

# THURNHAM with GLASSON PARISH COUNCIL Newsletter Summer 2022

## Welcome To The Bi-Annual Newsletter

### Parish Council Meeting Dates For 2022/23

Parish Council meetings take place at Glasson Dock on a Monday starting at 7PM. The March meeting each year will be held at Thurnham Institute. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2022 are: 12th September and 14th November (when the precept is discussed). Dates for 2023 are: January 16th, March 13th, May 15th (which includes the AGM & annual parish assembly), June 12th, July 10th, Sept 11th, Oct 9th & Nov 13th.



### Road Safety And Speeding

In March 2022 Andrew Pratt (Chair of Lancashire Road Safety Partnership & Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire) attended the parish council meeting in Thurnham Village Hall and subsequently has been instrumental in setting up the long awaited meeting with County Highways. This took place in June in Thurnham village when residents and Parish Councillors discussed traffic speed with Andrew Pratt and a highways engineer. A further meeting with Andrew Pratt is arranged to discuss ways of improving road safety in the parish. This meeting is scheduled for the 12th September 2022, 2.30PM in Glasson Dock Village Hall.

Details of the road safety partnership can be found at Lancashire Road Safety Partnership – Making Lancashire's Roads Safer ([lancsroadsafety.co.uk](http://lancsroadsafety.co.uk)) Residents are reminded that if they witness 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.

### Police Report

At the May meeting, Sgt Lindsay Brown provided a police crime report for the Parish for the previous 12 months. In his report Sgt. Brown said that there had been 70 incidents in Glasson Dock and 48 incidents reported in Thurnham.

Incidents are not crimes but cover everything which has been notified to the police whether crime related or not, and include road traffic issues. These are low numbers and the area is a safe place to live. PC Simon Jones covers the area with two PCSOs including Hannah Mason. The police have a rural task force that specifically target and focus on rural crime.

### Defibrillator

It has been confirmed that there is a defibrillator at Throstle Croft, Thurnham. The defibrillator is on the national database Circuit UK.



### Car Parking

A change of the payment system for the car park, which is owned by Aquavista, has caused problems for both visitors and businesses. This matter has been discussed at several Parish Council meetings and in meetings with Aquavista. The Parish Council has recommended at all meetings that there should be a contactless payment system. Following difficulties with parking for the artisan market in the village and helpful intervention from City Councillor Sally Maddocks, Aquavista have made the decision to install a contactless machine. This should be in situ no later than September 2022. Aquavista are hopeful that it will be possible to install this in a shorter period and will keep the PC apprised as to the progress. In the meantime, they have agreed a 20-minute grace period during which visitors will not need to pay for parking. This will be active as of 7th July.



### Lengthsman And Grounds Maintenance

The summer months are a busy time for the Parish Lengthsman, Edward Tostevin, and for Councillors McGrath and Pomfret who, together with other members of Glasson Action Partnership, maintain the lock garden, the community garden, Saltcote Ponds and Saltcote Riverside, the Interpretation Point on Bodie Hill, and other areas around Glasson Dock. There have been many positive comments about how good these areas look and the Parish Council is very grateful to everyone involved, especially Councillor McGrath and the lengthsman. The taller wild flowers around the ponds are protected by having a late cut of the long grass and the further cuts allow for the development of clover and other shorter flowering species.

The Parish Council is not responsible for the grass areas in the centre of Glasson Dock or for the area around the anchor in the corner of the lock. Some of these areas have not been well maintained and grass has become much too long and weeds are taking over. The Parish Council has been in correspondence with Canal and Rivers Trust and Aquavista about the management of these areas and would hope to see them improved to the level of other areas around the village.

### New Benches And Planters In Glasson Dock

The Parish Council welcomed European and UK government funding, delivered via Lancaster City Council, for items in the public realm to encourage activity for residents and visitors after the end of lockdown and the lifting of all covid restrictions. The PC requested new benches, picnic tables, planters, and also asked for new signs to indicate the location of the community garden and picnic area in Glasson Dock. Councillor Erik Pomfret worked with officers in the City Council to select and arrange these items which are now available for all to enjoy.



### Community Emergency Plan

Councillor Alison Stevenson has been working with residents around the parish to develop a network of responders who will offer support to neighbours should an emergency occur; with landowners and others to source emergency generators should they be required; and with the City Council to source equipment to be kept in the Village Halls at Glasson Dock and Thurnham. The halls will be opened if required in an emergency, such as major flooding or a prolonged power cut. The full draft of the Community Emergency Plan which Councillor Stevenson is preparing will be agreed at the PC meeting in September 2022.

## Public Rights Of Way

The Parish Council has received a grant of £500 from Lancashire County Council for work on Public Rights of Way and will continue to apply for this grant. Councillor Nicholas Thorn is acting on rights of way issues on behalf of the parish council and the parish lengthsman, Edward Tostevin has been engaged to work on specific projects. Key issues are waymarking; the repair of finger posts, stiles and bridges; and dealing with vegetation which prevents access on footpaths. Councillor Thorn will work with landowners and walkers to develop improvements. If members of the public wish to report issues on rights of way within the parish they should contact Councillor Thorn. Issues will be prioritised so will not all be addressed immediately, but they will be attended to over time.

## Possible Biodiversity Projects

Lancashire County Council has a scheme for a small grant up to £300 grant for small scale biodiversity projects such as communal gardens, planting wildflowers, bat boxes, bird feeders, nest boxes etc. The Parish Council has not applied for the biodiversity grant this year as the deadline given was three weeks after information about the scheme was provided, but it will be considered next year. If anyone has any ideas as to how such a grant could be used, please contact the clerk.



## South Lancaster Area Action Plan

Under the current local plan, formally adopted by the City Council in 2020, there are plans allowing for the development of up to 3500 homes in Bailrigg Garden Village. The City Council has now moved to develop an Area Action Plan which will set the conditions under which developments can take place in this area. They have involved local parish councils in this in order to find out more about what is known locally which may involve the plan. This is not a consultation, as there is no guarantee that anything a Parish Council says will be incorporated in decision making. Councillors Smyth and Armer have attended two area action plan meetings in May and June and have raised issues about traffic, particularly HGV traffic from the new motorway junction to Glasson Dock as well as HGV traffic more generally, and about flooding

concerns relating to the River Conder and the canal. A further meeting on traffic is likely to involve County Highways as well as Lancaster City planners. In discussion of water runoff from the proposed new developments planners said that it was intended that there should be no increase of water flowing from the area after development as attenuation systems would be put in place. Separate correspondence from Lancashire County Highways has indicated that there are currently no plans to change the ways in which HGVs access Glasson Dock through the area's road network. The parish council will continue to ask for traffic planning to include full consideration of HGV movement.



## Road Signs And Other Signage

The Parish Council has enquired about improvements to the advertisement signage on the A588/Ship Rd junction as well as on the A588/Thurnham Mill Lane junction. The PC would like to see heritage signage on the A588 to promote village amenities in Glasson Dock and is making enquiries in relation to heritage signs. More will be reported on this when a response is received, hopefully by September. The parish council is also collating information regarding road signs which require repair. Images will be taken and these will be forwarded to County Highways for action in due course.

## Other Highways Issues

The Parish Council has reported the condition of road surface on Ship Road, Glasson Dock (outside the church) which is deteriorating. The County Highways department has confirmed that they will assess a scheme between the garage boundary and the marina car park as part of their work to create the draft 2023/24 resurfacing programme.

Members of the public can report any highways issue, including signs and pot-holes, on <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/roads-parking-and-travel/report-it/or> by phoning Highways on 0300 1236780. The more reports there are the more likely it is that County Highways will take action.

## Heritage Amenity

The Lancaster Port Commission has offered to donate the King Orry Anchor which is currently on Port Commission land to the community of Glasson Dock as a heritage amenity. As the Parish Council does not own land in the centre of the village it has yet to determine where the anchor could be placed, whether infrastructure for installation would be needed, and whether planning permission would be required. Until these matters are resolved, with the agreement of the Port Commission, the anchor will stay in its present location.

## Canal And River Trust

The Parish Council has been in regular communication with C.&R.T. and has discussed in depth various maintenance issues that have arisen over a period of time. The Parish Council has invited Angela Parkinson-Green from the Canal and Rivers Trust to attend the September 12th meeting to discuss a range of issues which will include maintenance of the Lock Garden, areas in the centre of the village, and the state of bridges over the canal.

## Environment Agency

A representative (Lydia Cowell) from the Environment Agency attended the June meeting of the Parish Council. The PC and Councillor Beverley Lamb have reported issues concerning Jansens Pool, Brickcroft watercourse, and the sea defences, to the Environment Agency on several occasions and the EA has agreed that these topics can be added to the issues and actions log which they discuss with other agencies. The PC expressed concern that Property Flood Resilience proposals, planned for mid 2022, have not yet been actioned by the Environment Agency. It was also agreed that information about a flood emergency plan would be included in the Parish Emergency Plan and that Lydia Cowell and Councillor Stevenson would work together on this.

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