

LOWER WARD

Cllr. Barbara Clarke
Clybane
802 Whittingham Lane
Whittingham
Preston
PR3 2AY

Tel: 01772 586216

Cllr Michelle Woodburn
Avenue Cottage
875 Whittingham lane
Whittingham
Preston
PR3 2AU

Tel: 01772 861789

Cllr Dave Price
The Willows
Goosnargh Lane
Goosnargh
PR3 2BN

Tel: 07514 124413

Vacancy

Please see the front page of this Newsletter and our website for details on how to apply.

CITY & COUNTY CLLRS

City Cllr Mark Bell
07774 702584

City Cllr Harry Landless
07733 528991

City Cllr Stephen Whittam
07784 283864

County Cllr Sue Whittam
07890 025767

HIGHER WARD

Cllr Dave Hall
Chairman
14 Fellview
Grimsargh
Preston
PR2 5LN

Tel: 01772 759296

Cllr Martin Carefoot
Halfpenny Lane Farm
Halfpenny Lane
Longridge
PR3 2EA

Tel: 07486 111733

Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cloggers Farm
Stanalea Lane
Whitechapel
PR3 2EQ

Tel: 07751 797398

For Parish Council related queries contact

THE PARISH CLERK

Mrs Julie Buttle
24 Merefield
Chorley
PR7 1UR

Tel: 01257 415634

clerk@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk



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WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

Welcome to Whittingham Parish Council's Spring Newsletter which is also available on our website so the weblinks can easily be accessed.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY - Lower Ward

Whittingham Parish Council covers the areas between Langley Lane / Goosnargh Village (**Lower Ward**) and Cumeragh Lane to Halfpenny Lane / Inglewhite Road (**Higher Ward**).

A Councillor vacancy has occurred in **Lower Ward** and anyone interested in the role, is invited to apply to be co-opted on to the Council. Meetings are usually held once a month in Goosnargh Village Hall on a Thursday evening and last for approx. 2 hours depending on the items included on the agenda.

The Parish Council is a consultee on planning and highway matters and works closely with the police to resolve issues in the Parish.

This is an exciting time to join the Parish Council as we seek to create a **woodland walk** along Whittingham Lane, create a **gym area** on Goosnargh Village Green and improve and enhance the Parish through the appointment of a **Parish Lengthsman** - more details are included inside this Newsletter.

If you would like more information on becoming a Parish Councillor or wish to apply to be co-opted, please write to the Parish Clerk - using the contact details on the back page - stating any skills or local knowledge which you consider to be beneficial to the role.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on **Thursday 22nd May at 6.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church**. This is a temporary change of venue as meetings usually take place in Goosnargh Village Hall.

The purpose of the Annual Parish meeting is to recap on the Council's activities, receive reports from your elected County and City Councillors and hear from local community groups who have benefitted from the Council's support.

Following the Annual Parish Meeting, the **Annual Council Meeting** will be held. The Chairman will be elected and the Council will confirm the administrative policies and procedures for the forthcoming year.

IMPROVING OUR PARISH

Parish Lengthsman

The Parish Council is delighted to announce the appointment of **Mark Cornforth** as our Parish Lengthsman. The term dates back to the 1700s and originally referred to someone who kept a length of road, neat, tidy and passable with particular emphasis on boundary marking. The more modern meaning is someone to keep grass and weeds down in the verges, keep drainage ditches clear, repair fences, plant and tend wild flowers and carry out general maintenance and repairs around the area. Mark will also be checking the **Parish Walks** to ensure they are kept free of vegetation. The walk leaflets can be downloaded from our website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/downloads/parish-walks.pdf



Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom

Mark will also help to support the work of Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom, a community group with aspirations to keep the parish tidy and enter areas into the Best Kept Village competition. Last year's entry was **Highly Commended** and hopefully, that can be improved this year. If you want to get involved, please contact **Cllr Woodburn** or **Cllr Clarke** whose details are on the back page.

Grounds maintenance

We are also pleased to announce that the grounds maintenance contract has been awarded to **Millars**. They will be monitoring the play area and cutting the grass at **The Square** and will also tidy the garden area around the Memorial at **Beacon Drive**.



NO COLD CALLING ZONES

Residents have reported an increase in traders 'cold calling' in the parish so the Parish Council has worked with Lancashire County Council to introduce some **No Cold Calling Zones**. Regrettably these only cover certain areas but signs will be erected in May / June.

Traders will not be committing an offence if they call to properties in the zone, but hopefully they will be deterred and residents will have the confidence to say **'no'** due to the no cold calling zone.

SCAMS & PHISHING EMAILS

Always be on the alert for scam texts or emails claiming to be from a delivery company seeking to reschedule or request additional delivery fees. Scam texts can be reported to the National Cyber Security Centre by forwarding it to **7726**. Also be suspicious of unusual or out of character email requests from people you know. Double check the email address the email has been sent from or speak to the person concerned. You can report suspect emails and calls to Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040** or via www.actionfraud.police.uk. Scam emails can also be reported via report@phishing.gov.uk.



POLICE

The Parish is fortunate to have a low level of crime however, incidents do occur. It is important that ALL incidents are reported, no matter how small or insignificant - as added together - the reports could help to stop the activity or catch the culprits.

Call **999** in an emergency, **101** for current, suspicious activity or to give anonymous information you can contact Crime Stoppers on **0800 555 111** or fill out their online anonymous form.

crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information/our-guarantee-of-anonymity

To get local messages out quickly and update residents on crime or community news, Lancashire Police encourage people to sign up to **In the Know** via this website www.stayintheknow.co.uk

PCSO Chloe Pearson has left the area to join the Police but for reassurance on any local police matter you can contact

Police Sergeant 6402 Wallis

Email: 6402@lancashire.police.uk

PCSO 7334 Burke

Email: 7334@lancashire.police.uk

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Housing applications are once again taking up a lot of the Parish Council's time. In December, the City Council declared that it did not have a 5 year supply of housing land which meant that the **tilted balance** in favour of development was applied. More information is on our website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/news.php

Although the City Council is confident that the supply will be restored in May / June, a planning application was submitted for 95 homes at **Swainson House Farm**. The Parish Council objected to the application and Councillors will speak in person against the application when it is presented to the Planning Committee.

Gladman's have also issued a consultation proposing 145 dwellings off **Churchgate**. The consultation closes at the end of April but information is available on Gladman's website. www.your-views.co.uk/landoffchurchgate/



Although a planning application has not been submitted yet, the Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and object to any proposals.

The City Council is in the process of updating its **Local Plan** which details **Allocated Sites** and the **Planning Policies** to be applied when determining applications. Once adopted the Local Plan should strengthen many of the existing Policies designed to prevent development in the open countryside.

The Local Plan will be presented to a Planning Inspector who will determine if the Policies are sound and whether more land should be allocated for development. The Parish Council was pleased to note that many of the sites put forward for development around Whittingham were not taken forward however the Parish Council remains fully and actively engaged in the decision-making process, in the hope it can influence any proposed changes.

A meeting has also taken place with Barratts to discuss their development of 477 homes at the former **Whittingham hospital site**. This application has been proposed for some considerable time and the Parish Council wants to make sure that the history of the site is reflected in the development and the open space is retained and managed properly. Lancashire County Council have also submitted plans for a **new primary school** on Henry Littler Way and the Parish Council will continue to work with them to resolve parking and highway concerns.

GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN

Ninja gym equipment - The Parish Council is keen to ensure that the Village Green can be used for recreational purposes by everyone. In partnership with Preston City Council, we are working on plans to add a **Ninja style obstacle course** for children between the ages of 11 and 16. The proposed equipment will include a climbing slope, monkey bars and a warrior ramp. **Details of the proposal can be viewed on our website.** The equipment is likely to be located halfway between the trees and the litter bin at the tennis court end of the Village Green. Discussions are still at a very early stage, so please email the Clerk with your views on the proposal.



VE DAY

The 8 May 2025, will mark the **80th anniversary of VE Day**, when the nation will unite to remember the end of the Second World War.

The Parish Council has arranged for an inscription to be added to the Memorial on Beacon Drive and a Proclamation may be read to mark the event. Exact details will be confirmed on our website. St Mary's Church bells will also ring intermittently from 18.30 onwards.

Events will take place around the country to pay tribute to those involved in the conflict as well as reminding us to pray and work for peace in our communities and across the world. You can find out more [on the government's dedicated website](#)



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

New development leads to the payment of a Community Infrastructure Levy which is passed to the Parish Council to improve and enhance facilities and infrastructure in the local area.

The Parish Council maintains a CIL Business Plan which identifies projects to be funded from CIL. To date CIL has been used to

- Upgrade the footpath between Goosnargh Village Hall and Goosnargh play area and clear and open 2 circular walks on public rights of way in the Parish
- Provide **3 Speed Indicator Devices** which capture data to illustrate that speeding remains an issue to be resolved
- Improve lighting at Goosnargh Tennis Club and Longridge Football Club
- Provide a new roof at Goosnargh Village hall and a new cooker for Trinity Methodist Church
- Add and improve Parish assets including new signs on the Parish boundaries and Goosnargh Village Green, replacing the paving stones at Beacon Drive Memorial, painting and maintaining the Halfpenny Lane phone Kiosk and providing new planters and benches across the Parish
- Contribute to the repair of the **village clock** housed in St Mary's Church.

As stated on page 3 of the Newsletter, we propose to create an **obstacle course** on Goosnargh Village Green and we aim to financially assist the City Council in replacing the **multi-use play tower** in the play area. Discussions are also taking place to assist the Scouts in finding a site for a new **Scout Hut**.

Due to the size and cost of the project, plans to bring **St John's Church** back into community use have put on hold, however, we are progressing an aspiration to create a **Woodland Walk** along Whittingham Lane, between Cumeragh Village and Henry Littler Way.

Proposals to extend **Trinity Methodist Church** and improve the toilets at **Whitechapel Village Hall** are pending whilst the organisations consider if supplementary grants can be applied for.

The Parish Council is always keen to hear suggestions from residents and if we can't provide the improvements ourselves, we will continue to do our best to negotiate with Homes England, Highways or the City Council to improve the Parish for the benefit of all.

FINANCES

In addition to the CIL payments, the Parish Council is financed through your payments towards the **Council Tax**. The end of year accounts for 2024/25 will be presented to the May Annual Parish meeting and the budget for 2025/26 is printed below.

Budget 2025/26	
Income Estimate	
Precept	30,500
Bank & CIL Interest	8025
Rights of way donation	800
2024/25 reclaimed VAT	4,985
TOTAL	44,310
Expenditure Estimate	
Staff Costs	25,325
Admin, training & purchases	710
Website & Newsletter	1975
Insurance, Audit & Election	1980
Other fees	1025
Electric & Xmas tree	720
Village Green Maintenance	990
Upkeep of the Football pitch	4000
Grounds maintenance	8000
Cumeragh play area & trees	135
Grants & Donations	1200
Repairs to assets	250
TOTAL	46,310
Council Reserves £2,000.	

A Band D property in a non-parished area pays **£2,467pa** in Council Tax. The additional amount required to fund each parish pa. is shown below, illustrating that Whittingham represents good value for money.

Ingol	£57	Lea & Cottam	£47	Barton	£39
Grimsargh	£34	Broughton	£29	Woodplumpton	£21
Whittingham	£19	Haighton	£12	Goosnargh	£10