

Public Rights Of Way

We have recently erected six new public footpath finger-posts using the small annual grant that we get from Lancashire CC, and have another four in stock to erect where there is a need. A number of dilapidated signs on sound posts have been replaced; the hope is to install more signage this summer. Lancashire County Council's PRoW team has also been very active in the parish replacing some footbridges in Thurnham and replacing some stiles with steel kissing-gates. Two local farmers have kindly installed kissing gates which the Parish Council was able to give them. After seven years of constant flooding, it looks as if the Environment Agency will soon alleviate the flooding at Janson Pool which makes the Lancashire Coastal Path impassible for much of the year. The PC alerted the PRoW team to the coastal erosion along the Cockersands sea wall in June and they immediately put up warning signs.



Path From Conder Green Car Park To Aldcliffe

We have been informed by Lancashire County Council that the multiuser path between Aldcliffe Hall Lane and Conder Green carpark is to be resurfaced at the start of September 2024, following the return of the schools. The works will take 6 weeks to complete, requiring the path to be closed for the first 2 weeks after which it will remain open and managed by the contractors. Signs will be erected on site to inform users of the scheduled works.

Aquavista

David Lewis from AquaVista attended our March meeting and reported vandalism to the car park camera which is proving difficult to resolve. There have been requests to allow camper vans to access the car park but AquaVista is concerned about additional rubbish which could potentially contaminate the waterway. The traffic lights on the swing bridge have been updated and the grass between the car park and Ship Road is being maintained. David also confirmed that while action on the planning application relating to the pontoons has started there will be no investment in the marina until the sea gate is fixed.



Police Report

Sgt. Lindsay Brown attended the May meeting and reported that there had been 62 incidents in the Parish in the last 12 months, of which 4 were antisocial behaviour and 22 were crime related. In Sgt Brown's view these figures are low and he considers the village and parish to be safe. Previous police discussion about tractor speeds have not as yet led to action as teams involved in rural policing have changed. Rural policing continues to focus on theft of machinery, quad bikes etc., which involves officers working across county boundaries. Concerns about speeding were raised again and Sgt Brown suggested that dash cam users should upload dash cam footage of near miss events and other speeding related events to the police website called "Operation Snap."

Useful Contacts & Links

To report incidents of dog fouling, please contact Lancaster City Council dog wardens:
<https://www.lancaster.gov.uk/environmental-health/dog-warden-service/dog-fouling>

Road safety issues can be reported to:
Lancashire Road Safety Partnership - Making Lancashire's Roads Safer
(lancsroadsafety.co.uk)

Dashcam footage to Operation Snap. <https://unitedkingdom1cpp-portal.digital-policing.co.uk/lancashire/appeal/public-dashcam-submission>

Residents are encouraged to report any issues with signs and road markings using the 'MyCleanStreets' app, and to report any accidents, near accidents, mobile phone use, excessive speed and so on to the police, with photos if possible. If there are regular incidents of nuisance or dangerous driving, they can contact the police directly either by the non-emergency telephone number 101, or on the Lancashire Constabulary 'Do It Online' webpage with a record of the registration numbers of the vehicles.

The public can report any highways issue using the link below or by phoning Highways on (0300) 1236780. All potholes and other highway issues can also be reported via the Highways online reporting system. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/>

Parish Council Contact Details:

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THURNHAM with GLASSON PARISH COUNCIL Newsletter Summer 2024

Parish Council Meeting Dates For 2024/5

Parish Council meetings take place at Glasson Dock on Mondays, starting at 7pm. The March meeting each year is held at Thurnham Institute. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are 9th September, 7th October and 11th November (when the precept is discussed). Dates for 2025 are: January 13th, March 10th, May 19th (includes AGM), June 16th, July 21st, Sept 8th, Oct 13th and Nov 17th. Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and can raise issues in the open forum section at the start of each meeting. If the issues are not on the agenda of the meeting at which they are raised they may be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

Change Of Parish Councillor

Councillor Erik Pomfret has resigned from the Parish Council. Erik joined the council after a long period with Glasson Action Partnership and has made major contributions to the ground and gardens, and to street furniture in Glasson Dock, including the information point on Bodie Hill. He has also been running the website and doing the design and layout for the newsletter. He agreed to do one more newsletter layout - so this is his last newsletter. We are extremely grateful to him for all of his contributions to the community - which don't stop now as he has other projects which keep him busy. Councillor Hazel Ronson was co-opted onto the Parish Council at the July 15th meeting.



Highways Issues – Love Clean Streets APP

Parish Councillors regularly report highways issues on the Love Clean Streets App. This sometimes results in appropriate action, and sometimes does not. The Parish Council has been discussing improvements to the app and with the way information is returned to members of the public, with the County Council. Other Parish Councils have raised the issues too. No action has happened as yet. The Parish Council would still encourage anyone who notices a problem to report it to the County Council. More reports do lead to more actions!

Parish Council Community Grants

The Parish Council has a small grant programme to help community groups or residents who have a plan to make improvements in the parish. This year the deadline is 1 September and grants for amounts up to £50 will be considered. Forms can be obtained from, and returned to, the Clerk

Sea Gate In Glasson Dock

After considerable discussion the agencies involved with the sea gate in Glasson Dock - the Port Commission, the Environment Agency, the Canal And River Trust, and AquaVista - have developed a plan for repair and replacement of the sea gate. This gate not only allows craft to enter and leave the dock and then the marina, but is a part of the flood defences for the village and surrounding area. Information about the future plans was received in June, and Councillor Stevenson posted it to the Glasson Residents and Visitors group and the Glasson Past and Present group on Facebook on 20th June, to make sure that it was widely seen by residents. The provisional time scales are extremely long, although the agencies hope that it will be possible to navigate the harbour for the 2025/6 summer sailing season. The sea gate will be removed and a cofferdam may be needed in the winter 2025/26 to facilitate works within the dock where the gate attaches. There will be no sea gate in place over the coming winter, when storm surges on high tides are most likely. Discussion of temporary flood defences did at one point include the possible construction of a gabion inside the harbour wall. The Environment Agency, which is responsible for flood defences, has decided against this, and is investigating protection for some individual properties when the sea gate is removed.

Hedges On School Lane

The hedges on School Lane were cut in early July this year, which is a great improvement on previous years. The Parish Council has worked with the County Council to bring forward the dates on which action to prevent the hedges blocking the footpath is taken, and councillors reported blockages at the end of June and beginning of July. Landowners have been very quick to cut the hedges back and leave the footpath clear, which is much appreciated.



Lengthsman And Grounds Maintenance

The summer months have been a busy time for our lengthsman, Edward Tostevin, who continues to maintain areas around the parish. This includes maintaining the grass area round the interpretation point, dealing with weeds, and cutting grass and other plants at Saltcote Riverside and Saltcote ponds. Councillor McGrath continues to look after the flower beds in the Lock garden and the Community garden in Glasson Dock, and has painted two benches and the green buoy. Rather than cut the Saltcote grass all summer we have been trying a mixed approach to wild flowers and grass which allows islands of wild flowers to develop and set seed before they are cut short again. This has been a successful approach this year, especially in May and June. Councillors and others have again worked as volunteers to cut reeds and sago weed in the west pond. Sago weed grows from the bottom of the pond and then floats on top. Some additional flowering plants have been introduced but fewer than were hoped for. The range of flowering plants is generally good, and self-seeding appears more successful than attempts to 'garden' wild flowers. Work on the trees in the copses at Saltcote Ponds is planned for November.

Canal And River Trust

The Canal and River Trust owns the Penfold in Glasson Dock and is responsible for its maintenance. This has not been of a high standard and after unsuccessful representation to C&RT local residents and businesses took things into their own hands and cleared the area. Canal and River Trust staff, who had previously directed the Parish Council not to do this, have now realised that they have not been doing a good job and have agreed to improve. They have replaced saplings in the Lock garden which died, but the dead tree on the Penfold has not yet been replaced. We were told that the work needed on the canal bridge on School Lane to make the fence barrier safe would be completed in the spring. It has not been fixed, and more rusted bars have fallen from it. At the time of writing, plastic tape replaces the metal bars.



Property Flood Resilience Grants

The Environment Agency is considering the list of properties in the Parish which may qualify for Property Flood Resilience grants. We were informed in May that Cockerham and Thurnham are priority areas and that liaison with residents on the list will take place over the summer. We have no further information at the time of writing the newsletter.

Community Emergency Plan

The North West Regional Flood and Coastline Committee (which is connected to the Environment Agency) has advised that there has been an upgrade to the App for flood warnings which has improved it. Councillor Stevenson has kept community responders updated on the plans for the sea gate in Glasson Dock and will continue to do this until the repair/replacement is complete. The Environment Agency are still considering temporary flood defence measures when the sea gate is removed and Lancaster City Council has informed us that should we experience adverse weather, we can be reassured that the local emergency services will be on standby.

Sea Wall (Cockersands)

Following on the notification of concerns on the right of way along the Cockersands sea wall in June, considerable anxiety about the sea wall from Cockersands to Crook was raised by members of the public at the July meeting. The Parish Council will liaise with Lancaster City Council and the Environment Agency to request a maintenance programme of repairs, emphasising that this needs to be resolved before the winter storms.

Parish Council Volunteers

The Parish Council now has a group of volunteers who have agreed to take part in any actions which Councillors are carrying out. The first of these was a working group in the Community Garden in Glasson Dock (behind the children's playground). Councillors and volunteers cleared weeds and added a further two tons of flints on top of the membrane on the surface. With a good number of people involved the work did not take very long, and it made a great improvement. Future activities will include work on the copses at Saltcote ponds in November and a late Autumn litter pick.

