



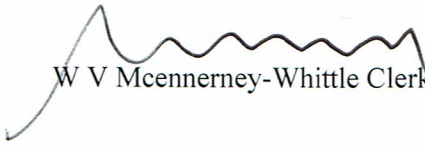
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5th October 2026

NEXT MEETING

Members of the Council are summoned to the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** to be held on Monday the 12th October 2026 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm


W V McEnnerney-Whittle Clerk and RFO

A G E N D A

1. To receive apologies
2. To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 7th September 2026 (enclosed)
3. To receive Declarations of Interest
4. To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

Please note that the Council may not make any lawful decision during this session – any items raised by members of the public may be considered for a future agenda. Members of the public are defined as any person present other than parish council members or officials.

5. To approve the following payments:

12/08/2026	SANDERSONS GRASS CUTTING	56	2340.00
12/08/2026	CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	57	992.00
12/08/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	58	1359.65
12/08/2026	JL COTTAM LENGTHSMAN TEAM	59	598.00
12/08/2026	BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	60	780.00
20/08/2026	SN BATHROOMS FINAL PAYT COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT	61	2976.49
21/08/2026	EON NEXT ELECTRICITY	62	18.78
28/08/2026	FRETFOIL BIN BAGS	63	136.96
28/08/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	64	1551.15
28/08/2026	NEWGATE NURSERIES HANGING BASKETS AND SUMMER BEDDING	65	740.10
31/08/2026	BANK CHARGES	66	9.25

6. To consider the enclosed report and further information as may be available from a local resident during public participation; who is campaigning for the building of a new secondary school in the immediate vicinity as explained in the report previously referred to and specifically ask:

1. Why the secondary school required under the adopted Masterplan has not been delivered?

2. How the Council's stated position that there is "insufficient demand" is reconciled with its own written confirmation that there is a shortfall in every year?

3. Request a firm date by which the costed delivery plan, which Cabinet resolved in October 2025 would be brought to a future meeting, will be presented?

7. To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 7th December 2026



Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on
Monday the 7th September 2026 at Cottam Community Centre Haydocks Lane commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Butler, Rayfield, McFarlane, Parker, Bielas-Barnes, Lambert, Coward,
Brown, Jonas, Harper and Jewell

There were two members of the public present.

55/26 To receive apologies

Cllrs Whitham and Smith

56/26 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 29th June 2026 (enclosed)

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 29th June 2026 should be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

57/26 To receive Declarations of Interest

None

58/26 To adjourn the meeting for a period of public discussion

The meeting was adjourned

A member of the public (Chairman Cottam Community Association) thanked the Parish Council for funding recent improvements to the toilet facilities at the Community Centre. He mentioned that other improvements had also been made using their own funds including re-painting the main hall and dealing with a roof leak.

It was noted that the Christmas Event at the Community Centre would be held on the 29th November 2026.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the PCC consultation on playgrounds had been completed and that funding had been made available for a major playground in Moor Park. Other funding had been allocated for improvements to some other play areas however no detail was yet available as to which play areas might be affected.

It was mentioned and confirmed that a swing had been removed from the Haydocks Lane play area as it was unsafe. Apparently, it is not to be replaced in the light of the reviews taking place on play areas as mentioned in the previous paragraph.

It was confirmed that the Fairy Glen area mentioned in minute 53/26 was under review by PCC and plans were being considered to create a wildflower area at that location.

A resident mentioned that parking was a problem around the Haydocks Lane area particularly as works were still going on at Cottam Primary School. Cllr Jewell, in his capacity as a Preston City Councillor suggested that residents should continue to monitor the situation as specific evidence would be required of the issues before he could consider taking the matter up with LCC.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council were currently seeking to enhance some of the main ponds in the area (2 out of 4 identified for works had been completed) The Haydocks Lane pond was not yet on that list however it would be considered once the existing commitments had been fulfilled.

The meeting was re-convened

59/26 To approve the following payments:

15/06/2026	BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	27	650.00
15/06/2026	SANDERSONS GRASS CUTTING	28	3120.00
15/06/2026	PARTRIDGE LENGTHSMAN TEAM	29	702.00
15/06/2026	PRINTING WORLD NEWSLETTER	30	314.00
15/06/2026	COTTAM COMMUNITY ASSOC	31	35.00
15/06/2026	CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	32	872.00
15/06/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	33	2546.95
15/06/2026	DAGNALL WAR HORSE REPAIRS	34	550.00
15/06/2026	CONCEPT LANDSCAPES POND WORKS	35	4672.80
17/06/2026	EON NEXT ELECTRICITY	36	18.23
29/06/2026	W V WHITTLE 1ST QTR SALARY	37	3026.45
29/06/2026	HMRC 1ST QTR	38	2551.03
30/06/2026	BANK CHARGES	39	9.10
06/07/2026	COTTAM COMMUNITY CENTRE ROOM HIRE	40	35.00
06/07/2026	CLAREMONT AQUATIC FOUNTAIN MAINTENANCE	41	312.00
06/07/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	42	1493.70
06/07/2026	SAVOY TIMBER LENGTHSMAN MATERIALS	43	30.50
14/07/2026	JENNY COTTAM LENGTHSMAN TEAM	44	390.00
14/07/2026	BARTLETT LENGTHSMAN TEAM	45	624.00
14/07/2026	CROSS LENGTHSMAN TEAM	46	1000.00
14/07/2026	PARTRIDGE LENGTHSMAN TEAM	47	780.00
14/07/2026	SANDERSONS GRASS CUTTING	48	1560.00
14/07/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	49	1263.90
16/07/2026	S N BATHROOMS COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT	50	2500.00
20/07/2026	EON NEXT ELECTRICITY SUPPLY	51	17.64
28/07/2026	PFK EXTERNAL AUDIT FEE	52	1008.00
28/07/2026	GGs LENGTHSMAN TEAM	53	1417.10
31/07/2026	S N BATHROOMS COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT	54	2500.00
31/07/2026	BANK CHARGES	55	8.80

It was resolved that the payments referred to above should be approved

60/26 To receive and note the enclosed External Auditors Report covering 2025/26

It was resolved that the documentation mentioned above should be noted

61/26 To receive and approve the enclosed Financial Statement as of the 30th June 2026

It was resolved that the above documentation should be approved

62/26 To consider the wildflower area created on Blackpool Road which has not been as successful as originally envisaged and decide whether the area should be re-planted using wildflower plug plants rather than seed due to the type of ground (heavy grass) which has hindered previous attempts to create the area from seed.

Ian Wright from LCC has been to visit site along with myself and our Chairman and has made initial recommendations as to appropriate wildflower types (see enclosed). He has estimated an approx cost of £1000 with plug planting undertaken by our lengthsman team after a thorough low level grass cutting exercise. Whilst it is hoped that PCC will be able to do the grass cutting it may be necessary to engage a suitable contractor to undertake this work and clear the cuttings from site.

It is suggested that a nominal budget to £1500 is set from CIL funds to undertake this project.

It was resolved that the proposals referred to above should be approved and a budget of £1500 agreed for the works to be undertaken.

63/26 To consider the enclosed information regarding the potential to create an entrance feature on an area of land immediately on the approach to Lea located close to the existing raised bed. Enquiries have been made of Thompson Dagnall who has drawn up a rough sketch as to what it might look like (enclosed)

The feature will be created from local stone and sculptured in line with the proposed design highlighting the historic association of Lea which was made up of French Lea & English Lea. (hence the sculptured lion and cockerel). It would be intended to run an article in our newsletter and on social media highlighting the significance of the entrance feature and its historic relevance.

The estimated costs including installation are £10500.00, however, as no stone has been located and we may need a specific graphic design to be undertaken in order to seek approval of LCC I would suggest a provisional budget of £12K should be set aside from CIL funds.

The Council are asked to approve the above in principle since LCC permission is still required.

It was resolved that the proposals referred to above should be approved and that a budget of £12K should be allocated from CIL funds and that LCC should now be approached as permission from them will be required before any works can be undertaken.

64/26 To note that the next meeting is scheduled for the 12th October 2026

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for the 12th October 2026

The Promised Secondary School for North West Preston

Briefing for Lea and Cottam Parish Council, meeting of 12 October 2026. Prepared by Stuart Finch, 2 Roseberry Avenue, Cottam. Every fact below is drawn from Lancashire County Council's or Preston City Council's own published documents, and sources are given so that members may verify anything they wish.

1. What was promised

In 2017, Preston City Council and Lancashire County Council adopted the North West Preston Masterplan, a Supplementary Planning Document permitting **5,322 new homes** across Cottam, Lea and the surrounding area. The Masterplan required a new secondary school to be provided alongside that housing, and it was sized using Lancashire County Council's own pupil projections. The Masterplan's own land budget sets aside **5.87 hectares, around 14.5 acres**, for the school: 1.22 hectares for the main campus and buildings, and 4.65 hectares for playing fields.

Source: North West Preston Masterplan SPD (2017), Table 4.0, page 16.

2. What has happened since

Nine years on, the housing has largely been delivered. The school has not been built. On 9 October 2025, Lancashire County Council's Cabinet deferred the school to **"2031 at the earliest"**, on the basis that there was insufficient demand to justify it. There is currently no secondary school anywhere in Cottam, Lea, Ingol or Bartle.

3. The County Council's own evidence contradicts that decision

In response to Freedom of Information request FOI1020, issued 14 August 2026, Lancashire County Council explained the difference between the two ways it counts school places. It stated:

"The surplus shown in the SCAP return is based on total physical capacity across schools, but not all of that capacity is available or usable in practice. Schools admit pupils based on PAN, not total capacity. **When we look at PAN, which reflects the actual number of places offered, there is a shortfall in every year.**"

In plain terms, the surplus of places the Council reports to the Department for Education measures physical room in buildings. It does not measure places a child can actually be offered. On the measure that does, the Council accepts there is a shortfall every year.

The pupil forecasts released with that response show the Year 7 intake exceeding the total number of places Preston's secondary schools actually offer in **every year from 2026/27 to 2030/31**, with all five year groups exceeding it from 2028/29, and spare capacity across the whole of Preston falling from 737 places to 46.

4. The Council's own planners advised against the alternative

In September 2025, both councils submitted a Statement of Common Ground to the Central Lancashire Local Plan examination. In it, Lancashire County Council's own School Planning Team assessed Preston's secondary requirement at 9.5 forms of entry and stated that **"the scale of demand cannot be addressed by expansion of existing schools."** One month later, Cabinet deferred the new school and adopted expansion of existing schools as its solution.

Separately, in April 2026 Lancashire County Council's own highways authority lodged a nine-page objection to the proposed expansion of Archbishop Temple High School, one of the schools relied upon, citing a "severe" impact on already congested roads and a documented pattern of collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists, some of them children.

5. No supporting analysis exists

- Asked for any document reconciling the shortfall in its own Cabinet report with the surplus it reports to Government, the Council confirmed it **"holds no documentation that meets these specifications."**
- Asked for any assessment of the risk to the £3.8 million of developer funding secured for the school arising from the deferral, the Council confirmed it **"does not hold any recorded information relating to a specific assessment."**

- Both responses were issued only after the Council formally upheld a complaint and confirmed in writing that it was **in breach of section 10(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000**.

6. The land and the money are already in place

The site at Maxy Lane Farm, Higher Bartle, on land between Sandy Lane and Tabley Lane, remains safeguarded for education. **£3,805,188.75** has been secured from developers for secondary education provision under a Section 106 agreement, payable in instalments as homes are occupied. Preston City Council has confirmed in writing that there are **“no known barriers”** to Lancashire County Council delivering the school at that location following planning permission.

7. There is no longer a successor authority

Until recently, Lancashire County Council was due to be abolished in April 2028 under local government reorganisation. On 7 September 2026 the Government paused all reorganisation plans pending review. Lancashire County Council therefore remains the education authority for this area for the foreseeable future, and there is no incoming authority to which this decision can pass.

8. What is being asked of the Parish Council

That the Parish Council considers writing formally to **Councillor Stephen Atkinson**, Leader of Lancashire County Council, and **Councillor Matthew Salter**, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, asking:

- why the secondary school required under the adopted Masterplan has not been delivered;
- how the Council's stated position that there is “insufficient demand” is reconciled with its own written confirmation that there is a shortfall in every year;
- and for a firm date by which the costed delivery plan, which Cabinet resolved in October 2025 would be brought to a future meeting, will be presented.

Local support: a petition has attracted over 500 signatures, approximately 85% from PR2 and PR4 postcodes. Lancashire County Council has also published its own official ePetition on the same matter. **Sources available on request:** both Freedom of Information responses in full, the Statement of Common Ground, the Masterplan land budget, and the Cabinet report of 9 October 2025.