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# WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

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

Inside, you will be able to read about what the Parish Council has achieved over the past year and what it aspires to do over the year ahead and beyond.

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

### PARISH ELECTIONS

After 20 years serving on the Parish Council, **Cllr Bernard Huggon** retired at the May elections. His knowledge and commitment to the role will be greatly missed. However, the Council remains at full strength and **Cllr Martin Carefoot** was welcomed to the Council after being elected unopposed to Higher Ward.

All Councillors can be contacted using the details on the back page or they can be contacted by email using the email links on our website.

### SPEEDING

Data captured from the Speed Indicator Devices (SPIDs) located on **Halfpenny Lane** and **Whittingham Lane** has been used to prove that a partnership approach is required to resolve speeding issues. Whilst the speed enforcement van is seen frequently outside Guild Lodge, other areas are not monitored and we regularly receive complaints about motorists speeding through Goosnargh Village, the Halfpenny Lane area and Whittingham Road, both in and out of Longridge.

Lancashire County Council have supplied **Slow Down - Save Lives stickers** for use on wheelie bins so please contact the Clerk or Cllr Woodburn if you require any and **if you have any concerns about speeding, please report it** <https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern>

Following analysis of the SPID data, the local Police will now be using the **mobile speed gun** in various locations. **They are also looking for volunteers to assist with the Community Road Watch scheme - so please use this link to register.** [Community Road Watch across Lancashire • Lancashire Volunteer Partnership \(lancsvp.org.uk\)](https://lancsroadsafety.co.uk/submit-concern)

## LOVE CLEAN STREETS

Highway concerns including **pot holes** and broken **street lights** can be reported to Lancs County Council via their website where you can also access information on **road closures**. [www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it) If you have a smartphone, **you can also report issues and send photos with GPS location using LCC's Love Clean Streets App**. For more information see our website.

## LITTER BINS AND DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Dog fouling and litter are 2 issues which the Parish Council would love to eradicate but we need your support to do so. The Parish is fortunate to have a team of dedicated litter pickers. **If you wish to join them, please contact the Clerk who will pass your details on.**

There are several combined litter and dog waste bins in the parish particularly on the open spaces and Village Greens. Whilst new bins can be financed by the Parish Council, we are dependent on the City Council installing and emptying them. A bin may be installed in areas that have been monitored for littering and dog fouling issues so **all incidents and concerns should be reported on the City Council website** <https://www.preston.gov.uk/grotspots>

Preston City Council are also responsible for [Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders](#). The Orders can provide the legal power for the City Council to take action against various offences including dog fouling. Currently there are 4 Orders in place and the City Council is consulting on whether to extend the Orders for another 3 years. **Use the above link to reply to the consultation by the 31st July.**

## GOOSNARGH GREEN FOOTBALL PITCH

The Parish Council is delighted that the informal football pitch is marked out and ready for use - just in time for the school holidays!

Many thanks to everyone concerned in making this possible especially **Paul Hill of Huws Gray BuildBase** (contact 01772 783437) for their generous donation of materials.



To ensure the pitch can be used at all times, please help us by keeping dogs away from the area. The Parish Council will arrange for it to be mown regularly. There are plenty of bins around the Village Green and residents are respectfully asked to help keep the area free from litter and dog fouling. **If you notice any problems, please contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk.**

## PARISH FINANCES

The Parish Council is financed by money collected through Council Tax called a **Precept**. In general terms this is used to finance the administration of the Council as well as maintenance of the Council's assets such as the bus shelters and open space. Opposite is a summary of how the Precept was spent during 2022/23.

The Council also receives funding through the **Community Infrastructure Levy** known as CIL. The City Council charges CIL on new development in the parish and passes 15% to the Parish Council. CIL can be used to finance the improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure within the parish.

The Parish Council has a **CIL Business Plan** which identifies CIL projects along with a brief summary of the current position. Many projects require the involvement of other partners who are invited to meetings to help deliver the selected projects.

During 2022/23 CIL has been used to support local community groups. The **Tennis Club** benefitted from new floodlights and the **Bowling Club** were provided with new benches. New benches were also provided for anyone visiting the **Cemetery** at the former Whittingham Hospital site. **Goosnargh Village Hall** is a major community asset, providing a meeting place for community clubs and associations as well as a venue for residents to hold family events and gatherings. The Parish Council took the decision to use CIL to replace the roof to ensure this valuable amenity is available for many years to come.

Several other projects were identified last year which will be completed in 2023/24. These include the long awaited signs and leaflets promoting **local walks**, new floodlights at **Longridge Football Club**, replacement planters at **Cumeragh Village**, replacement flagstones at **Beacon Drive memorial** and the provision of a marked **football pitch** on Goosnargh Village Green—both of which have just been completed.

## BIODIVERSITY GRANT

Lancashire County Council has offered the Parish Council a £300 biodiversity grant to provide **nest and bat boxes, bird feeders, hedgehog houses, wildflower areas, communal gardens etc.** Community groups and schools can participate in any of the projects but before erecting or planting any items, permission must be obtained from the land owner. **If you have any suggestions on how to spend the grant or want to get involved in any projects, please contact a Parish Councillor or the Clerk.**

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2022 TO 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2023

The year started with a carried forward balance of **£227,062**, which included the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) balance of **£197,220** leaving the Council with actual reserves of **£29,842**.

Income and Expenditure for **2022/23** is itemised below.

CIL expenditure is reported on the CIL Business Plan on the parish website <https://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/index.php>

The **2022/23** year-end balance of **£385,104** includes a CIL balance of **£348,643** leaving the Council with actual reserves of **£36,461**.

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Balance Fwd	<b>227,062.42</b>	Salary, Tax, NI	9,082.66
Precept	21,961.00	Admin Costs & Purchases	338.35
Bank Income	77.15	Website & Newsletter	881.50
CIL	287,311.26	Parish Plan consultation	1,385.41
CIL Interest	5,388.00	Insurance & fees	2,100.38
VAT Refund	1,312.02		
Other Income	182.88	<b>Parks &amp; opens spaces</b>	
Rights of way donation	1,168.47	Electric & Xmas tree	677.50
		PCC Maintenance	990.00
		Cumeragh Play area & hedge	1,910.00
		Grass cutting contract	2,600.00
		<b>Grants &amp; Donations</b>	
		Whittingham festival	500.00
		Longridge Agricultural Show	250.00
		Goosnargh Little Show	100.00
		Bowling Club equipment	510.00
		Royal British Legion (S137)	34.00
		<b>Assets &amp; CIL</b>	
		Repairs & plaques	283.13
		SPID Inspection	550.00
		<b>Net CIL expenditure</b>	<b>134,692.52</b>
		VAT	2,473.71
		2022/23 Expenditure	<b>159,359.16</b>
		2022/23 Year End Balance	<b>385,104.04</b>
	<b>544,463.20</b>		<b>544,463.20</b>

## PARISH PLAN

During 2022/23 Members issued a consultation to assess what residents felt about the parish, what it offers to the local community and how it can be improved.

As a result of the consultation, **6 themes** were identified and the Parish Council has identified actions in each of the themes to guide the work of the Council over the next few years.

**The Plan was adopted in June 2023 and can be viewed on the Parish Council website. [whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk](https://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk)**

Whilst the Parish Plan expands on what the Parish Council will do to ensure that current concerns such as transport, speeding, dog fouling and housing are addressed, as stated in the Chairman's report, the Parish Council is particularly excited about the future of **St John's Church** as we hope to bring this lovely listed building back into sustainable use.



Many thanks to Lindy King for supplying the photograph of a painting.

Discussions have taken place with an architect and Homes England have been approached for a report detailing the current state of the building. The project is too big to be managed during a Parish Council meeting so a working group has been formed. With the above in mind, **we would ask anyone with any specific experience or knowledge relating to the renovation of buildings, market research, business plans or grant applications to contact the Clerk to join the working group to help us progress this ambitious project.**

Another initiative from the Parish Plan will be the launch of **WhitWhat** - a website illustrating what is going on in and around Whittingham to make it easier for people to get involved in local activities if they wish. The website will be independent of the Parish Council but will be aligned to the aims set out in the Parish Plan. The launch will be promoted on the Parish Council website and our Facebook page.

Local police officers are invited to all the Parish Council meetings and following a request to increase their presence in the area, they held a mobile police session at the Stags Head.

**Future events are planned including a bicycle marking session.** Again, details will be added to our Facebook page and website, so, **if you haven't done so already, give Whittingham Parish Council a follow!**





## 2022/23 - Chairman's Annual Report

In my 2021/22 report, I stated that the previous year had been one of the most positive and encouraging years since I joined the Council in 2011. Today, I can confidently say that 2022/23 has been just as encouraging if not better. A momentum is building to take this Parish into an era where our community feels a sense of pride in calling Whittingham Parish their home.

There are 2 reasons for this. Firstly the prudent and carefully thought-out use of monies received from the Precept and Community Infrastructure Levy and secondly, the hard work and enthusiasm shown by volunteers to make it a better place to live and work. In this respect I hold in high regard the work of my fellow Parish Councillors who are also volunteers.

Top of the list of achievements was the replacement of the village hall roof. Major funding was provided by the Parish Council and my thanks go to Cllr Eddie Marginson who was the liaison between the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee and the specialist roofing contractor.

The Parish Council strongly believes that local groups and clubs have a major role to play in making the Parish a vibrant place for the local community to live and to enjoy. With this in mind we have

- supported Goosnargh & Whittingham Tennis Club in the provision of new floodlights and canvassed local residents regarding the hours of use
- worked with the City Council to create a football pitch on Goosnargh Village Green. We are also discussing the installation of a gym trail and better lighting on paths around the darker areas
- financed repairs to play equipment on Cumeragh Village Green and are supporting the residents to repair and replace planters
- provided Goosnargh Bowling Club with funding for new equipment and benches

The Parish Council is purchasing new sign boards and leaflets to promote 2 parish walks starting from the village. The Parish Council will strive to maintain the walks in a good state and would like to thank Whittingham Environmental Group for their generous donation of over £1100 towards our costs in creating and maintaining these walks.

A representative of 1st Goosnargh Scout Group attended a meeting in November to explain the need for a new venue and we hope that ongoing discussions with the Tennis Club will prove fruitful. The Parish Council will remain on standby to help in any way it can.

Some people may be surprised to note that Longridge Town FC' lies within the parish boundary. The club is run by volunteers and the Parish Council was happy to assist them with their request to upgrade the floodlights.

The Parish Council is particularly excited about the future of St John's Church as we hope to bring this lovely building back into sustainable use. As ever, funding is the key and discussions are ongoing with Homes England who own the site.

Homes England and their agents Hive Planning attended a meeting in October to outline development plans for the Sports & Social Club. The Parish Council is supporting the Club and understands that a planning application will be submitted in the Autumn. The Homes England site includes plans for a primary school and the Parish Council hopes to create a woodland walk around part of the perimeter but we don't expect any progress in the short term.

All of these projects need to be coordinated to represent value for money and ensure good use of public funds. My thanks go to Cllr Dave Price and the Parish Clerk for developing a CIL Business Plan model. Linked to the Business Plan will be a new overarching Parish Plan formulating a new vision and objectives for the Parish Council to achieve over the next few years.

Speeding remains a concern to the Parish Council and we are seeking solutions with the Police and County Council using evidence gained from our own speed monitoring cameras. Regular updates on this are included in the Newsletter.

The Parish Council consistently objects to planning applications that don't meet Local Plan policies or are unsustainable due to the limited infrastructure for large scale development. We will discuss joint initiatives with neighbouring Councils and will lobby for better infrastructure as a result of major housing development in the E and N of Preston. The Central Lancashire Local Development Plan is being closely monitored and the Parish Council will respond to future consultations by putting the emphasis on housing provision only to meet local housing need.

The budget for this coming year was set with current inflation pressures in mind, both for the Parish Council and the Parish community. So, a balance was struck between increasing the precept to cover inflationary costs and reducing our reserves prudentially to minimize the precept increase.

The budget is essential to keep the functions of the Parish Council working. The Parish Council would like to enter the Lancashire Best Kept Village Competition however, much work is needed to improve the appearance of the parish including Parish Council assets. A new grounds maintenance contract has been agreed with Nuture (formerly Barton Grange), to undertake a wider range of maintenance work which will be funded from the budget. The budget also supports payment of our Parish Clerk without whom many vital functions of the Parish Council would not be undertaken. As Chairman I offer my thanks and gratitude for all the hard work, she has provided for the Council this past year.

Using funds in the budget the Parish Council communicates directly with the local community. We maintain a website and Facebook page and also deliver a quarterly newsletter to most of the homes in the Parish. We fund grants to local groups and will be providing a £500 to support the Goosnargh and Whittingham Festival. To avoid any doubt, none of the Parish Councillors receive any payment - they are all volunteers.

Much of the funding through CIL and the precept is now in place to achieve our objectives, but we need more volunteer support to help us reach our goals through partnership working. I give thanks to my fellow Councillors and volunteer groups in the Parish for their enthusiasm and their work in making this an exciting time for the future of Whittingham.

**Dave Hall - Chairman, Whittingham Parish Council 2022/23**