



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.15pm
in Goosnargh Village Hall – downstairs

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Barbara Clarke
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2 PCSOs
Mark Cornforth - Parish Lengthsman
Mr Ingham - resident

Mrs Julie Buttle Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Parish Councillor Anthony Eccles and City Councillor Stephen Whittam.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JUNE 2025.

MIN 25/26.44 Members **RESOLVED** that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true record.

TO ACCEPT DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no declarations of interest.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 25/26.45 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

Mr Ingham spoke against Gladman's planning application for 125 dwellings off Churchgate. He drew attention to mis-information in the Planning Statement which states that Goosnargh has a health centre and a community centre. He also stated that it was wrong of Gladman's to suggest that Churchgate should be the only access when they have previously submitted an application with the access off Whittingham Lane. He believes it would be catastrophic to use Beacon Drive and Churchgate as the main access points, especially for construction traffic.

Mr Ingham continued that as the City Council has a 5-year housing supply, the application is contrary to Policies in the Core Strategy and the adopted Local Plan and would not accord with the emerging Local Plan where Goosnargh is included in tier 5 - a small rural village expected to accommodate limited development. He concluded by stating that Whittingham is already playing its part in helping the Government deliver new homes through the approved development at Swainson House Farm and the Whittingham Hospital site.

The PCSOs updated the Council on the crime statistics for the area.

The Clerk was requested to contact the enforcement officer again regarding the portacabins sited off Halfpenny Lane. Whilst the enforcement officer has previously stated that the portacabins are not being used for business purposes, they have been erected on the site without permission and there is no evidence that the approved dwellings are being constructed.

Members welcomed Mr Cornforth, the Parish Lengthsman, who confirmed that he was settling in well. He provided an update on his work to date and replied to questions regarding the repairs needed to the bus shelter window on Churchgate. He also advised that inappropriate behaviour is still occurring at the bus shelter on Whittingham Lane. The Clerk confirmed that the City Council are responsible for replacing the missing bin outside the Aldi on Whittingham Road.

As no other points were raised it was resolved that the meeting be reconvened.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 30th June 2025

The Chairman confirmed that the finance and bank statements had been reconciled.

REVIEW OF 1st QUARTER ACCOUNTS

Members **noted** that 2 of the outstanding invoices from 2024/25 have been paid, resulting in an unbudgeted expense in 2025/26. Members were also reminded that the Lengthsman's contract is currently being funded from CIL interest.

MIN 25/26.46 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the 1st quarter budget analysis.

OPENING A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Historically the Council has held a current account and an interest paying deposit account with the Co-Op bank but in 2024/25, both accounts were transferred to a new current account with Unity Trust to comply with the updated financial regulations.

MIN 25/26.47 As the new current account does not pay interest, Members **RESOLVED** to sign the necessary forms to transfer £50,000 to an interest paying deposit account with Unity Trust.

Subject to the normal authorisation requirements, funds will be transferred from the deposit account to the current account as and when required.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 25/26.48 Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following invoices already paid in accordance with Standing Order 2023 15 (xii)

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REF
Cumeragh 4 Benches (CIL)	TDP	£2264.02	REF 41
Repairs to Goal Posts	J Cummings	£34.89	REF 42
Garden waste subscription	Preston City	£40.00	REF 43
Cumeragh play inspection	Wicksteed	£180.00	REF 44
July Grounds Maintenance	Millars	£840.00	REF 45

MIN 25/26.49 Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following accounts for payment.

DETAILS	PAYEE	AMOUNT	METHOD
Apr – June 1/4ly expenses	J Buttle	£58.67	BACs
Online file storage Microsoft	J Buttle	£17.64	BACs
E-On bill	E-On	£17.64	DD
Clerk Salary July	J Buttle	£1586.27	BACs
PAYE	HMRC	£215.14	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£215.67	BACs
Pension	NEST	£93.45	DD
Cllr Price - Stationery	D Price	£64.41	BACs
Cllr Hall - Ink	D Hall	£32.92	BACs
July Lengthsman hours (invoice pending)	M Cornforth	£522.00	BACs

CPRE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

MIN 25/26.50 Members **RESOLVED** to renew membership to the CPRE at a cost of £36.00

FOOTBALL PITCH MAINTENANCE

The Parish Council contributes to the cost of the grass cutting on the Village Green and the Clerk has emailed the City Council to ask why it has not been cut. In addition, Members **noted** that as the Parish Council is financing other maintenance contracts, the Clerk has made enquiries regarding the acquisition of the asset.

Members also **noted** that the goal posts have been repaired but the pitch can't be marked out until the grass has been cut. Following several attempts to contact the previous person who cut the grass, the Clerk asked Millars – the current grounds maintenance contractor - for a quote under para 5.12 iii of the Financial Regulations.

MIN 25/26.51 Members supported the use of the Financial Regulations and **RESOLVED** to approve the immediate use of Millars at a cost of £170 + VAT per cut, noting that any overspend on the pitch budget can be supplemented from the existing maintenance contract.

LENGTHSMAN

The Lengthsman's worksheets were circulated with the agenda and Members **noted** that he is completing approx. 8hrs work a week with Cllr Eccles and Cllr Woodburn allocating tasks as appropriate. The Clerk confirmed that as the invoice for the garden waste bin has been paid, the waste and recycling bins should be delivered shortly.

MIN 25/26.52 Following a query on the June invoice, it was **RESOLVED** that the Lengthsman includes the weekly hours on each invoice.

CUMERAGH PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that Millars carry out regular inspections of the Cumeragh play area and email a report after each visit. In addition, a more thorough inspection of the installation is carried out annually. Members considered the annual inspection report and **noted** that the benches have been replaced and the balancing logs will be removed and replaced shortly.

MIN 25/26.53 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Playdale, to assess if any parts should be repaired or replaced to address the wear and tear elements detailed in the report.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

Members **noted** the current status of ongoing CIL projects listed on the CIL Business Plan.

BENCHES

Members **noted** that the purchase of 11 benches was approved under MIN 24/25.95. 4 were ordered and installed at Cumeragh play area, 2 are on order for Goosnargh play area and composite slats will now be used to repair the seating outside Goosnargh shops.

MIN 25/26.54 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the invoice for 2 benches, to be installed under the shade of the tree opposite Cumeragh play area, at a discounted price of £1,079.81.

WOODLAND WALK

Further to MIN 25/26.25 of the May meeting, Homes England have stated, that they don't have a detailed tree survey of the trees on the Woodland Walk, however, whilst they don't expect the cost to be high, they have identified 4 trees which need to be felled.

MIN 25/26.55 Members **RESOLVED** to request that Greenbanks Arboriculture carry out a survey of the trees at an approx. cost of £500 so that Members can fully understand the maintenance implications of managing the trees, if the land is purchased.

VILLAGE GREEN GYM EQUIPMENT

As advised on the June Minutes, the gym project was delayed because the City Council advised that it had to go through a procurement process. They have now confirmed that Proludic can supply the equipment at a cost of £27,180 with the City Council arranging the drainage, installation and other works, likely to be in the region of £18,000. The Council have advised that the implementation of the scheme is forecast to take place in January / February 2026.

MIN 25/26.56 Members accepted the cost increase in costs and **RESOLVED** to ring fence an amount of no more than £50,000 to ensure the project is delivered.

WHITECHAPEL VILLAGE HALL

The Clerk confirmed that Mr Witter had been invited to the meeting but could not attend due to other commitments.

As stated on the agenda, at the Nov 2024 meeting, it was explained that Whitechapel Village Hall committee wished to improve the toilets at an estimated cost of £30,000. They were hoping to secure £20,000 from the lottery, leaving a shortfall of £10,000 to be funded from CIL.

Members **noted** that the project costs had increased to £72,000 and included estimates for electrical work, an aluminium entrance, bar units, and decorative wall panels – none of which were included in the original presentation. It was also **noted** that whilst the estimated costs were itemised, no paperwork was included to substantiate the costs.

MIN 25/26.57 Members **RESOLVED** that a member of the Village Hall Committee should attend the next Parish Council meeting to explain the scheme and the funding request in full.

POTENTIAL USE OF COMMUNITY ASSETS

St John's Church - As advised in June, the Feasibility documents are live on the City Council Procurement Portal and companies have until the 29th July to submit any quotes.

North Lodge Gatehouse - A viewing was booked but the estate agent cancelled it, stating that the vendor did not want any more viewings to take place.

Hermitage – the property has been advertised as ‘for sale by auction’. Further details have been requested but the brochure has not yet been signed off for printing.

DEVELOPMENT AT THE FORMER HOSPITAL SITE

Social Club – Further to the May meeting, the Clerk wrote to the Chair of the Trust - set up to develop the Sports & Social Club – to request that Cllr Woodburn / Cllr Eccles be involved in future discussions. A reply has been received confirming that monthly progress meetings are being held with the contractor and Homes England and a summary of the meetings can be forwarded to the Parish Council.

The email also states that work will start on the site compound, small carpark and campsite in July, with the new clubhouse commencing in September. The new clubhouse is expected to be handed over in August 2026, prior to the old club house being demolished. Once this is done, work will start on the new football pitch, Multiuse Games Area and carpark - with the whole project expected to be completed in December 2026 – although it could be a further 12 months before the football pitch can be used.

MIN 25/26.58 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk reply to the email to confirm that the Parish Council would like to receive a monthly summary of the meetings.

School – The Cabinet Member for Schools has confirmed that whilst the County Council will not be progressing the expansion of Goosnargh Oliverson school, they will continue to engage with the school to address children's safety at drop off and collection times.

As the expansion is not going ahead, the County Council will seek to deliver a new 2 form entry primary school of 420 places, however, it is not clear whether the planning application for the school will need to be resubmitted.

The reply continues that *officers are considering a range of options to mitigate the shortfall in places, with interim arrangements of a temporary village on the Whittingham site whilst the school build is in progress.*

MIN 25/26.59 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write back to request **a)** confirmation that Goosnargh Oliverson school will continue to operate alongside the new school **b)** seek clarification on the timeline to approve and build the new primary school and **c)** request an explanation of what a ‘temporary village’ means.

Housing – Members **noted** that application **06/2025/1008** for 477 homes was presented to the Planning Committee on the 5th June. Permission was granted - subject to comments from the Local Lead Flood Authority (LLFA). The Clerk wrote to Barratts to remind them of the points the Parish Council raised when considering the detailed application. Barratts have replied that they can't address the points or start the development until the LLFA comments are received. The Clerk will continue to monitor the situation and will request a meeting to ensure the Council receives a reply to the points raised.

PLANNING POLICY / PROCEDURES

Local Plan – the Local Plan has been submitted to the Secretary of State and Members **noted** that the Clerk has requested to be kept informed of any modifications. If necessary, the Council will have an opportunity to attend and speak at the Local Plan hearing.

Members **noted** that the 2 sites earmarked for ‘elderly homes’ off Whittingham Road are still included in the Local Plan, however, in response to the Parish Council's concerns that the site may revert to general housing, the City Council have stated that they will consider tightening up the wording to secure the provision of homes for the elderly.

MIN 25/26.60 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk write to the police to request that they record the number of accidents which occur on the Whittingham Road / Halfpenny Lane junction.

5 Year Supply - As advised in June, the 5-year supply has been restored, however, Members were requested to **note** that the tilted balance is still engaged. This is because a Planning Inspector determined that the housing need figure should be used to assess housing land supply, rather than the housing requirement stated in the Core Strategy.

Use of the housing need figure makes Policy 4 of the Core Strategy out of date, so the tilted balance is still a consideration when assessing planning applications.

Bearing the above in mind, Members **noted** that appeals have been submitted on the following applications

06/2025/0223 permission in principle for up to 8no. dwellings off Langley Lane,

06/2025/0224 permission in principle for up to 9no. dwellings (Parcel 1) and **06/2025/0225** for Permission in principle for up to 9no. dwellings (Parcel 2), at Dean Farm, Whittingham Lane.

SWAINSON HOUSE FARM APPLICATION

Following a joint effort by Cllr Eccles, Cllr Price and City Cllr Sue Whittam, Members were informed that the Swainson House Farm application was refused on the 3rd July. Thanks were expressed to all concerned but it was **noted** that the applicant is likely to appeal the decision.

Prior to the refusal, concerns were raised regarding the decision-making process and bias towards approving the application in the officer's report. The Clerk, Cllr Eccles and Cllr Price attended a meeting with the Deputy Director of Planning, the Development Manager Team Lead and the Planning Case Officer to discuss the concerns.

The officers explained that because Members vote for or against the officer recommendation - not the planning application - a vote against the officer recommendation to approve, does not mean the application is refused. Furthermore, applications may be deferred and re-presented back to the planning committee several times before a decision is reached.

The Parish Council is not in a position to challenge the explanation, however, Members **noted** that Cllr Price stated that he may continue to question the explanation in a personal capacity.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No applications were considered under delegated authority but Members were requested to consider the following application

06/2025/0647 Outline planning application for the erection of up to 125no. dwellings (including affordable housing) with public open space (including children's play areas) landscaping and sustainable drainage system (SuDS) on land off Churchgate, Goosnargh.,

MIN 25/26.61 Members **RESOLVED** to object to the application using the policy reasons provided in the refusal of Swainson House Farm. The Clerk will include local concerns and will put a copy of the objection letter on the Parish Council website to help residents wishing to oppose the application.

NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

SKEW BRIDGE – Members **noted** the proposed alterations to Skew Bridge in Grimsargh which were circulated by email and reiterated their concern that Brabiner Lane will be used as a diversion whilst the bridge is closed.

MIN 25/26.62 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk request that additional, large signs are erected on Brabiner Lane stating it is not suitable for HGVs.

LCC SPID Goosnargh Lane – LCC confirmed that the SPID erected on Goosnargh Lane was part of their efforts to monitor traffic, following the highway concerns raised in connection with their plans to expand Goosnargh Oliverson School.

NEWSLETTER

MIN 25/26.63 Members **RESOLVED** that the Summer Newsletter can be circulated and approved by email. Suggested articles include the Parish Councillor vacancy, an update on planning applications and the proposed new primary school, results of the Best Kept Village competition and any updates regarding the procurement for the St John Feasibility Study.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Traditionally a meeting is not scheduled in August, although an extra-ordinary meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any 2 Members of the Council.

Members **noted** that the next scheduled meeting is **Thursday 11th Sept 2025 at 7.15pm** in Goosnargh Village Hall.