair and Cllr Atkinson to attend) • <u>WASP</u> – next meeting to be held on October 2023 (Chair and Cllr Bramwell to attend) 	
19.	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>a) <u>Community Payback / Instant Action</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, the Clerk had reported that the Parish Council had received a letter from central government outlining its stance on Community Payback etc. In its letter, the government had stated its intention to provide further information / guidance on the above schemes in the near future, and members had been invited to consider whether they would wish to be involved in any future opportunities as they arise.</p>	

<p>b)</p>	<p>Discussion of this item at the August meeting had been deferred until September. Since then, the Chair had made an informal approach to the Restorative Justice team, enquiring whether it may be opportune for a team to clean and paint any of the three sets of metal railings located in the village. However, it would now appear that the Community Payback facility was not yet available to Lancashire police. Whilst the alternative approach of Restorative Justice was indeed available, this was largely a matter between the specific victim of a crime and its perpetrator, and would therefore not appear to be a matter in which the Parish Council would generally become involved.</p> <p><u>RVCAN</u></p> <p>The Parish Council had received an enquiry from RVCAN, which – following its successful People’s Summit – sought to better understand the provision of allotments and community gardens within the local community.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to RVCAN’s approach and give details of the allotment facilities provided.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to contact</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>20.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Bowland High School – warning sign for drivers</u></p> <p>The Chair had contacted a local resident with regard to the growth of vegetation on his land which obscured a school warning sign. However, the resident had pointed out that a more modern sign had now been erected near the Hydro Lodge, and it was agreed that - on this basis - the condition of the older sign was largely irrelevant.</p> <p><u>Rusting metal pole opposite the Hydro Lodge</u></p> <p>At the August meeting, Cllr Walsh had raised her concerns at the poor condition of a metal pole (to which a public footpath sign was affixed) and which now posed a risk to walkers. Cllr Walsh had provided the Clerk with photographs of the pole, and members noted that these had been forwarded by the Clerk to LCC PROW team on 6 August. As no response had been received, Cllr Wheeler offered to assess the state of the pole and see whether he would be able to replace it.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Wheeler to assess</p> <p><u>Blocked drain – East View</u></p> <p>The Chair had reported the blocked drain to LCC on 16 August; the matter had been ‘assessed and works identified and programmed’, although no remedial action had yet been taken by the County Council.</p>	<p>GW</p>

d)	<p><u>Bench funded by Parish Council</u></p> <p>The Chair had reported that the GRGC benches for use on the former cricket field had now been delivered, with a plaque installed on one of them in recognition of the Parish Council funding provided. The announcement of the benches' installation would be made by GRGC by email in due course.</p>	
21.	<p>Part 2 – specific agenda item</p> <p>Proposed bid to Rural Prosperity Fund</p> <p>Members had previously been made aware of the Rural Prosperity Fund (RPF), consisting of c£433k which RVBC had received from central government. The funding was intended to support projects in rural villages in line with the “levelling up” agenda, and it was important to note that the funding would be returned to central government if not spent within the next 24 months. Bids from parish councils for between £25-50k would be welcomed by around mid-October 2023.</p> <p>Whilst details around the funding and its application mechanism remained limited (pending a report to RVBC’s Policy and Finance Committee on 12 September), the Clerk outlined what information about funding criteria was available to members at the current time.</p> <p>In recent meetings, members had considered a number of possible funding bids which they now revisited. Two of these suggestions were considered to have particular merit:</p> <p>a) <u>Nature Recovery Network</u></p> <p>Although absent from the meeting, Cllr Haslam had circulated a brief note on the above proposal, which was intended to build upon the extensive network of footpaths (more than any other parish in Lancashire) situated within its borders.</p> <p>This project would tie into government priorities such as the Environment Bill (due to come into force later this year) and could potentially attract funding / sponsorship from bodies such as the Lancashire Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Members debated the proposal at length, and – whilst generally supportive of it – noted the risks of developing the parish as a tourist destination given the lack of supporting infrastructure (such as car parking, catering facilities etc) which modern visitors would expect from a tourist destination.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Haslam to continue to work up / circulate her proposals for further consideration</p> <p>b) <u>Creation of a permissive footpath from The Hey to Bowland High School</u></p> <p>Members noted that the traffic situation remained difficult term time, as had been illustrated in recent days when pupils returned after the summer break. This concern would only be compounded as the size of the school roll was due to</p>	MH

	<p>increase in future years, and the proposed footpath may have real benefits in alleviating congestion at peak time.</p> <p>However, it was noted that – although the school was the largest employer in the parish – there was little or no wider dialogue with the school management. Furthermore, were the proposed footpath to be the subject of a funding bid, the school’s support for the project would be a prerequisite. Access to data held by the school would also be required, eg the number of pupils from Grindleton (and therefore within walking distance) on the school roll.</p> <p>Even if the school did support a funding bid, it would still be necessary to establish the consent of the various landowners over whose land the path would cross.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Atkinson to approach senior managers at the school with a view to (i) seeking their potential support for a funding bid and (ii) better understanding whether they would be willing to engage in dialogue on other topics of mutual interest</p> <p>In addition, consideration was given to the creation of communal car parking spaces / electric charging points in the village. However, no suitable land could be identified, other than the former cricket field (whose future use had not yet been fully determined).</p> <p>It was suggested that GRGC could be consulted at an early stage during the bidding process, as again that body’s support for a bid would be important (and indeed, members of GRGC may have their own suggestions for bids which could be duly worked up).</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to update members on the process for submitting bids to RVBC as soon as further information became available</p>	<p>PA</p> <p>Clerk</p>
	<p>The next meeting of Grindleton Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 October 2023 at Grindleton Pavilion</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed by:		
	Date: 3.10.23	Cllr L Halley Chair