



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Agenda for Thursday 12th Feb 2026 at 7.15pm

in Goosnargh Village Hall – downstairs

1. APOLOGIES

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the Council meeting held on 8th Jan 2026. The Chairman is required to sign the attached Minutes as a true record.

3. TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any interests in respect of matters contained in the agenda noting that there may be statutory restrictions on the right to participate and vote on that matter – see Standing Order 2023 (13)

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Invitations to attend the meeting have been sent to the Police, County and City Councillors.

Members are requested to **note** that PS Weronica Wallis has moved on to a new role. Her replacement is PS Suze Harvey. The rest of the Neighbourhood Policing Team remains unchanged.

Members of the public wishing to raise matters in accordance with Standing Order 2023 (3e & g) should raise them here. This is a time limited session at the discretion of the Chairman.

NOTE: The Council cannot make a decision or support a scheme unless the matter has been included on the agenda.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 31st Jan 2026

The Chairman is requested to verify that the monthly finance statement has been reconciled against the bank statements.

6. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

Members are required to note and approve the following invoices already paid following the January meeting.

Lengthsman – January Invoice	Mark Cornforth	£576.00	Ref 134
Autumn / Winter Newsletter printing	Preston City	£200.75	Ref 135
Dog bags invoice	JRB Enterprise	£130.26	Ref 136

Members are required to approve the following invoices to be paid

Electric Bill	E-On	£21.91	DD
Clerk Salary Feb	J Buttle	£1,627.08	BACs
PAYE	HMRC	£231.29	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£224.57	BACs
Nest Pension	NEST	£97.65	DD

7. TRAINING COURSE

Cllr Eccles has requested to attend a LALC course “Improve your knowledge of the Planning System” on the 18th March at 7.00pm.

Members are requested to approve the £35 training course fee.

8. MARKETING STRATEGY

When considering the Autumn / Winter Newsletter, Members resolved that Cllr Chattein would use her marketing skills to redesign and refresh the Newsletter format. MIN 25/26.106c.

To progress this, Cllr Chattein emailed a draft Marketing Strategy to Members prior to the January meeting. She ran through some of the strategic objectives, which resulted in Members resolving to include £5,000 in the 2026/27 budget to cover the costs detailed in the Strategy. MIN 25/26.119a.

The Strategy sets out the Council's ambition to make the Parish Council more visible, approachable and better understood, however, the detail of the Strategy was not covered at the January meeting as the primary objective was to agree the budget and the 2026/27 Precept.

Members are requested to consider and approve the Marketing Strategy which will sit alongside the Parish Plan Vision which helps to inform the direction of the Council.

9. CIL FINANCE PLAN

There have been no CIL income or expenditure transactions, so the CIL Finance Plan remains as presented to the January meeting with a balance of £624,685.

NEW CIL FINANCE REQUEST

As mentioned at the end of the January meeting, Longridge Town Council have requested that Members make a financial contribution towards infrastructure works recently undertaken in Longridge. Attached is a full explanation of their request which amounts to £140.00.

Members are requested to consider the information and confirm if the amount should be paid from CIL.

10. CIL BUSINESS PLAN – Updates

Gym Equipment & Play Ground Equipment.

Further to MIN 122 and MIN 123 of the January meeting, the Clerk and Cllr Eccles have arranged to meet Preston City Council to follow up on the initial meeting held in Dec 2024. A verbal update will be given.

Beacon Drive Memorial Garden & Christmas Tree

Members indicated that they wish to enhance and redesign the area around the Memorial at Beacon Drive including the permanent positioning of the Tommy Statues, however no design ideas have come forward.

Land to the left of the Memorial is currently used to site the Parish Christmas Tree, the cost of which increased significantly in 2025. Under MIN 25/26.86 Members resolved to source quotes from new suppliers for 2026/27 and following a grant request for a Christmas tree to be located at Cumeragh, it was suggested that the Christmas tree provision should also be reviewed.

As both projects can be progressed through the new marketing strategy, they will be passed on to the replacement Clerk in April / May.

Scout Hut

The Scouts have advised that Preston City Council have issued some positive pre-application advice in respect of the site for the proposed scout hut. Discussions are ongoing with the land owners. A letter has been issued suggesting a meeting in March.

A further update will be provided in April / May.

CIL BUSINESS PLAN – Items requiring decisions

a) Woodland walk

The January Minutes confirm that the Clerk has been trying to arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss how the Woodland Walk can be used to improve pedestrian access to the new school in the hope that a joint approach will persuade Homes England to reassess the land valuation.

It was established that LCC are using a firm of consultants (MAKE NW) to develop the access plans and the Clerk and Cllr Eccles met their representative on the 30th Jan.

Following the meeting, MAKE NW drew up a Business Case to present to Homes England requesting that the land is released at a peppercorn cost. After emailing the Business Case to Members for approval, it was sent to Homes England for consideration and a copy of their response is attached.

The Clerk forwarded the reply to MAKE NW who have helped draft the attached reply.

Members are requested to consider the attached information and advise if they wish to

- a) issue the draft reply**
- b) request a reduction of £5,868 to reflect the remedial works quoted by Greenbanks**
- c) proceed with the purchase as valued**
- d) not progress the project**

b) Cumeragh Drainage / play tower.

Members are reminded that the Parish Council is responsible for the maintenance of Cumeragh play area, which includes a climbing tower with a bark surface which needs regular maintenance. Some time ago, it was proposed that CIL is used to lay a rubberised surface under the tower, however the project faltered due to poor drainage.

Cllr Eccles has been trying to resolve the problem and he has kept Members updated by email. His latest report confirms that LCC cleared the drain for a distance of 10m from the manhole at no cost and water is now flowing freely. However, as there is still some filter material being carried with the water, there is a concern that there is some localised damage / collapse to the land drain pipework underground.

The drainage specialist who has been assisting Cllr Eccles, suggests that a camera inspection is needed to understand and identify the problems. He has contacted a local supplier (A&D Drains) who have advised that they could carry out a Camera inspection and jet clean the drain at a cost of £400 plus VAT.

Cllr Eccles has proposed that the Council identifies and fixes the problem properly before money is invested in the new surface.

- 1) Members are requested to consider the proposal and if appropriate, confirm the use of A&D Drains to carry out the camera investigation.**
- 2) As the investigations are linked to the provision of new infrastructure, Members are also requested to confirm that the expense will be funded through CIL**

c) GATSO camera

For some time, the Council has been trying to get clear guidance on whether a GATSO enforcement camera (yellow box) can be installed in the Parish. After asking a question directly to the Police Crime Commissioner and the Director of Highways at the LCC conference, the Clerk has finally got the attached guidance from LCC which concludes, *if you could let me have a specific location that you are interested in, I will arrange for this to be checked against the criteria.*

Members are requested to note the criteria and advise the precise location to be checked.

d) Beacon Drive Vegetation

Members were informed that the vegetation at the side of the Memorial needs maintaining and due to the scale of the work, it falls outside the scope of the Parish Lengthsman.

MIN 25/26.95 of the Oct meeting confirms that Members resolved to allocate £500 towards the removal of the vegetation.

Millars have quoted £750 + VAT and Greenbanks have quoted £540 + VAT with an optional cost of £250 + VAT to replace the trees with rowans.

Cllr Eccles who has been working on the project with the Parish Lengthsman, has proposed that Greenbanks are used to carry out the work **and** supply and plant the replacement trees.

Members are requested to consider both aspects of the proposal.

11. ST JOHN'S CHURCH COMMUNITY PROJECT

Further to MIN 25/26.124 regarding the concern that parking arrangements were not being factored into the Feasibility Study, Cllr Price spoke to Buttress and they have agreed to scope the indicative parking requirements associated with the emerging options, including typical and peak use.

A verbal update will be given on progress with the Feasibility Study.

12. PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Members are requested to NOTE and approve the delegated representation attached.

06/2025/1305 two single storey extensions to rear, new garage & alterations to access at Fell View, Goosnargh Lane, Preston

13. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - CONSULTATION

Members will be aware that the Government is considering several options regarding which Councils should merge together to form the new Unitary Councils. The Government is running a statutory consultation on all five proposals to gather views from residents and stakeholders. Further details are available on this link <https://lancashirelgr.co.uk/>

Members are requested to consider if they wish to submit a Parish Council reply.

14. NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members may be requested to note any new correspondence received.

Langley Lane will be closed from its junction with Barton Lane to outside of 1 Ivy Cottages on 13/03/26 to enable overhead structure works to take place

15. CLERK VACANCY

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1, Members of the public may be requested to leave the meeting at this point as the following item relates to the conditions and appointment of a new Clerk.

Members are requested to consider the attached paper relating to the Clerk vacancy.

The paper includes

- a minor amendment to the Clerk's Job description,
- a proposal for the immediate purchase of a mobile phone for Council use only
- consideration of the purchase of additional IT equipment
- confirmation of the number of applicants
- agreement of the selection and interview process

Due to time constraints, it may be necessary to appoint a working group to meet separately to agree some or all of the above points.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled on **12th March 2026** at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

END