



**WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE
MEETING HELD
ON 9 July 2026 AT
GOOSNARGH VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT

Cllr Michelle Woodburn – Chair
Cllr Anthony Eccles – Vice Chair
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Lauren Chattein
Cllr Barbara Clarke

Mr Mike Thorpe – Parish Clerk

Sue Ireland - Longridge Foodbank
Mick Marsh – Longridge Pumptrack
Miranda Randford – Longridge and Goosnargh Show
Denise Wolstenholme – Longridge Community Hospital Group
Zoe Barker – Road Safety Campaigner

26/27.55 APOLOGIES

It was noted that Councillor Price apologised for his absence.

26/27.56 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved - That the minutes of a meeting of the Council held on 18 June 2026 be signed as a true and correct record.

26/27.57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Eccles declared a personal interest in the following item as he acts a volunteer at the Community Foodbank. Whilst he remained in the meeting during discussion on the item, he took no part in the decision made thereon.

26/27.58 COMMUNITY FOODBANK – DONATION REQUEST

The Council considered a request from the Community Foodbank based at Longridge for financial assistance with the purchase of essential items that were not frequently donated.

Resolved – That a donation of £500 be made to the Community Foodbank based at Longridge.

26/27.59 LONGRIDGE PUMPTRACK GROUP – DONATION REQUEST

The Council considered a request from the Longridge Pumptrack Group for financial assistance towards the costs of organising a free community event at the site off Kestor Lane, Longridge. The event included several activities, and it was estimated that the total cost of the event will be £2800.

Resolved – That a donation of £300 be made to the Longridge Pumptrack Group to fund the grass track cycle racing activity/event.

26/27.60 LONGRIDGE AND GOOSNARGH SHOW – DONATION REQUEST

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The Council considered a request from the Show's Handicraft, Preserves and Craft Section for a donation towards its estimated expenses of £2488 at this year's event.

Resolved – That a donation of £500 be made to the Handicraft, Preserves and Crafts section of the Longridge and Goosnargh Show for 2026.

26/27.61 LONGRIDGE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL – WARD CLOSURE

Denise Wolstenholme, who established the Longridge Community Hospital Group protesting the closure of the in-patient ward at the hospital, attended the meeting and made a presentation on the campaign to reinstate the facility at the hospital. She explained that the ward had been relocated to Chorley Hospital in December 2025 following fire related safety concerns in relation to the building. The campaign group's aims are a full re-opening and restoration of in-patient services at Longridge Community Hospital and a clear timeline for resolving the fire safety concerns.

Resolved – (i) That the Council supports the work of the Group in raising awareness of concerns over the decision to temporary close the in-patient facility to the NHS Integrated Care Board which will decide its fate; and

(ii) – that Cllr Eccles be appointed to liaise between the Council and Group.

As Chair, Parish Councillor Michelle Woodburn declared a personal interest in the following item as she is a member of Goosnargh and Whittingham in Bloom Group. Whilst she remained in the meeting during discussion on the item, the Chair took no part in the decision taken thereon.

The Vice-Chair, Parish Councillor Anthony Eccles, took the Chair for the following item of business only.

26/27.62 GOOSNARGH & WHITTINGHAM IN BLOOM – DONATION

The Council were informed that the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition was not taking place in 2026, but a request had been received for a donation of £100 towards the purchase of a hedge trimmer for use by Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom Group.

Resolved – That a donation of £100 be made to the Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom Group towards the purchase of a hedge trimmer.

26/27.63 WHITTINGHAM LANE – ROAD SAFETY

The Council welcomed local road safety campaigner, Zoe Barker, to the meeting who provided an outline of her efforts to persuade the Highway Authority to introduce speed calming measures on Whittingham Lane which included an on-line petition to Lancashire County Council and a handwritten petition which she asked the Parish Council to receive and submit to Lancashire County Council in support.

Resolved – (i) That the Council accept the petition and plan for it to be forwarded to Lancashire County Council; and

(ii) – that the Council submit its own representations to Lancashire County Council in support of traffic calming measures on Whittingham Lane.

26/27.64 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present at this point of the meeting.

26/27.65 PARISH CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk submitted a report on various matters that had been brought to his attention since the last meeting.

Resolved - (i) that the report be noted;

(ii) that approval is given to the payment of £59.10 for the purchase of an inscribed commemorative plaque that was presented to former Councillor Dave Hall.

(iii) – that approval is given for the annual inspection of play equipment at Cumeragh Village Green to be undertaken by Play Inspection Company at a cost of £195 plus VAT.

(iv) – that approval is given to the renewal of the Council's membership of the Campaign to Protect Rural England at a cost of £36 for 2026/27.

26/27.66 CIL BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

It was reported that:

- The first quote for the replacement of play equipment at Goosnargh Village Green had been received by Preston City Council that morning.
- Preston City Council had confirmed work will commence on the Teens Play Area at Goosnargh Village Green the week commencing 20 July 2026.

26/27.67 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Clerk presented the following financial statements to the Council:

- Bank reconciliation statements as at 30 June 2026
- Lists of payments in June 2026
- Lists of receipts in June 2026
- Summary of Expenditure and Income from April to June 2026.

Resolved – That the reports be noted.

26/27.68 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications as part of the consultation process by Preston City Council:

- Application No. 06/2026/0555 – Mayfield, 810 Whittingham Lane – Single story rear extension following partial demolition of garage and demolition of existing conservatory.
- Application No. 06/2026/0586 – Civil Aviation Authority, Whittingham Lane – Four detached dwellings and integral garages, and associated works (pursuant to 06/2024/0875 to seek variation of condition no. 1 approved plans).

Resolved – That no comments be made.

26/27.69 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY POLICY 2026

The Council considered amendments to its IT Policy.

Resolved – That the amendments be approved and IT Policy 2026 be adopted.

26/27.70 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

The Council considered a draft policy for the consideration of requests for financial assistance.

Resolved – That a Community Grants Application Policy 2026, as submitted, be adopted.

26/27.71 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

The Council considered a new format for its newsletter which was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved – That the new format of the newsletter, as circulated, be accepted.

26/27.72 PARISH VACANCY

Resolved – Applicants be invited to attend to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Council to present their application.

26/27.73 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting is be held on Thursday 10 September 2026 at Goosnargh Village Hall commencing at 19:15.