

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT – 11 JUNE 2026

Enquires received since the last meeting

Public Footpath alongside Goosnargh Oliverson's Primary School

- Sign appeared stating “no dogs allowed on school premises”.
- Realised that the public footpath is in the Parish of Goosnargh but advised the enquirers that Lancashire County Council manages public rights of way, including footpaths, bridleways and byways. They were advised to raise their enquiry at prowreports@lancashire.gov.uk.

Goosnargh Village Green – Removal of swings

- Concern raised that the swings had been removed.
- Contacted Shirley Parkinson, Head of Parks at Preston City Council who reported that all their playgrounds receive an annual inspection by an independent playground specialist which found that the flat swings were flagged and required the upper bar swing bearings replaced and the bar cleared of rust and repainted. This work could not be undertaken on site so were removed. Shirley acknowledged the timing of this inspection and work was not ideal but was confident that the swings would be returned in situ before the Whitsuntide Festival weekend.

Goosnargh Village Green – Hedge

- Concern raised about an overgrown hedge which is starting to block the footway, by a resident who lives on the boundary of the Village Green. The resident has also contacted Cllr Eccles.
- Enquiries were made to find out that Preston City Council has responsibility for maintaining this hedge who were asked when it was last cut and when it was scheduled to be cut in the future.
- The City Council's Ground Maintenance team is headed by Tracey Kemplar who has informed us that the hedge will not be cut until August 2026 when the nesting season has finished.

Cumeragh Village Green Play Equipment – Grass Cutting

- Concern was raised by the Lengthsman that the rubber blanking caps on equipment legs had been damaged, presumably by grass cutting/strimming.
- Cllr Eccles managed to procure a small supply of replacement caps from Playdale Playgrounds Ltd at no cost which have been passed to the Lengthsman who has now replaced the damaged caps.
- The matter has been reported and discussed with our contractor, Millars Ground Maintenance Services.

Tansy Road – Missing Litter Bin

- Concern raised that a litter bin attached to the bus stop on Cumeragh Lane close to Tansy Road has been removed.
- Since this development's highways have not yet been adopted by Preston City Council an enquiry has been made to Barratt Homes to enquire whether they provided the litter bin.
- Mark Burton, Contracts Manager at Barratts Homes responded to confirm the litter bin was not provided by them. The only litter bins they have provided are on the parks within the housing sites.
- An enquiry has been raised with Preston City Council.

Council Insurance

The Chair raised an enquiry as whether the chain of office is included in the Council's policy schedule. On 29 May 2026 I confirmed that it was indeed included but with an excess payment of £250. During this enquiry it became apparent that the policy was due to expire on 1 June 2026 so a renewal quote of £1205.23 was accepted and paid. The total premium was an increase of 5.6% compared to 2025/26. The Council is requested to approve my action to renew this policy through broker Clear Councils.

Accounting Software – SCRIBE

I received my first training session on 29 May 2029 which then allowed me to input all the invoices, supplier details and receipts received by the Council since 1 April 2026. My second training session was delivered on 2 June 2026 which has enabled me to produce finance reports.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

The resignation of Dave Hall as Councillor has created a vacancy in the Higher Ward of Whittingham Parish Council. The statutory Notice of Vacancy was published on our website on 23 May 2026 and displayed in the three notice boards in the Parish. If the vacancy is to be filled by an election, then two electors from Higher Ward must request one by writing to the Returning Officer at Preston City Council no later than 12 June 2026. If such a request is not received, then the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option.

Planning Applications

Preston City Council has raised no objection to a reconsultation on **planning application 06/2026/0467**, for the development of a new two form entry 420 place primary school and associated 16 place special educational unit, car parking, hard and soft play areas and drop off area on land off Henry Littler Way/Whittingham Lane.

Preston City Council has refused **planning application 06/2026/0183** for permission in principle for up to 9 dwellings on land to the east of Pudding Pie Nook Lane for the following reasons:

- Site located in the open countryside
- The proposed development would be contrary to the hierarchy of locations for focussing growth and investment at urban, brownfield and allocated sites, within key service centres and other defined places.
- It fails to accord with the management growth and investment set out in Policy 1 of the Central Lancashire Core Strategy.
- The proposed development is not the type of development deemed permissible in the open countryside under Policy EN1 of the Preston Local Plan, hence the loss of open countryside for the proposed development is contrary to that policy.

The Planning Officer full report can be viewed at
<file:///C:/Users/clerk/Downloads/60164969753planning.pdf>

The Parish Council had submitted an objection to this planning application based on it not being in accordance with the Core Strategy and Local Plan for the reasons included in the decision.

Planning Appeal – Land south of Broughton Park (Phase 1), Whittingham Lane, Broughton (Application reference 06/2025/0343)

An appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of Preston City Council to refuse planning permission for Outline planning permission seeking approval for access only from Broughton Park onto Whittingham Lane for the erection of up to 75 dwellings, including 60% affordable housing, 40% for older people and 15% bungalows with associated landscaping and public open space.

The appeal will be determined at a hearing to be held at the Town Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston, PR1 2RL on 21 July 2026 commencing at 10:00 hours.

Preston City Council have forwarded all the representations made to them on the original application to the Planning Inspectorate and appellant which will be considered by the Inspector when determining the appeal.

Below are the comments submitted by the Parish Council on 22 April 2025:

06/2025/0343 Outline application for up to 100 dwellings, including 50% affordable housing, landscaping and public open space with a reserved matters access from Phase 1 of Broughton Park on land to the south of Broughton Park (Phase 1), Whittingham Lane. Whittingham Parish Council notes that the access to the proposed site will be from the Broughton Park development off Whittingham Lane, already under construction to the north. An application to develop the site was submitted and refused in 2018 when the City Council did not have a 5-year housing supply. The 2018 application was refused because it was contrary to Policy 1 of the Core Strategy, Policy EN1 of the adopted local plan and RES1 of the Broughton Neighbourhood development plan. Whilst it is noted that development on the western part of the site has been removed to avoid conflict with the Broughton Neighbourhood plan, the application is still contrary to Policy 1 of the Core Strategy, Policy EN1 of the adopted Local Plan. Whittingham Parish Council understands that the City Council has stated that it does not have a current 5 year supply, however it is confident that it will be restored in May / June. The Parish Council believes this is speculative application seeking to take advantage of the temporary dip in the 5 year supply. Members resolved to oppose the application as the site lies in the open countryside and is contrary to Policy 1 of the Core Strategy and Policy EN1 of the Local Plan. The proposal will also generate additional traffic on Whittingham Lane and will add to the pressure on school places. In addition, Members feel that weight should not be attached to the provision of 50% affordable homes as concern is expressed, that once planning permission is approved, the applicant may submit a viability case reducing the number due to the lack of housing / amount of open space to be provided on the western boundary of the site.

A supplementary statement has been submitted to the Planning Inspector reaffirming the above objection and highlighting the fact that since the application was refused a further significant factor has emerged as a ground for dismissing the appeal and that is that Preston City Council has a housing land supply of 5.4 years.

Church Lane – Bus Shelter

Cllr Eccles and the Parish Lengthsman have investigated an incident of vandalism at the bus shelter located on Church Lane which necessitates repair work to make a window secure. A quote has been obtained from J C Holdens to undertake this work costing £90 plus VAT.

