



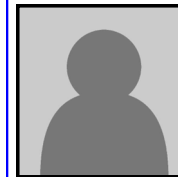
WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2025

Welcome to the summer edition of the Parish Council Newsletter updating residents on matters in the Whittingham Parish Council area.

The Newsletter is also available on our website so the weblinks can easily be accessed. <https://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk>

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 Parish Councillor vacancy has occurred in **Lower Ward** which covers the **new homes** at the former Whittingham hospital site. If you are new to the area or are a longstanding resident with views on issues affecting where you live, **why not consider joining the Parish Council** to share your views and ideas.

Meetings are usually held once a month in Goosnargh Village Hall on a Thursday evening and last for approx. 2 hours depending on the number of items on the agenda.

If you would like more information or wish to apply to join the Council, 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.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION

As reported in our Spring Newsletter, the Parish Council has contracted a Parish Lengthsman to maintain Parish Council assets, check the Parish Walks and work alongside **Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom** who maintain various planters and baskets to ensure the Parish looks at its best all year round.

In the summer, areas of the Parish were entered in to the Best Kept Village competition. Although Goosnargh did not go through to the second round this year, we would like to thank everyone for their efforts to keep the village attractive and tidy. The Square at **Cumeragh** did go through and we hope the group's efforts will be recognised.



LOWER WARD

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

Tel: 01772 586216

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

Tel: 07811 723447

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 Maria Jones
07856 930916

HIGHER WARD

Cllr Dave Hall
Chairman
14 Fellview
Grimsargh
Preston
PR2 5LN

Tel: 01772 759296

Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cloggers Farm
Stanalea Lane
Whitechapel
PR3 2EQ

Tel: 07751 797398

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

Tel: 07486 111733

For Parish Council related queries contact

THE PARISH CLERK

Mrs Julie Buttle
24 Merefield
Astley Village, Chorley
PR7 1UR

Tel: 01257 415634

clerk@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk



HOUSING APPLICATIONS

As mentioned in the Chairman's report, planning applications have once again topped the Parish Council's work load.

Due to a temporary dip in the City Council's ability to demonstrate a five year housing supply, housing applications were submitted at **Swainson House Farm, Churchgate and Halfpenny Lane.**

We are pleased to report that **all of the above applications have been refused** and we would like to thank those who submitted personal objections and attended meetings to help influence the decision. The submission of personal objections is important and appreciated and we hope we can continue to count on your support if the developers appeal against the decisions.

PROPOSED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lancashire County Council have withdrawn a proposal to expand Goosnargh Oliverson School due to concerns regarding highway safety. Instead they have submitted an amended planning application to create a **420 place school** off Henry Littler Way.

Due to the number of new homes already approved, the Parish Council welcomes the application for **local children** but remains concerned that the proposal does not adequately address the **additional traffic and parking issues** which will be generated by those travelling from Longridge, Grimsargh or further afield.

The Parish Council will continue to work closely with LCC highways to address these concerns should the application be approved.



WOODLAND WALK

The Parish Council is keen to ensure that local children will have a safe and interesting walk to the new school and are pursuing an idea to create a Woodland Walk between Whittingham Lane and the frontage of Gott Field.

The land is owned by Homes England and Members are currently in the process of negotiating the purchase of the land, as well as working with Lancashire County Council Treescapes to ensure the walk remains safe and well maintained.

GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, the Parish Council is keen to provide more activities for youngsters on Goosnargh Village Green. The Village Green is owned by Preston City Council and we are in their hands regarding the date to install the Ninja Gym equipment. We have also offered to replace the multi use play equipment in the play ground as it is nearing the end of its life span. We look forward to the City Council consulting us on the design of the new equipment.

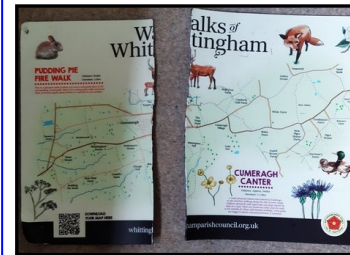
NEW BENCHES

We have recently replaced the old concrete benches at Cumeragh play area, adding 2 additional benches under the shade of the tree and we have supplied 2 new benches in Goosnargh play area. New slats will shortly be added to the benches in the area around the shops in Goosnargh Village.



VANDALISM

Whilst this Newsletter documents many positive things happening in our Parish, it is disheartening to see our efforts destroyed by mindless vandalism and anti social behaviour.



We've provided a football pitch for youngsters to enjoy but the goal posts are repeatedly damaged through misuse and recently, the metal sign advertising the Parish walks was forced off the wall in the bus shelter. There is also evidence that the pointing around the shelter window is being chiselled out.

It is important that ALL incidents - no matter how small or insignificant - are reported to the Police, as more information can be collated with the ultimate aim of stopping the activity or catching the culprits.

Please help us by reporting any concerns online to [Lancashire Constabulary](#) or by phoning **101**. You can also report incidents anonymously to Crime Stoppers on **0800 555 111** or by filling out their [online anonymous form](#)

To get local messages out quickly and to keep residents updated on local crime or community news, Lancashire Police also encourage people to sign up to their [In the Know](#) messaging service.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1st APRIL 2024 TO 31st MARCH 2025

The year started with a carried forward balance of **£573,656** which included the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) balance of **£525,320** leaving the Council with actual reserves of **£48,336**

Income and Expenditure for **2024/25** is itemised below.

CIL expenditure is reported on the [CIL Finance Summary Report](http://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk) on the Parish Council website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

The end of year balance is **£688,149**. The deduction of **£624,295** CIL balances, leaves the Council's with actual reserves of **£63,845**. This is an inflated amount as outstanding invoices are included in the balance.

FINANCE STATEMENT 2024/25

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Fwd	573,656.24	Staff costs	24,535.76
Precept	29,345.00	Admin, training & purchases	549.29
Bank Interest	266.39	Website & Newsletter	1,593.70
CIL	111,758.84	Insurance & Audit	1,860.45
CIL Interest	25,260.68	Other fees	903.10
VAT Refund	3,230.50	Parks & opens spaces	
Rights of way donation	800.00	Electric & Xmas tree	220.27
Other Income	91.78	Grass cutting contracts	6,583.51
		Football pitch maintenance	1,795.00
		Cumeragh play area & trees	1,410.00
		Bat & Bird boxes	131.95
		Grants & Donations	
		Whittingham festival	500.00
		Longridge Agricultural Show	200.00
		Best Kept Village	300.00
		Cumeragh Christmas tree	100.00
		Royal British Legion (S137)	40.00
		Assets & CIL	
		Repairs	325.39
		Net CIL expenditure	10,698.66
		VAT	<u>4,512.94</u>
		2024/25 Expenditure	56,260.02
		2024/25 Year End Balance	688,149.41
	744,409.43		744,409.43

BEACON DRIVE MEMORIAL

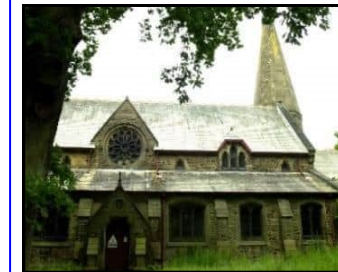
To commemorate the centenary of World War One, the Parish Council decided to create a quiet, accessible space for residents to sit and reflect on those who served in the Great War and other conflicts. Following a service in St Mary's Church on Remembrance Day, the Parish Council Chairman lays a wreath at the memorial on behalf of all residents. Recently a service was held to commemorate VE Day.

Over the years, the area around the memorial has been enhanced with new paving stones and floral tributes and the Parish Council is seeking ideas to make further improvements. As the space is for the benefit of all residents, we would welcome your ideas. These can be sent to the Parish Clerk using the details on the back page.

Ideas will be collated and presented to a future Parish Council meeting.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH



St John's Church is owned by Homes England but it has been empty for over 30 years and the Parish Council is keen to bring this grade 2 listed building back into use. We have invited various organisations to quote for the development of a **Feasibility Study** with the overall aim of providing a clear costed, vision on if and how the building can be developed for community use. We

understand Homes England are also progressing plans to restore the building and we hope we can work in partnership with them to restore the building back to its previous splendour.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH

In 2023 Trinity Methodist Church expanded the Warm Space initiative by providing 2 course meals for older or lonely people who needed company. The Parish Council assisted them by providing a new cooker. They have recently presented plans to expand the kitchen area to accommodate the growing number of attendees. They will also be creating an upstairs meeting room for small groups and functions. The Parish Council has offered to financially support the project and wishes them every success when work commences in January 2026.

Chairman's Report - 2024/25

A full copy of the Chairman's Report for 2024/25 can be viewed on our website www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk attached to the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes.

The Chairman acknowledged the new leadership at Lancashire County Council and stated that the Parish Council's role in reflecting the views of local communities has never been more important than it is today.

Key Issues and Planning: The Council's agenda has again been dominated by planning issues - monitoring progress on the emerging **Local Plan** and opposing speculative housing developments at Swainson House Farm, Broughton Park and **Churchgate**. The Council has responded positively to the redevelopment proposals at the **Whittingham Hospital site** and will work closely with the developers to resolve concerns regarding the management of the open spaces. The Council has also supported plans to create a new **Sports and Social Club** and extend Trinity Methodist Church as a warm hub for local people to eat, meet and socialise. The Council is also monitoring the progress of the proposed **new primary school** off Henry Littler Way.

Community and Environment: The Council is actively working hard to improve the parish. The **grounds maintenance contract** has been renewed and we have contracted the services of a **Parish Lengthsman** who supported the Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom group to achieve highly commended awards in the 2024 **Best Kept Village** competition. The Council continues to work with the City Council to improve facilities at **Goosnargh Village Green** and is working with Lancashire County Council to address drainage issues at **Cumeragh Village Green**.

Projects and Initiatives: The future of **St Johns Church** remains a major project and we are reviewing the options and resources available to bring this grade 2 listed building back into use.

Stiles and way markers have been checked and replaced on 2 of the **Parish Walks** and information signs are displayed in the village with leaflets available on the website. The Council is also in talks with Homes England to purchase land to create a new **woodland path** along Whittingham and Cumeragh Lanes.

The Council has provided funding to repair the historic **Goosnargh Church clock** and are waiting for the costs to see if we can support improved facilities at **Whitechapel Village Hall**.

So far we have failed in our efforts to install speed enforcement cameras, but we continue to maintain our own **speed devices** in the hope we can convince the Police Crime Commissioner that enforcement is required.

The Parish Council also upgraded the inscription on the memorial in Beacon Drive to commemorate VE day. The event was well attended and those present listened to a Proclamation to mark the occasion.

Finances : As in previous years, the Council aims to keep the Parish precept as low as possible by careful budgeting and prudential borrowing from reserves to fund month-to-month spending.

We support charitable and voluntary organisations with donations such as the Goosnargh and Whittingham Festival, the Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show crafts section and the Goosnargh and Whittingham in Bloom Community Group. In addition, we provide representatives from the PC to offer help and assistance.

We consider good communication with the local community to be an essential part of the business of the Parish Council. Our parish website is kept up to date with Council business and we continue to publish quarterly newsletters.

Operations : Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk can be contacted by phone or by e-mail and we provide information online to signpost residents to other organisations.

The Parish Council cannot operate without a dedicated team of volunteer Councillors who give their time freely to serve the local community and I thank them for their service.

In the past year we have welcomed Cllr Anthony Eccles to the Council and he is making a valued contribution through his enthusiasm, commitment and local knowledge. We have also said goodbye to Cllr Tony Brooks which leaves a vacancy on the Parish Council.

Last but not least I would like to give my thanks and appreciation once again to our hard-working Parish Clerk. She always gives the impression that she enjoys the challenge and for some crazy reason seems to relish tackling planning issues. She makes my role and that of my fellow Councillors so much easier and I sincerely hope that she will continue to support our Parish Council, at least until the day comes when she says she hates all things to do with planning and has had enough.

Councillor Dave Hall
Chairman, Whittingham Parish Council 2024/25