

GOOSNARGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT WHITECHAPEL VILLAGE HALL.

ON MONDAY 20th MAY 2024 AT 7.30PM

In accordance with LGA 1972 Schedule 12 para 17(1) Cllr A Butler, Chairman of the Parish Council presided as Chairman.

PRESENT: Parish Councillor Andrew Butler (Chairman)
Parish Councillors: Rob Hayton, Will Platt, Mark Robinson,
Preston City Councillor Stephen Thompson
Helen Witter - Neighbourhood Watch
2 members of the public (as noted on the attendance sheet)
Parish Clerk – Julie Buttle

APOLOGIES:

Parish Cllr Steve Pike
Parish Cllr Mick Scambler
Parish Cllr John Singleton
Jess Wight – Past and Present project

City Councillor Daniel Guise contacted the Clerk prior to the meeting to explain that Goosnargh meetings clash with his employment at Penwortham Town Council. If residents wish to contact Daniel, his email address is cllr.d.guise@preston.gov.uk

County Councillor Susan Whittam emailed her apologies as the meeting clashed with a commitment to attend another Parish Council meeting. Her apologies were not received until after the meeting. If any residents wish to contact Sue, her email address is Susan.Whittam@lancashire.gov.uk

MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on **22nd May 2023** - which had been noted at the June 2023 meeting - were approved and signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

The Chairman reflected on the Councils' work and thanked the Clerk for the completion of her first full year. He also thanked Helen Witter of Neighbourhood Watch for her commitment to the village, arranging the litter picks and keeping the Parish Council up to date with village issues.

During the year, the Council has reached an agreement with Lancs County Council regarding the location of the Speed Indicator signs. Once the sites have been risk assessed by LCC engineers, the Parish Council will arrange for the poles and devices to be erected.

Inglewhite village cross has been cleaned and repointed and new verge markers will shortly be erected on the Village Green.

The Past and Present project is entering the final stages as detailed in the full Council minutes and once complete, it is hoped visitors will be encouraged to walk the trails and support local businesses.

Benches have been repaired and replaced and the Council has once again entered the Best Kept Village competition.

The Council has been proactive and fair in its consideration of planning matters and it is pleasing to note that there has not been any negative feedback.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The finance report for 2023/24 will be presented to the Annual Parish Council meeting which includes the signature of the Annual Governance Statements.

OTHER REPORTS

City Cllr Stephen Thomson stated that Preston Rural North was now represented by a Liberal Democrat as well as Conservative Councillors and following the local elections, the Conservatives are now the 3rd sized party on the City Council. Campaigning will continue as the County Council elections take place in 2025 and there may be a general election later this year. He explained that following the redrawing of the parliamentary boundaries, Goosnargh will come under the Ribble Valley seat, currently held by Nigel Evans MP.

Locally he has been elected as leader of the Conservative party, and will do his best to hold the labour administration to account. He expressed concerns regarding the financial cost of policing protests against the situation in the Middle East and is also opposing a proposal to create a 'friendship' link with a town in Gaza because he believes the City Council should prioritise Preston issues.

He gave an update on City Centre projects which include the Cinema development and the renovation of the Harris building which is being funded by grants from the Arts Council and other agencies. He will be encouraging the Labour Mayor to visit the rural areas with the intention of increasing the number of grants and donations available. Any rural funding ideas should be passed to Cllr Thompson.

Traffic issues continue to be a concern and he will work closely with the new Police Crime Commissioner to ensure the rural areas are included in any new initiatives. As the City Council Planning and Legal sections are under resourced, he will be pressing for more recruitment to assist with the backlog of enforcement queries in the rural areas.

In response to a question, he confirmed the Harris will be reopening in Autumn 2024.

A member of the public stated that the roads were a disgrace and although potholes have been reported on Love Clean Streets, the process for repairing them was very poor.

In response, it was stated that LCC were doing their best, but the situation is made worse by the quantity of traffic. Wider and heavier vehicles destroy the grass verges and as there are no foundations underneath, the road crumbles away. Unfortunately, as many roads are affected across the County, the situation is 'ongoing'.

A resident stated that they did not receive any leaflets or information regarding the local elections and as the parliamentary boundaries are changing, he would welcome an opportunity to meet the prospective candidates at the Village Hall. Cllr Thompson said he would raise the matter further.

MATTERS RAISED BY THOSE PRESENT

A resident stated that LCC had done a good job clearing the gullies on Silk Mill Lane but queried when works will take place on Button Street.

The Chairman explained that LCC were updating their maps and were slowly clearing and repairing the gullies. The Clerk added any drainage concerns should be reported on the Love Clean Streets app. If a drain is not shown in the immediate location, report the issue on the nearest recorded drain, clearly stating where the issue is. The Clerk will also ask LCC for a progress report on the rumble strips on Button Street.

It was stated that the kerb on Inglewhite Green has been damaged and needs repairing. The Clerk will raise this with LCC in the hope that a site meeting can be arranged with members of the Parish Council.

It was stated that the entrance to the Seddon homes site off Goosnargh Lane was in poor condition. The Clerk will query when the roads will be completed and adopted.

A representative from Plymouth Brethren Christian Church explained that Church members can provide a [rapid relief team](#) to help with charity events, litter picking, community projects etc. The Clerk offered to note and circulate the contact details to those present.

It was confirmed that the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings takes place on the 6th June 2024 with beacons being lit at 21.15. Further details are on the Parish Council website.

After a short adjournment, the meeting continued with the Annual Parish Council Meeting.