

Highways Issues

Highways issues focussing on tractor speeds and tractor activity more generally have continued, but with limited success. A possible Farm Safety event organised by the NFU could not be organised this year but the PC will continue to look for an opportunity for this. Lancaster City Council Overview and Scrutiny committee have been made aware of issues regarding speed, late night working and impact of large farms on the rural community. We have continued to inform Andy Pratt, Chair of the Lancaster Road Safety Partnership, of these issues and, following advice, contact was made with the police, raising issues of tractor speed, towing of large items of farm equipment and general safety as well as damage to road markings. Police attendance at a Parish Council meeting was arranged, but did not take place. Lancashire County Highways have agreed that the reflective paint used on the A588 pulverises with heavy impact. They are trialing alternative products but the timetable is not yet clear.

Lancaster Port Commission

The Parish Council held a liaison meeting with the Port Commission in March. The Port Commission reported on its plans for Harbour House and for consultation to take place about how it could be used. This consultation subsequently took place and results can be found on the Port Commission website. The Port Commission also informed the parish council that its business prospects had improved considerably, and that the Environment Agency and the Port Commission would be working together on the dock gate. There was discussion of the Port Commission's wish to be able to offer small amounts of money for local needs and mention of support for a dog fouling initiative which the Parish Council welcomed. The Parish Council made the Port Commission aware of the district community emergency plan.

Lancaster Port Commission Harbour Revision Order

The Port Commission has applied to the Marine Management Organisation for a harbour Revision Order which will establish the future powers of the Port Commission. Any comments or objections have to be submitted within 42 days of the date of publication of the notice announcement which was 13 July. These can be made on the Marine Management Organisation website. The Parish Council is considering this order but at the time of writing of this newsletter does not have a considered view to report.

Infrastructure issues in Glasson Dock

The gate of the sea dock in Glasson Dock was opened at the beginning of June and following this the water level in the marina dropped considerably. Dave Lewis from Aquavista Marina attended the June meeting of the Parish Council and explained the issues with lock gates and access to the marina. He subsequently updated the Parish Council on the work being done by the various agencies involved (Aquavista, Canal and River Trust, the Port Commission, and the Environment Agency) to maintain the water levels in the marina and the canal and to plan for repairs to the dock gates, as did C.&R.T. The sea gate is jointly owned by the Port Commission and the EA and we understand that the hydraulic ram has failed in the down position. We currently do not have any information on the timescales to source repairs to the sea gate, but the Port Commission has assured us that work with the EA to fund the work and identify contractors is progressing. We have also been updated by our City and County Councillors on the work being done by the EA to model the potential for flooding in relation to high tides in late Summer and Autumn. As a precaution, EA have lowered the trigger for a flood warning in the area from 6.9m (above Ordnance Datum) to 6.0m.

Volunteer Policy

Parish Councillors act as volunteers in addition to being councillors, and would very much like to be joined by other residents of the parish. A volunteer policy has been developed and there is a short form to register volunteers who would like to take part in garden maintenance, litter picking, maintenance of street furniture and so on. Everyone acting as a volunteer has to be registered and covered by risk assessments and, if necessary, given training, so that insurance cover is in place. Registering is not onerous and volunteers from across the parish would be welcome for a range of short term and more long term activities. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

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 (lancroadsafety.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/>

Councillors:

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THURNHAM with GLASSON PARISH COUNCIL Newsletter - Summer 2023

Parish Council Meeting Dates For 2024

Parish Council meetings take place at Glasson Dock Village Hall on a Monday at 7pm. The March meeting each year will be held at Thurnham Institute.

Dates for 2024 are: **January 15th, March 11th, May 20th** (which includes the AGM & Annual Parish Assembly), **June 17th, July 15th, Sept 9th, Oct 7th & Nov 11th.** (when the precept is discussed).



Community Emergency Plan

The Community Emergency Plan has been finalised and accepted by the City Council. Councillor Stevenson is in touch with community responders who will check on neighbours in the event of an emergency such as a power cut or flooding. As there is currently concern about the possibility of flooding in August and September 2023 when there are high tides, the Parish Council is in correspondence with Lancaster City Council who are engaged with the Environment Agency in modelling risk at this period. Councillor Stevenson will maintain links with the responders and with the village halls.

Parish Resident Survey

The Parish Council would like to know more about the issues which concern residents of the parish and have created a survey to find out more. A paper version of the survey has been circulated with this newsletter. If you haven't received it, or would like to download the online version, please go to the Parish Council website.

<https://www.thurnhamwithglassonparishcouncil.org/>

Environment Agency

The issues of Janson Pool and the sea wall at Cockersands Abbey have been raised again with the Environment Agency. On the sea wall the Environment Agency is aware of issues and reports that it is monitoring the position. The Parish Council will continue to report developing holes in the wall to the EA. The flooding at Janson's Pool dates from a flawed rebuilding of the outfall carried out by the Environment Agency in 2017. The PC contacted Natural England as the bridleway which is blocked by flooding is part of the coastal route which Natural England is linking into the new 'King Charles III England Coast Path'. The EA have told Natural England and the Parish Council that they are liaising with landowners and engineering consultants to find solutions for the issues affecting Janson Pool, but unfortunately they are now postponing any possible work until at least summer 2024. The Parish Council has asked Cat Smith MP if she can influence the Environment Agency and Natural England, both of which are within DEFRA, in order to make progress on dealing with this problem as quickly as possible.

Pontoon Replacement In The Marina

Aquavista has planning permission in place to replace the pontoons in the marina. This work has to happen in the summer period and the full replacement of pontoons will not take place in 2023. However, there will be electrical and other infrastructure work to allow the new pontoons to be fully connected to marina systems. Aquavista is planning that the work on the pontoons will take place in Summer 2024.

Car Parking

The Glasson Dock car park was discussed when Dave Lewis of Aquavista marina attended the parish council meeting in June. Aquavista's view is that the car park is now well served with ways to pay as there are four ways in which people can pay for parking. While there will always be times when the sunlight makes it difficult to see the display on the contactless machine, this is common in other car parks too. There may be situations when problems arise and if so, they should be directed to the marina where Dave will look sympathetically on genuine difficulties if he can. However, the car park is run by a separate company, not by Aquavista, and it may not always be possible to intervene.



Gardens In Glasson Dock

Volunteer work on gardens and street furniture is carried out by Councillors McGrath and Pomfret, with Councillor McGrath focussing on the planting and weeding in the two gardens in the centre of Glasson Dock. This has included a lot of watering in May and June 2023! The Parish Council has an agreement with the Canal and Rivers Trust to maintain the Lock garden and were able to report to them that 25 hours of work were carried out between mid April and June, some by the lengthsman but mostly by Councillor McGrath, so the work is quite demanding. If any residents would like to come forward to help with gardening tasks, please contact the clerk, Melanie Harben.

Lengthsman And Grounds Maintenance

The Parish Lengthsman, Edward Tostevin, continues to maintain areas around the parish. This includes the area around Saltcote ponds where efforts are being made to encourage wild flowers in the grass areas. This can mean that the grass may look long and untidy at times but the sightline on the road edges are kept clear. A resident who had been working as a volunteer to keep the west pond clear is unfortunately no longer able to do this work and the Parish Council is very grateful to him for all that he has done in the past. Councillors Armer and McGrath have worked as volunteers to clear some of the reeds from the pond.

B4RN

The Parish Council has heard from B4RN of a proposal for a project to bring B4RN's very fast broadband (1Gigabit per second) to the parish and some surrounding areas. B4RN has booked the Village Hall in Glasson Dock for Thursday 31st August at 7 pm. for a public meeting, to which everyone interested is invited.

B4RN*Thurnham & Glasson*

Glasson Dock Village Hall
Thursday 31st August
7pm


Full-Fibre
Broadband


Residential
£33 per month*


Award-winning
provider


Social Tariff


BARN VOICE

Benefits of Hyperfast Symmetrical Broadband

Speed - at 1000Mbps (1Gbps) our standard gigabit service is 14 x faster than our average competitors.

Reliability - our fibre is underground this means you get resilient service whatever the weather.

Streaming - use multiple devices seamlessly. Perfect for ultra-high definition streaming & gaming.

Don't Miss Out!
Register Your Interest Now

Call: 01524 555887
Visit: b4rn.org.uk



*Business & other special rates apply. See b4rn.org.uk

Gigabit Full-Fibre Broadband for just £33 per month

Canal And River Trust

The Canal and River Trust owns the Penfold - one of the green areas in the centre of Glasson Dock (the other is owned by AquaVista). Grass cutting on the Penfold has been intermittent and the leisure use of this green area was impacted by long grass and patches of dock and other weeds. The Parish Council has asked Canal and River Trust if this grass could be mowed more often but the response was negative. A representative has been invited to a site meeting to discuss options for ensuring the grass is cut adequately.

Canal and River Trust's volunteer coordinator and his team have been working around the marina basin and along the canal edge to remove vegetation which damages the edge. They have also been laying hedges on the canal. Two Parish Councillors have volunteered on these activities, with Councillor Thorn returning to hedge laying on more than one occasion as his skills increased. The PC is very grateful to the C.&R.T. volunteer group for the work they do on the canals in the Parish.

Public Rights Of Way

The PC has established a good relationship with the County Council's Public Rights of Way officers, and has received a lot of materials from them. This has enabled us to replace a number of defective stiles with kissing-gates, and much of the Parish is now liberally way-marked with plastic arrows. A small number of finger-posts have so far been replaced, but there are plenty more waiting for suitable funding. We have reported a heavily overgrown footpath to the County, together with three decrepit footbridges, and have asked for assistance in renewing the steps at Bodie Hill leading down to Glasson Marsh. **Please refer to us any concerns you have about public rights of way.**



Dog Fouling



The issue of dog fouling was raised with Lancaster City Council dog wardens who provided signs warning about fines for dog fouling and these have been erected in Glasson Dock. The initiative by a local business and the Port Commission to put dispensers for dog waste bags around the village was welcomed and Parish Councillors volunteered to refill the dispensers as the bags were used. Current information is that a very large number of bags have been taken from the dispensers and the hope is that they have all been used for dog waste.

Litter Picking

Parish Councillors took part in a litter pick on 1st April (April Fools day). The area covered included the B5290 and Jeremy Lane. Four full bags of litter were collected from the bird hide to Brow's bridge alone and there were 7 full bags collected in total. There is the aim to do a litter pick twice a year in Spring and Autumn and with more volunteers this could cover a wider area of rural roads and lanes.

Lancaster City Council Liaison Meetings: South Lancaster Area Action Plan

Councillors Smyth and Armer attended a series of meeting intended to develop the area action plan for development in South Lancaster and raised many issues including flood risk and HGV traffic and the traffic network more generally. The whole plan for development in South Lancaster has now been paused and the plans to develop Junction 33 on the M6 and to build new roads to allow housing development will not now go forward. The removal of a focus on large scale development in South Lancaster, at least for now, is welcomed.

Lancaster City Council Sustainable settlement Review

The Parish Council responded to the City Council sustainable settlement review, focussing on the settlement of Glasson dock. While there are considerable opportunities for employment in the area and the settlement is sustainable, issues raised in the response included the frequency of the bus service, the difficulty in siting a bus shelter, and the number of children attending the Village School.