



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 on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at the Pavilion, Grindleton.

Members present:	Parish Cllr Lorraine Halley (Chair) Parish Cllr Glenn Wheeler 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
Members of the public present:	None

1.	Declarations of Interest a) Standing orders suspended Re minute item 3 below, Parish Cllr Atkinson declared an Other Registrable Interest as he had been a former employee of Bowland High School. Re minute 20b below, the Chair declared an Other Registrable Interest as she was working closely with the B4RN initiative. b) Standing orders resumed	
2.	Public Participation None	

3.	<p>Planning Application No: 3/2023/0274 - Laneside Barn, Grindleton Road, Grindleton BB7 4QH</p> <p>On 4 August 2023, planning application 3/2023/0274 (submitted by Millbrook Development Ltd) had been rejected by RVBC. As part of RVBC’s consultation process, the Parish Council had submitted its written comments opposing the proposed development. Representatives of the applicant (Judith Johnson and Thomas Johnson) had since requested an appearance before members of the Parish Council; their intended purpose was to meet with parish councillors and listen to / discuss members’ concerns relating to the proposed development of Laneside Barn. Unfortunately, the applicants had been unable to attend the Parish Council meeting at short notice, and members noted that the applicants had instead indicated their intention to be in further communication with the Parish Council during the new year.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes / matters arising</p> <p>a) <u>Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 October 2023</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2023 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Wheeler Seconded by: Cllr Walsh</p> <p>Resolved The Chair was authorised to sign off the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2023, and it was agreed that the minutes of this meeting would be posted on the Parish Council website</p> <p>b) <u>Matters arising (not covered elsewhere on the agenda):</u></p> <p>i) <u>“Welcome to Grindleton” signage</u></p> <p>The Chair confirmed that she had now purchased a sign made of 3mm aluminium for £184 from JAF Graphics Ltd.</p> <p>ii) <u>Rum Fox – parking issues</u></p> <p>Following concerns previously expressed by a local resident, the Chair had identified appropriate signage provided online by DHF Products Ltd t/a Road Signs Direct; two signs could be purchased for around £98 + VAT, but minor amendments to the wording as advertised would be required. It had been agreed that the Chair would forward a link to the supplier’s website to Parish Cllr Wheeler, who would seek to establish whether the supplier could provide a bespoke sign suitable for use by the Parish Council.</p> <p>Resolved This matter would be pursued at a future meeting</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

iii)	<p><u>Youth initiative in Grindleton</u></p> <p>The Rural Youth Bus (operated by staff from LCC Youth Services) had visited Grindleton for the first time on 16 October. Generally, feedback from the initial event had been positive, although only two young people had attended the initial session. A couple of other boys had arrived late and did not feel able to approach the van, but the Chair had sought to address this by an email and was hopeful there would not be a repetition. The Chair continued to monitor attendance by young people, with a view to re-extending the invitation to West Bradford residents as appropriate.</p>
iv)	<p><u>Road markings</u></p> <p>As part of her efforts to support the WASP road safety initiative, the Chair had reported to LCC her concerns about a number of faded road markings and rumble strips on Grindleton Brow and Grindleton Road. LCC had subsequently confirmed that it had raised an order to refresh the rumble strips, as well as 'Slow' and junction markings, on both these roads; some of this work had now been carried out.</p>
v)	<p><u>Traffic incident – Bowland High School</u></p> <p>Two senior representatives (Ms Laura Fielden, Head Teacher, and Ms Helen Dakin, Operations Manager) of Bowland High School had attended the October meeting. One of the purposes of this attendance had been to improve channels of communication between the Parish Council and the School.</p> <p>On 31 October, the Chair had received a message of concern from a resident on Sawley Road, suggesting that – on the morning of the 31st - construction traffic travelling to Bowland High School had caused a traffic jam. This was attributed to the pupil transport buses leaving the school at the same time as a cement lorry had arrived. The Chair had reported this incident to the school the same day. Helen Dakin had immediately raised the matter with the contractor’s site manager, who surmised that the problem had stemmed from a delivery of concrete (over which the contractor had little control and which needed to be laid immediately on receipt). Apologies had been received later that day from both the school and the contractor (Turner’s of Preston). It was understood that the complainant had been reassured by the overall response to the incident, although the complainant’s general concerns about school traffic still remained.</p> <p>Members noted that on 2 November, the contractor had circulated a letter confirming key dates for future activity and setting out the company’s intention to work with the community. The letter helpfully provided contact details for the Contracts Manager (Anthony Price, 07768 206013).</p> <p>Cllr Atkinson commented that – with regard to school construction projects - in his experience the school did have a traffic management policy in place and took their responsibilities to the community seriously. However, the attendance of a large</p>

	vehicle such as a cement lorry in such circumstances was always going to be challenging.	
5.	<p>Overview of financial position</p> <p>a) <u>Monthly accounts – October 2023</u></p> <p>The Clerk presented details of income and expenditure for the month of October 2023 for approval by the Parish Council and signing-off by the acting Chair.</p> <p>Resolved That the record for October 2023 as presented would be signed off</p> <p>b) <u>Precept 2024/25</u></p> <p>The Parish Council had been asked to officially advise RVBC of its requested precept for 2024/25 by Friday 22 December 2023. In order to encourage discussion, the Clerk had prepared a document outlining options available to members in setting the 2024/25 precept. These included a range of increases from 0% to 10%.</p> <p>When considering the range of options proposed, members noted that the current national financial situation remained exceptionally gloomy, with the Financial Statement due on 22 November being likely to reflect this. In addition, the rate of inflation (as calculated under the Consumer Price Index) remained high, having risen by 6.7% in the 12 months to September 2023.</p> <p>After lengthy deliberation, during which a number of possible increases were considered, members supported Cllr Bramwell’s proposal that a rise of 7.5% would be sought. Whilst reluctant to add to the financial burdens of residents at a difficult economic time, members noted that a 7.5% increase to the precept would result in payments rising by only £1.70 (to £26.42) for each of the 358 Band D households in the parish.</p> <p>Resolved Members agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raise the precept for 2024/25 by 7.5%, from £8800 to £9460 (an increase of £660; • authorise the Chair and Clerk to sign the documentation provided by RVBC accordingly; and • ask the Clerk to forward the completed documentation to RVBC by the stated deadline of Friday 22 December 2023. <p>c) <u>United Trust (UT) Bank:</u></p> <p>i) <u>Transfer of funds to the UT deposit account</u></p> <p>A letter had now been received from UT, confirming that the transfer of £10,000 into the Parish Council’s savings account had been completed.</p>	LH / Clerk Clerk

ii)	<p><u>Savings account – interest received</u></p> <p>Members had previously requested that the Clerk provide an update, on a six-monthly basis, on the reserves held in the UT Bank savings account. The Clerk now confirmed that – as of 31 October, when the recent £10,000 transfer had just been concluded – the total amount in the account was £20,689.36.</p> <p>Members were pleased to learn that, of this sum, £371.02 had been paid in interest (the current rate being 4.25%).</p>	
iii)	<p><u>Depositor Protection - Financial Services Compensation Scheme Eligibility</u></p> <p>The Clerk had been asked to confirm by UT Bank that the Parish Council remained a “small local authority” (ie with an annual budget of up to €500,000) so as to continue to benefit from protection under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). This confirmation had been sent to UT Bank on 1 November.</p> <p>Members to note</p>	
d)	<p><u>RVBC funding:</u></p>	
i)	<p><u>Xmas lights – grant application</u></p> <p>In March 2023, the Parish Council had submitted an application to RVBC, seeking a contribution to the recent purchase of Xmas tree lights (at a cost to the Parish Council of £198.98). At the October meeting, it had been agreed that the Clerk would contact RVBC in mid-October to see if a grant had been awarded. However, prior to him doing so, RVBC had emailed the Clerk and advised that the deadline for grant applications had been extended to the end of October.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to contact RVBC for an update prior to the December meeting</p>	Clerk
e)	<p><u>Lengthsman</u></p> <p>Members noted that the Lengthsman had now submitted a timesheet to accompany his £60 salary claim for September 2023. The claim had been paid accordingly.</p> <p>Cllr Walsh confirmed that she continued to monitor the Lengthsman’s salary claims, and noted that the claim for September 2022 had been considerably higher at £255.</p>	
f)	<p><u>New password required – Lloyds Bank; possible new signatory</u></p> <p>In mid-October, Cllr Wheeler had indicated that – in attempting to authorise payments from the Parish Council’s current account – he had been advised by Lloyds that a new password was required. The Clerk had subsequently received the relevant forms, which had been passed to the signatories for completion.</p> <p>(cont)</p>	

	<p>The Chair invited members to consider whether they wished to appoint another member as a fourth signatory to the Lloyds Bank account, in order to allow greater flexibility / continuity in signing off payments. Cllr Haslam agreed to act in this role.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to seek online authorisation from Lloyds for Cllr Haslam to act as a fourth signatory</p>	<p>Chair</p>
6.	<p>External audit arrangements for 2023/24 - information from LALC</p> <p>LALC had circulated information regarding the need for parish councils to provide a dedicated email account; ideally this would be a .gov.uk or .org.uk address, or could be an address linked to the council website. Failure to comply with this “urgent” requirement would oblige the Parish Council to declare a non-compliance with the relevant provision of the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the email address used on the Grindleton Parish Council website (through which residents could contact the Parish Council) was currently the Clerk’s own personal email address, which he tended to use for parish council business. In discussing the issue, members noted that the Clerk’s email address was clearly linked to the Parish Council website, and was therefore seemingly compliant with the criteria as stipulated above. However, it was commented that – at the recent training course on the Code of Conduct presented by RVBC – borough council officers had been keen for a .gov.uk email address to be used by parish councils. It was therefore appropriate for the Clerk to contact RVBC and seek their guidance as to how a .gov.uk email address could be acquired, and at what cost.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to undertake further research and report back to the December meeting for further discussion</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
7.	<p>Updating of GPC website</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the contact details for Parish Cllr Brennan had now been added to the updated Parish Council website. Thanks also went to the Chair and Graham Cooper for their assistance in this regard.</p> <p>In considering the website, members agreed that it would be beneficial for photographs of all serving parish councillors to be displayed.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to contact Graham Cooper and advise him of this intention All members to take a passport-sized photograph and submit to the Clerk for collation On receipt, Clerk to send all photographs to Graham Cooper for display on the Parish Council website</p>	<p>Clerk All Clerk</p>

8.	<p>Member training</p> <p>a) <u>New Councillors and Clerks - a whistle stop tour of powers and responsibilities</u></p> <p>i) <u>Existing booking</u></p> <p>Cllrs Atkinson, Haslam and Walsh had attended this course, held by Zoom on Monday 23 October 2023. The consensus was that the course content had been valuable, although the excessive length of the session (and lack of interactive involvement) had to some extent detracted from this.</p> <p>ii) <u>Proposed booking</u></p> <p>It was noted that, as a newly co-opted member, it may be advisable for Parish Councillor Brennan to attend a forthcoming session of the LALC course for new councillors and Clerks. The Clerk reported that the LALC website now confirmed the following new dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 24/01/2024 (7-9pm); and • Tuesday 19/03/2024 (7-9pm). <p>Resolved Cllr Brennan to advise the Clerk of his possible availability</p> <p>b) <u>Code of Conduct training provided by RVBC</u></p> <p>i) <u>Member attendance</u></p> <p>Following an invitation from RVBC, the Clerk had reserved a number of places on the training courses available:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="284 1294 1262 1592"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of training</th> <th>GPC attendance</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>20 September 6-8pm</td> <td>Chair</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5 October 9-11am</td> <td>Clerk</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 October 2-4pm</td> <td>Cllrs Haslam, Walsh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Further date tbc in November</td> <td>Cllrs Atkinson and Brennan would prefer to attend on a date to be arranged in November, though no date had yet been set</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>With regard to the course held on 26 October, Cllr Walsh reported that the course had been valuable in that it had covered a number of relevant topics such as (i) actions likely to be seen as bringing a council into disrepute; (ii) the correct completion of documentation associated with the role of parish councillor; and (iii) practical issues such as to how to respond to the filming of meetings.</p>	Date of training	GPC attendance	20 September 6-8pm	Chair	5 October 9-11am	Clerk	26 October 2-4pm	Cllrs Haslam, Walsh	Further date tbc in November	Cllrs Atkinson and Brennan would prefer to attend on a date to be arranged in November, though no date had yet been set	CB
Date of training	GPC attendance											
20 September 6-8pm	Chair											
5 October 9-11am	Clerk											
26 October 2-4pm	Cllrs Haslam, Walsh											
Further date tbc in November	Cllrs Atkinson and Brennan would prefer to attend on a date to be arranged in November, though no date had yet been set											

ii)	<p><u>Revised guidance compiled by the Clerk</u></p> <p>As a result of his attendance on the training course held on 5 October, the Clerk had updated the guidance which he attached to section 2 of each agenda (declarations of interest). This revised document was made available for members' consideration.</p> <p>Resolved Members agreed to approve the revised guidance note for inclusion on each agenda for future meetings Clerk to action</p>	Clerk
9.	<p>Improving Parish Council effectiveness</p> <p>a) <u>Shared document storage</u></p> <p>i) <u>Recent progress</u></p> <p>At the September meeting, members had continued their discussion on the topic of how best to share files / provide all parish councillors with access to key documents. It had been agreed that the Chair would make enquiries with LALC and other bodies to see what facility they used. The Chair now confirmed that she had approached a number of bodies, including Waddington Parish Council; Chatburn Parish Council; Bolton by Bowland Parish Council; and LALC. Only LALC had responded to date, suggesting a number of possible options (some of which had already been considered and discounted). Members again discussed the various options at length, along with some of the obstacles to a way forward (cost, version control etc).</p> <p>Resolved Clr Brennan to consider possible options (such as Dropbox) and report to a future meeting</p> <p>ii) <u>Footpaths</u></p> <p>The Clerk had taken possession of a spreadsheet, compiled by the previous Clerk, which served as a record of footpath concerns. Photographic evidence supporting entries on the spreadsheet was retained separately by the Clerk in correspondingly numbered folders.</p> <p>Ultimately, it was intended that the spreadsheet / photographs would be placed in a library of documents accessible to all members (see minute item 9ai above) once the shared facility was up and running. In the interim, it was 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 update the master copy of the spreadsheet as required. 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.</p>	CB

<p>10.</p> <p>a)</p> <p>i)</p> <p>ii)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>11.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Planning applications to be considered</p> <p>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</p> <p><u>Letter to applicant</u></p> <p>At the September meeting, members had noted that the above application had been refused by RVBC. An approach had subsequently been received from the applicant seeking the Parish Council's support with regard to an intended appeal, but – after due deliberation – members did not feel able to support the applicant as he had requested. Accordingly, the Clerk had conveyed the Parish Council's stance to the applicant in writing, and a copy of the letter was put before members for their information.</p> <p><u>Solar Panels - website</u></p> <p>At previous meetings, members had agreed that – in the interests of transparency - a summary of their stance on the use of solar panels should be displayed on the website. In early October, the Clerk had liaised with the administrator of the Parish Council website (Graham Cooper) and arranged for appropriate text to be displayed. In the course of this exercise, it was noted that much of the content of this page of the website was out of date (eg information about Covid and potholes), and the Clerk had worked with Graham to correct this.</p> <p>The updated page can be viewed via the link below:</p> <p>http://www.grindleton.org/parish_council.html#pc_announcements</p> <p>Planning Application No: 3/2023/0848 Proposal: Advertisement consent for proposed installation of a lectern-style notice board Location: Land between Greendale Mill and Duck House Farm, Buck Street Grindleton BB7 4QR</p> <p>Members considered this application, details of which had only been received and circulated that day. It was considered that the proposed location for erection of the notice board was not the most appropriate, and it would attract more interest if it were to be positioned at the gate closest to the Duke of York. This view had already been communicated to the applicant, who was considering an amendment to the original application. Otherwise, members had no objection to the application and no submission to RVBC was required.</p> <p>Haweswater Aqueduct Resilience Programme (HARP)</p> <p><u>Planning application 3/2021/0661</u></p> <p>On 7 November, the Clerk had circulated a HARP newsletter dated 1 November. The text of the newsletter was informative, confirming that the timescale for commencement of activity was likely to be longer than previously understood.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>The appointment of the contractor would take around 12 months, and – once commissioned – the contractor would need to spend several months working out how best to comply with the planning conditions imposed by RVBC. As a result, other than preparatory work, no site activity was expected to begin before 2025.</p> <p>Cllr Horkin referred to the anticipated delay in commencement of activity, and requested that a copy of the newsletter be sent to him by the Clerk.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk to action</p>	Clerk
<p>12.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition 2023</p> <p><u>Presentation of awards</u></p> <p>The awards ceremony for the competition had been held at Eaves Hall on 16 October 2023. As a result, the Chair was delighted to report the following successes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Village category 2023 – Overall Winner (8 entrants) • Best public building: The Pavilion - Highly Commended (24 entries) • Best sheltered accommodation: The Alms Houses - Highly commended • Best public playing field: Football field - 4th (17 entries) • Best children's play area - 6th (19 entries) • Best public house: Rum Fox - 7th (31 entries) <p>Members congratulated the Chair on her considerable personal investment in this successful project, which was of genuine benefit to the village as a whole.</p> <p>Members considered the judges’ feedback subsequently provided and (whilst some of it was felt to be contradictory) were generally happy with the constructive and positive nature of most of the comments.</p> <p>The Chair had now sent out a number of thank you messages by email to interested parties such as St Ambrose Church and Grindleton Primary School, as well as informing village residents via Facebook, village email, noticeboard and 4 tub monitors. The relevant page of the Parish Council’s website had also been updated to reflect the village’s success in this year’s competition.</p>	
<p>13.</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 October meeting, members had expressed their frustration at their inability to find a workable solution to the long-running issue of the unsafe stepping stones across Grindleton Brook. As a result, the Clerk had been asked to approach Geoff Leneveson (PROW officer at LCC) and see whether LCC would still be willing to simply repair the stepping stones and restore them to a safe condition for ramblers to use. However, no response to the Clerk’s email had been received,</p>	

	<p>and as result it was agreed that no further resource should be put into progressing this issue unless circumstances changed in future.</p> <p>b) <u>Footpath FP0321045 – rotted stile</u></p> <p>It had previously been noted that – whilst the landowner had now completed repairs to the stile - he was researching the availability of grant funds to support this work. However, no further update was available.</p> <p>c) <u>Finger posts</u></p> <p>At the October meeting, the Clerk had confirmed that he had taken possession of two wooden finger posts provided by LCC for the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one of the posts had been previously requested by the Chair for Eccles Terrace; and • the other was to replace the corroded metal post near the Hydro Lodge (a concern raised by Cllr Walsh). <p>It had been agreed that the Clerk would contact Cllr Wheeler and arrange for him to collect them from the Clerk prior to installation. Unfortunately, the Clerk had not yet had the opportunity to approach Cllr Wheeler in this regard.</p> <p>Resolved Clerk / Cllr Wheeler to arrange for handover in due course</p>	<p>Clerk / GW</p>
<p>14.</p> <p>a)</p>	<p>Allotments</p> <p><u>Tenants’ meeting</u></p> <p>Following the successful inaugural tenants’ meeting held on 25 September, and as agreed at the September meeting of the Parish Council, Cllr Bramwell had carried out a further visit to the allotment site. Cllr Bramwell presented a summary of his findings to members. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the tenant of Plot 8 should be particularly commended for his work in restoring a previously-overgrown plot to a manageable condition; and • a request had been received from the tenant of plot 4 for the erection of a shed to be positioned next to his greenhouse. It was believed that the tenant had made a similar request some years ago, and had been advised that a small tool shed would be appropriate but a large storage shed would not. <p>Resolved Clerk to try and locate any previous correspondence on this issue, before liaising with Cllr Bramwell to draft a response to the request</p> <p>It was noted that a number of matters discussed at the tenants’ meeting in September still needed to be addressed. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements to switch off the water supply in winter / lag the tap were required; 	<p>Clerk / TB</p>

<p>b)</p>	<p>Resolved Clerk/Cllr Bramwell to explore location of stopcock with Keith Hutton Cllr Walsh to provide lagging for any pipework above ground</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fencing arrangements are to be reviewed around the slope as the land falls towards the sub-station (plot 8); and the gate at the mains entrance has lost its skirt, thereby giving ease of access to dogs and wildlife. <p>Resolved Cllr Bramwell to ask Keith Hutton to quote for the cost of undertaking this repair</p> <p><u>Pest issues</u></p> <p>In early October, a complaint had been received from a local resident who had seen a rat in one of the gardens of the flats and attributed this to an allegedly unkempt allotment plot.</p> <p>In responding to the complainant, it had been the collective view of the Chair and Cllr Bramwell that this was a private matter (which the complainant may wish to address through some form of pest control) but it was not otherwise a matter for which the Parish Council bore responsibility.</p>	<p>Clerk/ TB SW</p> <p>TB</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Rural Prosperity Fund (RPF)</p> <p>At the October meeting, members had discussed the relevant application form and agreed that ideally two funding bids would be submitted on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Nature Recovery Network; and b) Permissive footpath (the Pavilion to The Hay). <p>With regard to a) above, Cllr Haslam stated that her proposal sought to make the most of the parish's privileged status as having the greatest number footpaths in Lancashire. Cllr Haslam envisaged the establishment of a digital map, akin to a heritage trail, which visitors to the could follow and enjoy the wildlife.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to share her existing digital map with Cllr Haslam</p> <p>It was commented that any need for the project to expand / repair the existing path network would be hampered by a lack of ownership of the land on which the paths were situated.</p> <p>Resolved Cllr Haslam to give further thought to her proposal</p> <p>With regard to b), Cllr Atkinson confirmed that – as requested – he had given some thought to the proposed bid and the potential completion of an Expression of Interest form. He commented that establishment of a permissive path of c900m length would potentially cost around £45,000. Members discussed the item at length, identifying strengths and weaknesses in the proposal:</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>MH</p>

	<p><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the path would benefit not just pupils at Bowland High School but also the wider village <p><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> if access to the path were to be available all year round, the installation of lighting (at considerable expense) would be required ancillary costs (such as a survey for utilities) would need to be factored in to any funding bid if the Parish Council were to seek funding on a “matched” basis, the anticipated capital costs would oblige the Parish Council to fund half of a cost that could easily exceed £50,000 – and the sum £25,000 would prove a major challenge for the Parish Council to find <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Atkinson for his efforts and offered to make enquiries to establish how the permissive path up Grindleton Brow had been costed.</p> <p>Resolved Chair to make enquiries and advise Cllr Atkinson</p> <p>Cllr Horkin pointed out that time was against the Parish Council as a number of funding bids had already been made to RVBC, some of which were substantial. Further guidance on any intended bid could be sought from RVBC officers, Nicola Hopkins (Director of Planning and Economic Development) being the initial point of contact. The next meeting of the Policy and Finance Committee was in January 2024, so any bid would need to be presented to RVBC by this time.</p>	Chair
16.	<p>Forthcoming events</p> <p>a) <u>Remembrance Sunday</u></p> <p>Members noted that this year Remembrance Sunday would fall on 12 November 2023. Arrangements for this had been discussed at the October meeting, when the Chair had asked for volunteers to attend the village service as a representative of the Parish Council. Cllr Bramwell had now offered to lay the wreath at the event. (The Chair had acquired a wreath – at a cost of £19.99 - from the Royal British Legion representative, Mandy Brennan). Cllr Brennan was to perform the Last Post on his trumpet at the ceremony.</p> <p>b) <u>Xmas lights switch-on</u></p> <p>Once again, the Chair talked through the draft Action Plan compiled with the assistance of the Clerk. After a lengthy discussion, it was concluded that in general terms preparations were well on track. However, the following actions still needed to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> more battery-powered LED lights were to be acquired for display on the bridge (Chair to purchase); and 	Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • after a lengthy discussion on how best to ensure that any provisions provided were only consumed by village residents, it was agreed that a ticketing mechanism would prove too complicated and instead the food / drink would simply be left on display. <p>In addition, the following members agreed to undertake certain tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs Atkinson, Haslam and Walsh would undertake traffic control duties at the various entrances to the village; • Cllr Walsh's husband would ensure that the cones were delivered to the Cherry Trees on the Thursday night; and • Cllr Haslam would assist in cone distribution if required. <p>Resolved Clerk to update Action Plan</p> <p>c) <u>80th anniversary of D-Day – 6 June 2024</u></p> <p>At the October meeting, members had agreed to participate in what was an important national event. Since then, the Chair had agreed with GRGC that (i) the former village cricket field could be used to host the event and (ii) the Parish Council's beacon (currently stored on the cricket field site) could remain there pending the event in summer 2024. Unfortunately the beacon had been moved since the last meeting, but GRGC had been advised that the Parish Council still intended to use it and would house it elsewhere if necessary.</p>	<p>PA/M H/SW SW</p> <p>MH</p> <p>Clerk</p>
17.	<p>Update from Ward Councillor</p> <p>In addition to his comments recorded elsewhere in these minutes, Cllr Horkin reported that the pre-Xmas period tended to be a quiet one for the Borough Council. However, work was underway to compile the draft budget for 2024/25, with the expectation that fees for Council services would be set to rise by around 4%.</p>	
18.	<p>Other meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>GRGC</u> – next meeting 15 November (Cllr Wheeler to attend); • <u>Parish Councils' Liaison Committee</u> – next meeting 9 November, at 6.30pm in the Council Chamber. (Chair and Cllr Atkinson to attend). There will be a short presentation from the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and a representative from the Little Green Bus organisation who will give an overview of the support and services that they provide; • <u>WASP</u> – the next meeting was due to have been held in October 2023 (with the Chair and Cllr Bramwell to attend), but no date had yet been fixed. The delay was due to the failure of other parishes to provide the information requested by the Chair of WASP (Grindleton having been the first to send its information in); and 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>RVCAN</u> – a meeting had been held on 25 October at Knowle Green Village Hall (no representative from Grindleton PV had been available to attend). 	
19.	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>a) <u>Blocked drains</u></p> <p>Following heavy rain on 5-6 October, the Chair and Clerk had received correspondence from the Parish Council’s former Chair, Keith Hutton, outlining the potential flooding risk arising from blocked drains around the village. When previously associated with the Parish Council, Keith had routinely undertaken work to keep the drains clear, an issue he highlighted in his correspondence.</p> <p>Cllrs Brennan and Walsh had undertaken to contact Keith and meet with him, with a view to gaining a better understanding of the work required.</p> <p>Resolved Cllrs Brennan and Walsh to meet with Keith</p> <p>Members discussed what action should be taken if any of the drains in question were found to be on an unadopted highway (as any work undertaken in such circumstances could leave the Parish Council open to potential legal liability). It was agreed that this issue would be revisited once the meeting with Keith had taken place.</p> <p>b) <u>Invitation to attend the 79th Annual General Meeting of LALC</u></p> <p>This meeting had been held on Saturday 4th November 2022 at County Hall, Preston. No representative of Grindleton PC had been available to attend.</p> <p>c) <u>PNFS – renewal of membership</u></p> <p>The Clerk had received correspondence from the Peak and Northern Footpaths Society, indicating that its current membership would expire within the next 3 months. The precise cost of renewal was unclear, in that the fee for an “individual” (with the renewal form suggesting that GPC’s current membership is on this basis) was £16pa, whereas for an “affiliated club” for fee is £22.50.</p> <p>Resolved Members agreed to renew the Parish Council’s membership and to ask the Clerk to clarify the basis on which the fee should be paid</p> <p>d) <u>RVBC Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)</u></p> <p>RVBC was seeking to better understand the current and future provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities across the borough, and had commissioned a management consultancy to carry out a needs assessment. This would result in the production of an authority wide Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sports Strategy. The Parish Council had been invited to complete a short online survey in order to provide information on facilities currently in use in the parish. However, as the body responsible for management of the village’s sports facilities was GRGC, the</p>	<p>CB / SW</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	link to the survey had been passed by the Chair to that body for a response to be given.	
20.	<p>AOB</p> <p>a) <u>Maintenance of both noticeboards at the Cherry Trees</u></p> <p>Cllr Wheeler confirmed that he had been monitoring the condition of the notice boards in different weather conditions. The problem of dampness inside the notice board was due to a lack of ventilation, an issue exacerbated by the sealed doors, metal back and positioning of the housing. A number of possible solutions were considered, including (i) drilling holes in the frame (whilst preventing water ingress); (ii) fitting a solar-powered extractor and vent; and (iii) installing a small dehumidifier.</p> <p>Any of these potential solutions would present their own challenges, and it was agreed that Cllrs Wheeler and Brennan would give the matter further thought.</p> <p>Resolved Cllrs Wheeler and Brennan to pursue</p> <p>b) <u>Access to Facebook page</u></p> <p>At the October meeting, the Chair had reported on attempts to close down the existing Parish Council Facebook page. This had not yet been achieved, but Keith Hutton (whose personal details were required) had been sent instructions to bring this about. It was now proposed to establish a new page (to which existing subscribers could then migrate). It had been agreed that Cllr Wheeler would approach Sophie Stewart and see if she was willing to work with the Chair in this regard. The Chair had now undergone a training session with Sophie, and around 200 out of the 600 members had now migrated to the new page. The Chair and Cllr Wheeler were the administrators for the new page. Unfortunately, two instances of pornography had been discovered on the new page, but these had been dealt with and members considered whether to switch on the pre-approval facility.</p> <p>In view of Sophie's considerable support, the Parish Council had shown its gratitude in the form of a small gift.</p> <p>c) <u>B4RN</u></p> <p>Members noted that David Ryall of B4RN had held a public / consultation meeting at 7pm on 4 October 2023 in the Pavilion. The project seemed to be gathering momentum, in that 18% of village households had expressed an interest in participating. (The threshold to move to the next stage was 20%, and 50% for the scheme to come to fruition). All relevant landowners had been identified and permission to lay cable across their land was being sought.</p>	GW / CB

d)	<u>Fly tipping</u> The Chair had reported to LCC a recent incident of fly tipping, whereby a number of white plastic sacks had been dumped just off the highway (meaning it was unclear whether LCC would remove them). Planters had also been abandoned nearby, but these had been left on private land and were therefore the responsibility for the landowner. This matter had also been reported to the police, and officers were monitoring the situation.	
e)	<u>Village tubs</u> The Chair had bought and planted winter plants in all village tubs, with the support of a new volunteer.	
f)	<u>Grindleton Support System</u> The Chair had established the support system, intended to counter loneliness and anxiety, during the Covid pandemic. The Vicar had played an important role in co-ordinating this facility. As World Mental Health Day had been held on 10 October 2023, the Chair had contacted the Vicar with a view to promoting the support system once more.	
g)	<u>Erosion of river bank</u> Cllr Walsh had been contacted by a resident expressing concern at the pace with which the bank of the River Ribble (at the bend on the northern bank heading towards Sawley) was being eroded. Members debated whether to bring this issue to the attention of key bodies such as the Environment Agency or River Ribble Trust, but noted that – when this action had been taken on previous occasions – members had been advised that the river bank should be left to be naturalised.	
The next meeting of Grindleton Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 2 January 2024 [date TBC] at Grindleton Pavilion		

The meeting closed at 10.29pm.

Signed by:		
	Date: 5.12.23	Cllr L Halley Chair