



Preston Area Committee Meeting, Wednesday 26th March 2025 at 7.00 pm
@ TOLL BAR COTTAGE, 476 Garstang Road, Broughton, PR3 5JB

1. Present: six members from four parishes plus the speaker & Lalc area support officer
2. Apologies: Barton PC
3. Executive Committee members: PH explained that she is now the chair of Lalc, she will remain as one of the Executive Committee members alongside the new chair. Cllr Martin Carefoot from Whittingham Parish Council
4. The minutes of last PAC Meeting held 4th December 2024 were agreed as a true record.
5. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting that will not be covered by CW's update.
6. Carolyn Williams from PCC updated the group on the Central Lancashire Local Plan. There was an opportunity to look at the maps and policies and seek clarification on specific issue relating to individual parishes. The clarity of the new document was highlighted by several people present. The status of the NW Preston Development Area within the plan was clarified. Comments about the size reduction of the linear park in Woodplumpton/Cottam and the lack of the development of the new educational facilities was discussed; they delay being to due to site issues. It was noted that the settlement boundaries had been adjusted to encompass the expansion of the villages with all the recent developments. There was discussion around the current lack of a five-year land supply. The proposed 590 per annum has been agreed based on the transitional arrangement form the NPPF 2024. Other points of discussion included the Areas of Separation, wording of some policies, the mis of properties in developments and the "empty" properties in Preston.

The deadline for responses to the consultation is the 14th April 2025. Once all the responses have been received and comments on them. This a tracked version will be available on line . The published version will hopefully be with the Inspector for October 2025. Any modifications required after this will then be done hopefully getting to adoption in the spring of 2026. The Greater Lancashire devolution process will not affect the adoption of the plan for 5 years.

Contact emails for planning policy: planningpolicy@preston.gov.uk

- 7 In DG absence CW updated the group on the new form produced following last year's PCC audit. The key concern was around the spend within the five-year period by the Parish councils. The form will need to be completed for the last five years that is back 2018/19. There will also be a new tracking system for the payments by developers that will be accessible to PC's. DW will come to the next meeting to demonstrate it.

Concern was expressed about the lack of Advisory Notes when a development is CiL rated and the schedule of their payments as well as the noted starts on sites without these notes. It was agreed that the PC's can report the start on a development directly to DW.

Contact details for CiL: CIL@preston.gov.uk

8. LALC Business: PH explained that there is now a page on the Greater Lancashire Devolution Proposals on the LALC website.
<https://www.lalc.org.uk/devolution.php>

Spring Conference 7th June with an EGM preceding it to agree the revised constitution details to follow.

9. Around the Parishes

Whittingham

PCC has agreed to fund a feasibility study to look at the future of S Johns church the expectation is that this cost will run into millions. The graveyard is owned by Homes England and will be maintained. The PC has purchased a plot of land near where the new school will be. The PC is purchasing as part of its open space strategy fitness equipment for that site. The parish has a new lengthsman who will work with the new site's maintenance contractor. The PROW's have had new gates and been maintained this year.

Woodplumpton

The traffic scheme proposed for Catforth has not been popular with some residents. A well-attended public meeting was followed by a second consultation with 144 responses with 20% from Catforth. These responses were collated and passed to LCC Highways who feel that the PC now needs to commission a highways expert to work alongside the working group to resolve the issues. Concerns were also raised about the linear park as it is reducing in size.

Broughton

The area of the Garstang Road in front of the war memorial is very broken up and badly patched, LCC will repair this in the 2025/26 programme.

The PC have successfully applied for a grant for Heritage fruit trees for the Cottage and garden and Pinfold.

The park renovation and other work is progressing slowly, the report for the main works is to go to PCC in April, with a view once PP and Gita have agreed the plan to starting in the Autumn. A contractor has been appointed by PCC following competitive tendering through the portal.

Grimsagh

The PC is advertising for a Lengthsman. The PC are working on a Hoggin path made of a mixture of gravel, sand and clay that binds firmly when compacted, yet allows water to drain through it, to accommodate ducks.



The discussion around the role of recently pointed and Lengths men's roles in general as there seem to be some misconceptions around their contracted rate of pay. In the parishes present the range was form £18-20 and there was a recognition that in some areas litter picking was done by residents.

NEXT MEETINGS:

25th June
24th September
10th December

PH/03/25