

PARISH CLERK'S REPORT – 9 JULY 2026

Planning Enforcement – The Ridings

The Parish Council has been informed by the Planning Authority that an enforcement case relating to the site of the former TDG European Chemicals, Whittingham Road has been completed. The breach has been removed and case closed.

The alleged breach related to condition 1 attached to planning permission 06/2019/0336 which was a reserved matters application (outline application 06/2015/0876 for 113 dwellings including public open space and associated infrastructure) which outlined that the development should be completed in accordance with the landscape proposals. It was alleged that the footpaths and play area were not completed in accordance with the approved application. A site visit in May 2025 confirmed that the play area had not been completed and was full of weeds, uncut grass and unsafe ground conditions. The developer finally rectified the situation in April 2026 and therefore the breach was removed.

Dave Hall – Former Parish Councillor and Chair

Following the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2026 Dave Hall was presented with a plaque to commemorate his service to Whittingham Council. The inscribed plaque was purchased from Top Trophies of Tarleton, Preston at a cost of £59.10 inclusive of VAT. The payment had been made by Mrs J Buttle, the former Parish Clerk. It is recommended that Mrs Buttle be reimbursed by the Parish Council for this payment.

Parish Council Website

I can confirm that the website is compliant with WCAG 2.2 AA Standards and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

The following amendments have been made to the Parish Council website:

- Defibrillator and notice boards maps added to help make locations clearer and easier for residents to find.
- Chair and Vice-Chair photos
- Parish Clerk photo
- Preston City Councillors photos (Preston Rural East Ward)
- Parish Clerk Reports

I would like to publish photos of the village on the home page, perhaps changing it every season. We could also have a photo gallery?

Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club – Financial Assistance

At the last meeting the Council approved a payment of £22,475.00 to Whittingham and Goosnargh Sports and Social Club to assist with new fittings and fixtures for the new club facility, and in particular tables and chairs for the new Members Lounge. An invoice has now been received from the Club for £21,945.00 which has now been paid. This leaves a £530 balance. A meeting is to be arranged between officials at the club, Cllr Dave Price and the Clerk to discuss matters raised at the last meeting.

Cumeragh Village Play Area

A quote has been obtained from the Play Inspection Company Ltd for the annual inspection of the Cumeragh Village Play Area. A urgent inspection with an 8-week lead time costs £295 plus VAT. An inspection with a 12 – 16-week lead time costs £195.

Campaign to Protect Rural England

The Council is a member of the above movement committed to protecting our countryside. We have received a request to renew our membership for 2026/27. Membership renewal is by contribution which last year was £36.

£18 Million Playground Fund

It came to my attention that the Government had recently announced an £18 million playground fund to support the creation and improvement of children's play spaces across England. The funding initiative will provide £270,000 per local authority across the 2026/27 and 2027/28 financial years. As Preston is currently eligible, I wrote to the City Council's Head of Parks and Recreation. Alas, it was too good to be true because the funding is ringfenced for Built up Area (BUA) as categorised under the housing data set as "Preston" as set by the Government.

Preston City Council S106 and CIL Monitoring Officer

I have arranged to meet with Rebecca Wenham at the Town Hall on 7 July 2026. She has the above title in the Planning Authority at Preston City Council and has kindly agreed to provide me with a briefing on all things CIL and the Parish Council.

Local Government Reorganisation

Councils across Lancashire should hear later this month what the Government decides will be the new structure for local government. It is considering several options, two, three, four or even five smaller unitary councils to replace the current system of one county, two unitary and 12 districts. We have been made aware that

our neighbouring district authority of Ribble Valley is asking its parishes whether it would like to consider the transfer of any asset within its own parish area.

Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show – Donation Request

The Council has received a request for a donation towards the Show's Handicraft, Preserves and Craft Section. Expenses to date this year are £2488.00 which includes:

- Marquee - £1920
- Tables - £243
- Table cover replacement - £100
- Rosettes and Certificates - £150
- Trophy repairs - £30
- Printing - £45

The 2026/27 budget includes the following allocation under Grants and Donations:

- Goosnargh Festival - £500
- Longridge Agricultural Show - £250
- Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom - £300
- Application - £150

The Goosnargh and Whittingham in Bloom group has advised that the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition was not taking place in 2026 but requested a £90 donation to purchase a hedge trimmer.