



WHITTINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 13th Feb 2025 at 7.15pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cllr Dave Hall - Chairman
Cllr Martin Carefoot
Cllr Anthony Eccles
Cllr Tony Brooks
Cllr Dave Price
Cllr Michelle Woodburn

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

County Cllr Susan Whittam
City Cllr Stephen Whittam
Trish Parker – Cumeragh Village Resident Association

Mrs Julie Buttle Parish Clerk

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Barbara Clarke.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9TH JAN 2025.
MIN 24/25.130 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

Cllr Woodburn declared an interest in the Best Kept Village entry as she is Chairman of Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

MIN 24/25.131 Members **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting for public participation.

The Police Rural Taskforce team had indicated they would attend the meeting. As they did not turn up, the Clerk will invite them to the March meeting.

Trish Parker stated that the Cumeragh Village Residents Association was being discontinued because the bank wanted to apply a monthly fee to the account and there are not enough transactions to warrant keeping it open. The CVRA was set up in 1988 and residents have been instrumental in hosting fund raising activities in Cumeragh Village. Surplus funds in the account will be donated to Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom.

County Cllr Whittam noted social media concerns expressed in relation to the planning application for a proposed new school off Henry Littler Way. She explained that the school was approved as part of the housing proposals at the former Whittingham hospital site and funding had been secured through a S106 legal agreement. She also confirmed that the location of a new secondary school was still subject to ongoing discussions with LCC.

Whilst this is not disputed by the Parish Council, LCC have also consulted on plans to expand Goosnargh Oliverson's School and it was questioned if / why both schools were needed especially as various highway concerns have been raised at Goosnargh Oliverson's school.

It was agreed that the Clerk will forward the Parish Council's comments on the proposed planning application to County Cllr Whittam and will also contact LCC regarding the need to develop both sites.

It was also noted that concerns had been expressed in relation to drainage issues associated with the proposed school and the reserved matters application for 477 homes. Whilst drainage issues were assessed as part of the outline application, as this was approved in 2019, the Clerk will ask if the drainage plans have been updated to take into account the development already being constructed.

In general terms, it was stated that when housing developments are built on green fields, not enough is done to ensure the field drains are protected and enhanced. This has led to increased drainage issues at Halfpenny Lane.

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Cllr Woodburn referred to an incident where a mobility scooter could not pass cars parked on the pavement. The matter should be reported to the police with a photograph of the offending vehicle. In relation to over grown private hedges, the Parish Council can issue a letter requesting that the occupants cut them back, however, if the hedge obscures a sight line or severely restricts the width of the pavement, LCC have powers to cut the hedge but again, a photograph of the issue needs to be sent to LCC.

It was noted that the January Minutes state that LCC will be issuing letters to residents regarding the proposed Cold Calling zones. As nothing has been heard, the Clerk and County Cllr Whittam will chase up delivery of the letters.

The Chairman asked if we will see an elected Mayor in Lancashire following the re-organisation proposals. County Cllr Whittam stated that whilst reorganisation is a good idea it may not happen for several years. It was confirmed that the LCC elections would take place in May and County Cllr Whittam was congratulated on her announcement that she would be Mayor of Preston in May 2025.

As there were no other points raised, the meeting was reconvened.

GOOSNARGH VILLAGE GREEN FOOTBALL LICENCE

Further to requests to use Goosnargh Village Green for training and football matches, Members **noted** that the City Council is in the process of updating its Playing Pitch strategy which will inform which pitches can be expanded.

MIN 24/25.132 Members **RESOLVED** to keep the requests as pending until the outcome of the City Council Playing Pitch strategy is known.

GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Grounds Maintenance Contract was issued to 8 companies and it was noted that 4 quotes had been received.

MIN 24/25.133 Members considered the replies and **RESOLVED** to award the maintenance contract to Millars. The Clerk will confirm the appointment and will liaise with them regarding when the contract should commence.

LENGTHSMAN RECRUITMENT

MIN 24/25.134 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the draft contract and person specification and confirmed that as a local person / company is preferred, the vacancy will be advertised on the Parish Council website and local Facebook pages. It was noted that the closing date is proposed as the 7th March with interviews likely to be held w/c 17th March so that the appointed person can start in April.

Members noted that a small area of verge at Halfpenny Lane is unlikely to be maintained by the home owner or the developer and enquiries will be made to see if such areas can be maintained by the Lengthsman.

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION (BKV)

Members noted that entries for the Best Kept Village need to be submitted by the 30th March and Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom, in conjunction with the new Lengthsman, were prepared to continue in their efforts to improve the village.

MIN 24/25.135 Members **RESOLVED** that Goosnargh & Whittingham in Bloom submit the entries as they did last year.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1st – 31st Jan 2025

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

The switch from Co-Op to Unity Trust will take place on the 28th Feb to allow time for the direct debits and internal transfers to clear. Cllr Price confirmed his registration is nearing completion.

MIN 24/25.136 Members **RESOLVED** to also add Cllr Eccles to the account and the mandate forms were duly signed.

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ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND RECEIPTS

MIN 24/25.137 Members **RESOLVED** to note and approve the following invoice already paid following the January meeting.

Sign boards & leaflets for 2 PROW walks	Burnley Council	£1,570.00	MIN24/25.94
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MIN 24/25.138 Members **RESOLVED** to approve the following invoices to be paid from the Co-Op account - with the Viking invoice to be authorised and paid from Unity Trust.

Dog bag refill – 800 bags	JRB Enterprise	£130.26	BACs
January 2025 Maintenance	Nurture	£664.62	BACs
Electric Bill – Christmas period	E-On	£55.44	DD
Clerk Salary Feb	J Buttle	£1570.27	BACs
PAYE	HMRC	£231.14	BACs
Employer Nat Ins	HMRC	£151.36	BACs
Nest Pension	NEST	£93.45	DD
Ink pack	Viking	£92.22	BACs

Members **noted** the following accounts pending receipt of invoices

- Mowing of football pitch from Aug to end of season - Reminder sent 17th Jan 2025
- Installation of dog dispensers - Nurture = £150 + VAT
- Christmas tree and new lights - Nurture = £1,350 + VAT

CIL FINANCE PLAN

Members assessed the CIL Business Plan for imminent expenditure and noted the CIL finance report confirming that £109,346.30 of CIL monies are currently held in the bank account.

MIN 24/25.139 Members **RESOLVED** to approve a transfer of £75,000 from the Co-Op account to the CCLA, leaving £34,346 available for any CIL payments to be made before the financial year end. The transfer will be 3 transactions of £25,000 each.

NEW CIL ITEM

Replacement multi play unit in Goosnargh play area

The City Council have advised that the multi play unit (tower slides and rope bridge) is suffering from wear and tear and needs to be replaced. They have approx £14,000 of S106 money to add a new piece of equipment, however, if the Parish Council adds additional funding, a better piece of equipment can be purchased.

MIN 24/25.140 Members **RESOLVED** to add the item to category 2 of the CIL Business Plan with an estimated match fund of £14,000.

CIL BUSINESS PLAN

a) Gym equipment.

Members **noted** that a resident had expressed concerns that the Village Green is protected from 'development' however, reassurances were given that the addition of gym equipment is not considered to be a breach of the legislation covering Village Greens as the equipment is for the better enjoyment of the Village Green for sports and pastimes.

Members **noted** that the meetings with the gym companies will now go ahead in the hope that an initial design can be presented to the March meeting with a view to it being included in the Spring Newsletter.

b) Woodland walk

MIN 24/25.141 Members **RESOLVED** to approve payment of £1,750 + VAT to receive a valuation of the land associated with the Woodland Walk.

The valuation will not include a small slither of land near the entrance to Barratt homes.

Members **noted** that should the Council decide to proceed with the purchase following the valuation, there will be additional costs to prepare Heads of Terms and Terms of Disposal.

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c) Cumeragh Drainage / play tower.

Cllr Eccles had provided Members with a comprehensive update on the drainage issues at Cumeragh play area to which LCC Highways replied that as the drains do not appear on theirs or United Utilities mapping systems they are not sure who owns them. Officers from the Highways Maintenance team will discuss the issue with United Utilities.

MIN 24/25.142 Members **RESOLVED** that the surfacing under the play tower should be put on hold until LCC / United Utilities confirm that the drainage issues have been resolved.

ST JOHN'S CHURCH COMMUNITY PROJECT

Members **noted** that Cllr Price updated the procurement document which has been forwarded to the City Council in the hope it can now be added to add to their procurement portal.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS - CONSIDERED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

MIN 24/25.143 Members **RESOLVED** they had no objections to the following summarised, delegated applications

06/2025/0020 Extensions and windows at Arden, 843, Whittingham Lane,

06/2025/0048 Extension at Benson House, Langley Lane

06/2025/0063 Extensions at Gleadale House, Cumeragh Lane,

06/2025/0070 Variation of approved plans for extensions at Broadfield, Inglewhite Road.

06/2025/0101 Variation of plans for a dwelling adjacent, Slaters Barn, Whittingham Lane.

Members noted that following applications did not fall under delegated authority

LCC/2025/0002 Erection of new single storey primary school and integrated SEN unit with associated infrastructure, car parking, hard and soft play areas, multi-use games area and landscaping on land situated off Henry Littler Way / Whittingham Lane.

MIN 24/25.144 Members discussed various aspects of the application and **RESOLVED** that the Clerk circulate a summary of the comments to all prior to submitting comments to LCC.

06/2025/0008 Reserved matters application (namely appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission 06/2019/0365 for 477no. dwellings at the former Whittingham Hospital Site, Whittingham Lane, Whittingham.

Members **noted** that the Clerk has arranged a presentation to the Council by the planners who submitted the application.

MIN 24/25.145 As the presentation will take place after the Council meeting, Members **RESOLVED** that Clerk circulate a summary of the comments to all prior to submitting the comments to Preston City Council.

Empty Homes

Further to an enquiry by Cllr Carefoot, City Cllr Stephen Whittam advised that as of 14th Jan 2025, there are 3,549 empty houses in Preston of which (885) are second homes. Of the 3,549, 60 (5) are in Whittingham. A total of 36 homes were back into use in 2024.

MIN 24/25.146 Members **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the City Council to ask what is being done to bring more homes back into use.

Affordable Housing eligibility

Cllr Woodburn has been made aware that a Ribble Valley resident has stated that she can't apply for a home at Rogerson Gardens as she is not a Preston resident. The Clerk stated that the S106 Agreement confirms that Ribble Valley, Chorley and South Ribble residents can apply if there are insufficient applicants from Preston.

MIN 24/25.147 It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk send the relevant section of the S106 to Cllr Woodburn so that the applicant can contact the City Council in relation to her personal circumstances.

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NOTE NEW CORRESPONDENCE

Members **noted** the following new correspondence received.

Clay Lane – The County Council have advised that the Public Right of Way along Old Clay Lane was recorded in error and restricted byway rights exist instead. LCC will make Orders to record the change in status and a right of objection will be forwarded in due course.

It was stated that portacabins have been erected on land off Clay Lane. Photographs will be sent to the Clerk who will ask the City Council to investigate.

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute - The Clerk has been made aware of a charity called the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute who provide advice and assistance to support farmers facing difficult times. A link to their website <https://rabi.org.uk/how-we-can-help> has been added to the Parish Council website

Parish Walks - Positive feedback has been received from the Parish Walks however, there is a temporary diversion in place to access Pudding Pie Fire Walk from Goosnargh Lane. The Clerk has signposted the diversion on site and has added an article to the Parish Council website. LCC have also confirmed that an access issue on Cumeragh Canter has been actioned.

Any future problems on the walks should be reported to LCC using 'Love Clean Streets' as detailed on the Parish Council website. <https://www.whittinghamparishcouncil.org.uk/news.php>

King's Garden Party – As in previous years, the Chairman has been invited to apply to be entered into ballot to attend the Kings Garden party at Buckingham Palace.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

At the Jan meeting, Members resolved to hold the May meeting on the 22nd May due to the Clerk's family commitment. Unfortunately, Goosnargh Village Hall is booked on that date.

MIN 24/25.148 To keep the meeting on a Thursday, Members **RESOLVED** that the meeting be moved to the United Methodist Reform Church on Whittingham Lane.

The next meeting is scheduled on **13th March 2025** at 7.15pm in Goosnargh Village Hall.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM RE CLERK'S CONTRACT.

Further to MIN 24/25.117 of the January meeting where a decision was not reached regarding an amendment to the Clerk's Contract of Employment, the Chairman proposed that the first sentence of para 6.1 be amended with para 6.2 being removed.

MIN 24/25.149 Members **RESOLVED** to vote in favour of the proposal with one abstention.

END