

Lengthsman and Grounds Maintenance

It has been a busy summer for our lengthsman, Edward Tostevin, and for Councillor David McGrath who looks after the Lock Garden and the Community Garden in Glasson Dock. There were initial concerns that there might be drought and Councillor McGrath's dedicated work was needed to water plants in the two gardens, then rain and warmth have meant that grass and weeds (including the dreaded mare's tail) have flourished. Our lengthsman maintains the grass areas around the interpretation point on Bodie Hill, and at Saltcote Riverside and Saltcote Ponds. The pond area continues to be mown with a mixed approach to flowers and grass. This allows islands of mixed flowering plants to develop and to set seed, and provides cover for small mammals and other wildlife. The composition of the plant islands is changing with time, and some extra purple loosestrife planted last year has settled in well. The lengthsman has previously also trimmed the grass around the bus stop in Upper Thurnham, but it is hoped that this work will be taken over by Thurnham Hall as a contribution to the community in Thurnham.



Closure of Glasson Grain operations in Glasson Dock

It has been announced that the Glasson Grain animal feed mill in Glasson Dock is to close. This activity covers the production of bulk and bagged feeds and bulk products traded from the Glasson Grain site. Glasson Fertilisers is unaffected. Decommissioning will begin from the 22nd September 2025. The Parish Council very much regrets the subsequent loss of employment for residents within the parish and will engage with the City Council to understand how further employment opportunities can be developed.

HGVs using Tithebarn Hill

There have been a large number of instances of HGVs using Tithebarn Hill in Glasson Dock. The Parish Council understood that this was partly because the signage at the roundabout at the entrance to the village was unclear. Lancashire County highways consider these signs appropriate, but they have agreed to install an additional advance 6'6" width restriction sign at the top of Tithebarn Hill.

Environment Agency Land Owner Co-operative scheme

Investigations of the EA Land Owner Co-operative scheme are taking place. This scheme would rely upon grants to pay for maintaining coastal defences. The Parish Council, Flood Forum and Environment Agency are seeking more information and anyone likely to be affected will be notified in due course as information becomes available. This investigation is in the very early stages. Anyone requiring more information should contact the clerk.

Water level in the Glasson canal and marina basin

The water in the canal and the marina basin has dropped to very low levels this summer. The parish council raised this with some concern with the Canal and River Trust and was informed that this was due to lack of rain. The PC argued that the outflow of water through the lock gates was a major part of the problem. Canal and River Trust has explained that it has over 20,000 repairs and maintenance tasks to carry out across the north west alone, but has said that currently plans to replace the upstream gates (marina gates) are in their 2027 business plan.

Property Flood Resilience (PFR) scheme

The Environment Agency is still working to provide funding for 13 properties within the parish for the PFR scheme. This scheme is based on EA modelling of a possible breach of the sea defences. They are intending to engage with homeowners to explain the process, however all of these properties may not be eligible either because their risk is not significant or the age of the property may not lend itself to installation of flood resilience measures. It has been pointed out that other properties not on this list would need to be considered. It is the EA's intention to run another model to show a breach from the canal and the sea which may include more properties.



Litter bin in the lay-by on B5290

The lay-by on the B5290 by the bird hide is heavily used, both by visitors and bird watchers, and by HGVs. The Parish Council observed that the litter bin was frequently overfull and that waste could accumulate round it. After discussion with Lancaster City Council it was agreed that the bin would be replaced by a larger bin, that this would be installed by the City Council and that the Parish Council would pay for the upgrade in size. The bin has been carefully sited to make sure that it is not affected by the water in the lay-by at extreme high tides.

Pedestrian access across the swing bridge when it is closed

We have been told by the Canal and River Trust that there will no longer be any access across the pedestrian footbridges when the swing bridge in Glasson Dock is closed. They have told us that the footways over the locks are for operational use only and not for use by the general public. These should always have been locked, which they now are, to prevent falls from height. The Parish Council raised the issue of pedestrian access for people wishing to use the bus when the swing gate is closed. Canal and River Trust have told us that if bus times can be provided, they could look into the possibility of keeping the swing bridge open for traffic and pedestrians for short periods either side of bus times where they were able to do so. The Parish Council will continue to make representations about access through the swing bridge for the bus and bus passengers and would welcome comments from members of the public on this.

The sea gate in Glasson Dock

The removal of the sea gate in Glasson Dock led to considerable concern about flooding over the winter but with lower high tides there has been less concern in the summer. It was confirmed at a Glasson Partner Liaison Group meeting, attended by the Parish Council, that the sea gate will be replaced, with an anticipated date for the work of 2027. The old sea gate has been removed and work is going on to investigate the infrastructure around the gate in order to ensure that a replacement gate can be fitted. Core samples of the concrete have been taken and will be assessed over the next few weeks. The site office for this work in the AquaVista carpark should be vacated by mid-August.



Janson Pool

Since 2016 the Parish Council has been asking for work to alleviate flooding caused by poor repairs of the outfall at Janson Pool. This flooding both blocks a public right of way, which is to be part of the King Charles III coastal path, and prevents the movement of farm animals for considerable periods. The Environment Agency allocated £2.49m for this work, which has involved replacing a narrow blocked pipe with a wider one (900mm). This work has been carried on since April 2025 and is expected to be complete by end September when the area will be returned to its previous layout. The sea defence has been maintained throughout this work.

Hedge cutting

Two hedge cutting issues have been raised with Lancashire County Highways, who have overall responsibility for ensuring that hedges are cut by the owners of adjoining land. A request was made for reduction in the width of the hedges on the A588 from the canal bridge to the junction at the Conder Bridge. The hedge on one side has now been cut and Highways have contacted the landowner on the other side. The hedge beside the the footpath on School Lane has been a problem for many years as pedestrians are forced into the road if the hedges are not cut. All of the landowners on this stretch of road have cut their hedges before the end of July this year, and some much earlier. The Parish Council would like to thank them for this very helpful work.

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. Last year the deadline was 1 September for applications but this year the deadline is extended to 1 October to allow more time for submissions. Grants for amounts up to £50 will be considered. Forms can be obtained from, and returned to, the clerk.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and erosion at Cockersands.

Following several representations to Lancashire County Council, County Council PRoW officers inspected the path from Lighthouse Cottage to Bank End Cottage around Cockersands Abbey. Three fixed signs were erected by the PRoW team to make members of the public aware of the erosion issues on the path.

PRoW and kissing gates

After the resignation of Councillor Thorn two kissing gates remained to be installed to complete the footpaths upgrades. After several discussions, and helpful advice from the County PRoW, it was agreed that a Bristol gate would be more practical to maintain access on the top of Canal Bridge No 5. Following this two kissing gates were used for footpaths at Crook Farm.

Flood Forum

The Flood Forum has been in abeyance over the summer, partly because of the serious illness of City Councillor Sally Maddocks, and partly because there is less anxiety about flooding. The Parish Council is delighted to hear that Councillor Maddocks has come through major surgery very well and is looking forward to getting back to work in the autumn. We are sure residents in the parish would like to join us in wishing her a full and speedy recovery.

Community Emergency Action Plan

A revised community emergency action plan has been completed. A copy can be found on the Parish Council website and individual copies will be sent to all those who have offered assistance to neighbours should a crisis happen that prevents the Emergency Services reaching us. Should you wish to see a copy please contact the Clerk.

Lancaster CC Parish Council Forum meeting 21st May

Councillors Armer and Smyth attended a Parish Council forum meeting held by the planning department at Lancaster City Council to explain progress on the local plan. The current government has increased the number of houses which the Lancaster District need to provide each year. All areas have been asked to suggest sites which can be investigated for suitability, availability and achievability. The Parish Council is not minded to suggest building plots within the parish.

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 \(lancsroadsafety.co.uk\)](#)

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:

Clerk: Melanie Harben, Tomlinson's Farm, Fluke Hall Lane, Pilling, PR3 6HA,
Tel: (01253) 790156
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Councillors:

William Armer (Chair) - william.armer@btinternet.com
David Lees McGrath - dmcgrath211@outlook.com
Alison Stevenson - alisonstevenson03@gmail.com
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Thurnham with Glasson Parish Council Newsletter Summer 2025

Parish Council Meeting Dates 2025

Parish Council meetings Oct – March will be held at Thurnham Institute and meetings from May – September will be held at Glasson Dock Village Hall. **Please note the change of venue for some meetings.**

Dates: January 12th, March 9th, May 18th (includes AGM), June 15th, July 13th, Sept 14th, Oct 12th and Nov 9th PRECEPT.

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 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.



Parish Council Vacancy

Councillor Nicholas Thorn resigned from the Parish Council in March 2025. He served for three years during which time he led the Parish Council activity on Public Rights of Way, surveying all of the rights of way in the parish, installing directional signs, arranging for the replacement of finger posts and the replacement of broken stiles by kissing gates. The PC is extremely grateful for all the work undertaken by Nicholas on the Public Rights of Way, and for his other contributions to the work of the Parish Council. As of July 2025 there is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.