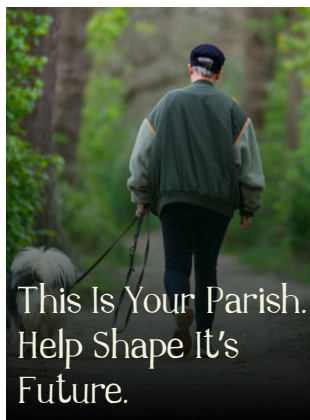


Summer Newsletter



Whittingham Parish Council



Whittingham isn't just where we live, it's our community, and every one of us has a part to play in shaping its future.

As your Parish Council, we're here to listen, represent your views, and make decisions that reflect what matters most to the people who call Whittingham home. But we can only do that if we hear from you.

Whether you have an idea, a concern, or simply want to tell us what you love about our village, we'd love to know. Take a few minutes to complete our community survey by scanning the QR code below, and help us understand what's important to you. If you cannot use the QR code you can find the survey on our website. Every response helps guide the work we do, from community projects and local events to the improvements we prioritise for the years ahead.



New Beginnings

Welcome to our 'new look' newsletter! What better season to begin than Summer. As you will all agree, Summer in our beautiful Parish is delightful and we love living here. The newsletter is also available on our website <https://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk> so the website links can easily be accessed from a range of devices.



Your New Ninja Warrior Play Trail

You asked, we listened! Following feedback from residents, we're delighted to announce that work will begin over the summer holidays on exciting new play equipment designed specifically for older children and teenagers (approximately ages 11-16).

The new Ninja Play Trail will feature a series of linked play structures that encourage children to climb, balance, swing and move their way through the course at their own pace. Designed to be fun, engaging and challenging, the trail promotes confidence, coordination, balance and agility through active outdoor play. An integrated stopwatch will allow users to time themselves and challenge their own personal bests, while information panels on each section will provide ideas for different ways to use the equipment, alongside QR codes linking to further challenges.

The new play area will be located on the top left-hand side of the Village Green, opposite the tennis courts, providing a dedicated space where older children and teenagers can enjoy active outdoor play in a safe and welcoming environment.





A Summary Of Dave's Annual Chairman Report And A Very Fond Farewell.

"Communities thrive because of people who give their time to make them better. Thank you, Dave."

This year marks the end of an era for Whittingham Parish Council as Councillor Dave Hall steps down after 15 years as a Parish Councillor, including seven years as Chairman. Throughout his time in office, Dave has helped guide the Parish through significant change while remaining committed to protecting and improving our local community.

During his chairmanship, the Parish Council has continued to champion responsible development, successfully challenging inappropriate planning applications while supporting the regeneration of the former Whittingham Hospital site. Exciting projects currently underway include proposals for a new woodland walk, ongoing investment in our village greens, improvements to community facilities, and exploring the future restoration of the historic St John's Church.

The Council has also invested Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding into a wide range of local projects over the years, including improvements to village halls, play areas, sports facilities, walking routes, defibrillators, floodlights, benches, parish signage and community spaces, all helping to enhance life across the parish. Communication with residents has also been strengthened through the quarterly newsletter and parish website.

Dave's report also paid tribute to the dedication of fellow councillors and marked the retirement of long-serving Parish Clerk Julie Buttle, thanking her for 17 years of exceptional service to the parish. Another heartfelt Thank You.

On behalf of Whittingham Parish Council and the wider community, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Councillor Dave Hall for his unwavering dedication, leadership and commitment over the past 15 years. His passion for protecting our villages, championing community projects and helping shape the future of the parish has left a lasting legacy. We wish Dave every happiness in his well earned retirement and thank him for everything he has done for Whittingham Parish.

Meet Your New Chair:

A Conversation With Cllr Michelle Woodburn

Following her appointment as Chair of Whittingham Parish Council, we sat down with Cllr Michelle Woodburn to learn more about her time on the council, what inspires her, and her hopes for the future of our parish.

How long have you served on the Parish Council?

"I've proudly served on the Parish Council for six years. It's been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated people who genuinely care about our community."

What project are you most proud to have been involved with?

"There have been so many, but I'm particularly proud of being part of the process that helped prevent further housing development in the parish. Protecting the character of our village is incredibly important.

I'm also proud of the improvements we've made to our community facilities, including repairs and upgrades to Goosnargh Village Hall, and supporting the extension and fantastic new kitchen at Goosnargh Methodist Church. These are spaces that bring people together and will benefit the community for many years to come."

Looking Ahead

As Michelle begins her time as Chair, she brings with her a genuine passion for community, a wealth of local knowledge, and a clear commitment to protecting what makes Whittingham special while helping it thrive for generations to come. We wish Michelle every success in her new role and look forward to working with her on all of the exciting projects ahead.

What do you love most about Whittingham?

"For me, it's the people. I'm a real people person and I love meeting residents, welcoming newcomers and sharing everything that's so special about our village. I enjoy getting involved in projects that improve our local area and help make Whittingham a more sustainable place for future generations."

There have been lots of changes since you joined the council. What excites you most about becoming Chair?

"The Parish Council has changed enormously since I joined. We now have a fantastic committee and a new Clerk, all bringing different skills, knowledge and fresh ideas. We have councillors of different ages and backgrounds, and everyone is actively involved in the work we do. We're constantly looking at how we can improve and better serve our community.

I'm especially excited about the proposed Woodland Walk, which I think will become a wonderful asset for the parish. One of our biggest long-term challenges will be the future of St John's Church. It's still in the early stages, but it's an important project and one we'll continue working on together."



A Lasting Tribute to Cllr Eddie Marginson

Despite a very wet morning, members of the Parish Council were honoured to come together with Eddie's wife, Yvonne, to plant a beautiful cherry blossom tree on the Village Green in loving memory of Cllr Eddie Marginson, who sadly passed away in 2024. Eddie gave so much of his time to serving our community, and it felt fitting to create a lasting tribute in a place that can be enjoyed by generations to come.

It was wonderful to have Yvonne with us to mark the occasion, and although the weather certainly tested our waterproofs, it did nothing to dampen the sentiment of the morning. We hope the cherry blossom tree will become a place of quiet reflection and a lasting symbol of Eddie's legacy within our village.

The Parish Plan

Goosnargh Childrens Play Area

Preston City Council is currently gathering quotes to replace the play equipment that has been removed. Two quotes have been received so far, and we are waiting for a third before this stage of the process can be completed.

Once the quotations have been reviewed, Preston City Council will be able to move forward with the installation works.

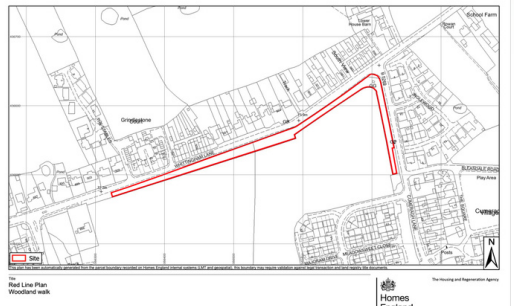
We know the playground is at the heart of our village, and we are just as eager as residents to see it restored and back in use. We will continue to share updates on our social media pages as soon as we receive them.



The Woodland Walk

Whittingham Parish Council are in discussions with Homes England to purchase a strip of land that runs alongside Cumeragh Lane and Whittingham Lane, and then develop it into a Woodland Walk for the Community. An indicative map of the area is shown to the right.

Currently there is no formal footpath running along the southern side of Whittingham Lane, and the intention would be to create a safe pedestrian route from Tansy Lane through to the footpath that connects to Henry Littler Way without the need to cross Whittingham Lane.



St John's Church

We are still awaiting the revised feasibility study from the architects. Following the initial report, it became clear that parking requirements had not been fully considered, so further work is being undertaken to address this. Once the revised study has been received and reviewed, we will be able to provide a further update on the project's progress.



Roads

We're pleased to share that Lancashire County Council has begun carrying out repairs to roads across the parish. Work is already underway to repair potholes, helping to improve the condition of our local roads for everyone. Residents may also have noticed the installation of new speed bumps on Cumeragh Lane, which have been introduced to help reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety for all road users.

We know that road maintenance and road safety are important issues for our community, and we'll continue to work closely with Lancashire County Council and keep residents updated as further improvements take place.



Upcoming Events Calendar

Here is a look at our upcoming village event schedule.



**AUG
31**

Back To School Teddy Bears Picnic

Bring a picnic to the Village green at 12pm, catch up with friends, meet new classmates and let the children enjoy one last summer afternoon before the new school term begins. There'll be crafts, an ice cream van, and plenty of space to play and reconnect after the holidays. Don't forget their all important bear!

**SEP
5**

Goosnargh Flower, Produce & Craft Show

The much loved Goosnargh Flower, Produce & Craft Show returns for its 41st year! With almost 100 classes to enter, there's something for everyone, whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or trying it for the very first time.

Schedules and entry forms are available from Londis, Goosnargh Chippy, Tap & Tales and The Grapes Inn. Everyone is encouraged to take part and help keep this wonderful village tradition alive. View entries on the day at the village hall from 2-3:30pm.



**OCT
10**

Harvest On The Green



Join Together Goosnargh + Whittingham as we celebrate the harvest season with a wonderful day on the village green. Browse a fantastic selection of local food and craft stalls, enjoy live music, entertainment and activities for the whole family.

We're busy putting together a fantastic programme for the day, so be sure to keep an eye on our social media channels over the coming weeks. We'll be sharing the full event itinerary, competitions and entry information, along with details of our stallholders, performers and plenty more exciting announcements as the event approaches.

**1ST
THU**

NHS: Give Blood

Give Blood at Goosnargh & Whittingham Village Hall
There will be an opportunity to give blood at Goosnargh Village Hall on the first Thursday of every month, from 12:00 to 21:00.





Whittingham Parish Council

Budget Summary 2026/27

Income

Precept	£31,500
VAT Reclaimed	£3,050
CIL Interest	£9,535
Bank Interest	£492
Total Income	£44,577

Expenditure

Staffing	£22,970
Administration & Office Costs	£4,355
Marketing & Communications	£7,040
Insurance, Audit & Subscriptions	£2,988
Grants & Donations	£1,200
Parks & Open Spaces	£12,537
General Assets & Repairs	£250
Total Expenditure	£51,522

Budget Position

Total Income	£44,577
Total Expenditure	£51,522
Use of Council Reserves	£6,945

Community Grants

Goosnargh Festival	£500
Longridge Agricultural Show	£250
Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom	£300
Additional Grant Allocation	£150

The 2026/27 budget includes a planned use of £6,945 from Council reserves to support continued investment

The Whittingham Almanac

Summer Edition

Every season brings something new to discover in our parish. From birds returning to our skies and wildflowers brightening the verges, to harvests beginning in our fields, the landscape around Whittingham is constantly changing. The Whittingham Almanac is your seasonal guide to the wildlife, plants and natural wonders on our doorstep. Whether you're walking the dog, exploring with the grandchildren or simply enjoying a quiet evening stroll, see how many of these signs of summer you can spot.

Summer Spotting Checklist

- ☐ Barn Swallow – *Watch them swoop low over fields and gardens, catching insects in flight.*
- ☐ Swift – *Listen for their unmistakable high pitched calls as they race overhead on warm evenings.*
- ☐ Buzzard – *Often seen circling high above the countryside, riding warm air currents.*
- ☐ Goldfinch – *Look for flashes of yellow and red as they feed on thistles and teasels.*
- ☐ Common Blue Butterfly – *One of Britain's smallest butterflies, often found in sunny grassland.*
- ☐ Red Admiral – *A striking butterfly frequently seen feeding on nectar rich flowers.*
- ☐ Buff-tailed Bumblebee – *One of our largest bumblebees and a vital pollinator of gardens and hedgerows.*
- ☐ European Hedgehog – *Most active after sunset as they forage for beetles, worms and other insects.*
- ☐ Oxeye Daisy – *The classic white summer wildflower lighting up roadside verges.*
- ☐ Common Knapweed – *Its vibrant purple flowers provide a feast for bees and butterflies.*
- ☐ Meadowsweet – *Look for its creamy-white flowers and sweet fragrance in damp grassland and along streams.*

Summer In The Parish

Hedgerows are bustling. Young birds are leaving the nest, butterflies are emerging in greater numbers, and our native bees are working hard to pollinate wildflowers and crops. Hay meadows reach their peak. If you're lucky enough to pass an unimproved meadow before it's cut, you'll find a rich tapestry of wildflowers supporting countless insects.

Blackberries begin to appear. Tiny green fruits are already forming in the hedgerows and will ripen towards the end of summer, providing food for birds and mammals.



Did You Know?

A healthy hedgerow can support more than 2,000 different species of plants, insects, birds and mammals. These living corridors are some of the richest habitats in our countryside, providing food, shelter and safe routes for wildlife to move between fields and woodland.

Community Nature

Have you spotted something special? We'd love to see your photographs of Goosnargh and Whittingham's wildlife, wildflowers and seasonal landscapes. Email your favourite pictures to cllr.chattein@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk and they could feature in the next edition of The Whittingham Almanac. Together, let's celebrate the wonderful nature that surrounds our parish.

Your Parish Council

Higher Ward

Chair

Cllr Michelle Woodburn
cldr.woodburn@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Lauren Chattein
cldr.chattein@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Dave Price
cldr.price@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr. Barbara Clarke
cldr.clarke@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Lower Ward

Vice Chair

Cllr Anthony Eccles
cldr.eccles@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Martin Carefoot
cldr.carefoot@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

Parish Clerk

Mr Mike Thorpe
Tel: 07508 783185
clerk@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk

City & County Councillors

City Cllr Mark Bell
07774 702584
City Cllr Harry Landless
07733 528991
City Cllr Stephen Whittam
07784 283864
County Cllr Maria Jones
07856 930916

Get Involved Today



Join our Facebook page
for live community updates

Need to get in touch?
clerk@whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk



**Whittingham
Parish Council**