

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT – 10 SEPTEMBER 2026

Teen Play Area – Goosnargh Village Green

On 20 July 2026 the Council became aware of concerns raised by residents to the Teen Play area as the contractor arrived on site at Goosnargh Village Green. As a result, Preston City Council halted commencement of the works.

Correspondence has been received from residents claiming not to have known about the project. One resident has questioned the legality of the project and these matters are being addressed by the landowner, Preston City Council.

Whittingham & Goosnargh Sports and Social Club

Councillors Eccles and Price and I met with officials of the club on 22 July 2026 and received an informative presentation from Tony Dixon on the history of the club, and operational plans for the new club facility.

Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire

As you will be aware councils in Lancashire have been working with the Government to deliver Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Lancashire's County Council, two Unitary Authorities and 12 District Authorities are to be replaced by four new Unitary Authorities as shown below:

North – Lancaster, Preston and Ribble Valley

West – Fylde, Wyre and Blackpool

East – Blackburn with Darwen, Hyndburn, Rossendale, Pendle and Burnley

South – Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire

Work is now underway to plan and deliver the transition to the new arrangements. There will be no immediate change to how services are provided and each existing council will operate as it does now until 31 March 2028.

Elections to shadow councils are to be held in May 2027 and those elected are expected to oversee the preparatory work for the new authorities. Despite media speculation no names have been decided for the new councils. The new Councils will officially be formed on 1 April 2028, known as 'vesting day'. The Councillors elected in May 2027 will serve a five year term (the first as a shadow unitary followed by a four-year term in the new authority).

Town and parish elections shall be aligned with the new unitary elections so Preston's parish elections due to take place in 2027 are to continue as planned with an extended term of office of five years to allow alignment with the next unitary council elections in 2032.

Litter Bin – Cumeragh Lane

Following a resident enquiry about the disappearance of a litter bin attached to the bus stop pole on Cumeragh Lane, close to its junction with Tansy Road I sent a service request to Preston City Council on 22 May 2026 and received the response below on 1 August 2026: -

The decision to remove this bin was not taken lightly and followed an assessment by our Street Cleansing team. The primary reason for removal was health and safety. Our operatives have reported increasing difficulty and risk when emptying the bin as the bus stop, this risk has been exacerbated by vehicles frequently parking opposite the bus stop, further restricting safe access for operatives and pedestrians who are crossing the road. In addition, it was identified that the bin was stolen twice and the cost of having to keep replacing it also had an impact on our decision. It was also noted that the bin was not being used much, with it remaining relatively empty. To address litter concerns in the wider area, we have recently upgraded nearby bins to larger-capacity units, which are better suited to managing public litter and improving overall cleanliness. We have placed three brand new 240 Litre large capacity bins in the local retail area in Goosnargh village as well as having 4 of our bins in close proximity to the bus stop in question. We appreciate that the removal may cause some inconvenience and hope this explanation clarifies the reasons behind the decision. We will continue to monitor the area and keep the situation under review as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment. We also have a litter picking crew in that area and will keep attending when needed and on a schedule. Yours sincerely, Street Cleansing / Neighbourhood Services Preston City Council.

Lancashire Association of Local Councils – Preston Area Committee – 5 August 2026

Councillor Carefoot and I attended the above meeting at Toll Bar Cottage, Broughton and received presentations from Mark Taylor (Preston City Council) on local government reorganisation and Laura Worden (Lancashire County Council) on the work of her Town and Parish Council Team within the Council's Civic Pride and Safety Service.

Closure of Public Footpath in Goosnargh

Lancashire County Council has formally announced the closure of a public footpath which runs between Oliverson's School playing field and St Mary's Churchyard to the housing estate, Caraway Green. The County Council has proposed its closure under the Public Path Extinguishment Order under the Highways Act 1980. Deadline for objections is 19 August 2026.

Cumeragh Village Green Play Area

It has been confirmed by The Play Inspection Company that they will be undertaking an annual inspection of the children's playground equipment at Cumeragh Village Green during October 2026 at a cost of £195.00 plus VAT.

Parish Council Emails

It has become apparent that several Parish Councillors and I regularly fill their email boxes and so must delete or empty trash regularly to continue its use. It is recommended, therefore, that Easy Web Sites upgrade the storage to 50gb at a cost of £5.50 per month.

Longridge Town Council Flower Tubs

Whilst investigations were taking place in respect of several issues in Green Nook Lane it was noticed that a large flower tub bearing the Longridge Town Council logo had appeared in the Lane. A couple of days later the Council received a request for another to be placed in Halfpenny Lane adjacent to the telephone kiosk. The purpose of these flower tubs is to waymark the Longridge Loop which is a 5-mile multi use route for walkers and cyclists around Longridge.

The Town Council has been requested to remove the planter from Green Nook Lane and asked not to place any planter or anything else within the Parish of Whittingham without this Council's permission. The Town Council was also informed that Green Nook Lane does not permit cyclists.

Longridge Mayoral Ball

The Parish Council has received an invitation from the Mayor of Longridge, Cllr. Robert Walker for the Chair and guest to join him at the 2026 Mayoral Ball to be held on 10 October 2026 at Longridge Golf Club. Proceeds from the event will support Kidney Research UK and Longridge Men's Shed. The ticket prices is £50 per person and it is recommended that the Chair and guest should attend as a representative of the Parish Council.

