

Minutes of Laneshaw Bridge Parish Council held on Monday 7 September 2026 7.00pm at Laneshaw Bridge Primary School, Emmott Lane, Laneshaw Bridge

Present

Cllr Paul White, Cllr Alex Hustwit, Cllr Michele Halstead, Cllr Roger Bucknell, Cllr Ken Davies

Also Present

Graham Meloy, Village Co-ordinator

Cllr David Cockburn-Price, Pendle Borough Council

Andrew Crawshaw, Lengthsman

1. Welcome & Introduction

Cllr White welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Meachin

RESOLVED to accept the above apologies.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3 August 2026, subject to an amendment to the attendance record, which had incorrectly shown one Cllr Davies as absent. The Clerk to amend the attendance list and the Chair to sign the minutes.

4. Progress Report

RESOLVED to receive an update on decisions taken at the meeting held on Monday 3 August 2026. The following points were noted:

- The glass noticeboard is beyond repair and will be written off. It is to be replaced by a new noticeboard (see Replacement Noticeboard below).
- The Clerk has been added to the banking mandate.
- The Neighbourhood Plan for Laneshaw Bridge is held over.
- Asset transfers: see item 17.
- The footpath at the Methodist Church has been completed.
- The Clerk to press Lancashire County Council on the weight limit on School End bridge.
- The rebuild works quoted for the S6068 have been approved and will proceed, weather permitting. [Clerk to confirm the reference and description of this item]
- Installation of picnic benches in the playing field is deferred until the layout of the playing field has been decided.
- The toilet block has been jet washed.

5. Declarations of Interests

To receive declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012.

Members are reminded that should you declare a pecuniary interest at a meeting, it is your responsibility to inform the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED there were no declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 from either Members or Officers.

6. County Councillors Report

No report. No County Councillors were present.

7. Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Cockburn-Price provided an update on Pendle Borough Council issues.

Local Government Reorganisation: Cllr Cockburn-Price reported that the reorganisation had been postponed while the position is investigated and reviewed. As a result there will be no shadow unitary elections next May, and Pendle Borough elections revert to the normal schedule.

Calderdale Energy Park: covered under item 19.

Colne area: the M&S proposal at the end of the motorway was approved at last month's Area Committee. Members welcomed this as preferable to three industrial units. Cllr Cockburn-Price noted that he does not receive feedback on decisions delegated to officers and that these can be monitored through the planning portal. The next Area Committee is on Thursday and contains nothing specific to Laneshaw Bridge, other than a paper on the new National Planning Policy Framework. It was described as a default yes to planning applications that sit inside the settlement boundary and comply with the local plan. Pendle is pressing ahead with rewriting its local plan.

Executive: Cllr Cockburn-Price reported that the Executive is planning a new handy person scheme, supported by the Crisis Resilience Fund, offering up to two hours of small household jobs for people who are older or disabled. Councillors are also to move to digital papers and tablets. The Executive reviewed complaints and compliments received by the Borough Council and discussed asset transfers. Pendle is continuing the legal process for transfers but will keep income generating assets such as garages until the last moment.

Speeding: Cllr Cockburn-Price confirmed that the Area Committee has approved £10,000 set aside for speeding initiatives, to be used to pay for police overtime, with the police matching this with their own time. A similar arrangement operates in Keighley. Members discussed speed indicator devices, the need for an ANPR camera covering Laneshaw Bridge, average speed cameras, and police enforcement against illegal use of e scooters and e bikes. The police sergeant is to speak to the Chief Inspector, and the Parish Council can nominate locations such as Keighley Road for deployments under a simple legal agreement.

Members also raised concerns about anti-social behaviour and a lack of police presence in Colne.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. Public Participation

The meeting was adjourned for public participation. There were no questions from members of the public.

9. Village Maintenance

i) To receive an update on the work of the Lengthsman

Members noted that the footpath round the rec is becoming overgrown and needs edging, and that bushes overhanging the school side need cutting back. As village maintenance is well under budget, the Lengthsman was asked not to be concerned about the number of hours.

RESOLVED to obtain a price for a wooden fence with a vehicle gate (7 to 8 feet) and a pedestrian gate (3 to 4 feet), set in line with the stone wall, at the gap by the orchard. The intention is to deter parking and to create a Kings Coronation Orchard. A no dog walking sign is to be included. The Lengthsman to provide a price for what he considers the right solution.

RESOLVED that the Lengthsman cut a section for the bonfire in the middle of the site, away from the telephone wires and in the same place as last year. A larger quantity of wood is expected this year, including pallets.

ii) To discuss any maintenance issues within the Village

See Councillors Issues (item 18) regarding drainage at Ash Grove.

iii) To note the necessary repair to playground equipment

NOTED that a gate in the playground does not close within the required five seconds. This is not a safety issue and nothing is damaged. The Clerk to arrange for the gate to be adjusted.

iv) To consider the draft graphic designs for the bus shelters

Members noted that the designs had been laid out with the first, second and third choices all applied to a single shelter, which would look like three stickers. It was agreed that a shelter should be properly wrapped in one design.

RESOLVED to proceed with the first choice design only, on the new bus shelter next to the Emmott Arms on the Keighley Road side. The design is to cover the whole of the back wall and the left hand side, inside and outside, but not the window.

RESOLVED that if this works, the second and third choice designs be used on the other two shelters, so that each shelter carries a different design.

Members noted that the Emmott Arms shelter is a different size from the other two, and that the other two have Lancashire County Council stickers and bus timetables on the large side. The Clerk to arrange careful measurement and bring the costs back to a future meeting.

10. Toilet Block

Members discussed the way forward. It was agreed that the Council should first establish what the community wants from the building, rather than choosing from a set of options, with the aim of providing a toilet while making better use of the building. The financial route will depend on advice from the Clerk.

RESOLVED to defer the decision to the October meeting, when the Clerk will be present to advise on funding.

RESOLVED that members consider what the community wants from the toilet block ahead of the next meeting.

11. Finance

i) Bank Reconciliation

RESOLVED to note the monthly bank reconciliation for August 2026.

ii) Councillor Spot Check

RESOLVED to note that the monthly spot check has been undertaken and signed off.

iii) To approve monthly payments

RESOLVED to approve the outstanding payments. [Clerk to insert the payments schedule]

iv) Monthly Budget

RESOLVED to note the monthly budget update report, which shows the budget is healthy with underspend in a number of areas.

12. Planning Application

To consider the following planning applications submitted to Pendle Borough Council.

APPLICATION: 26/0518/FUL

PROPOSAL: Siting of a permanent static caravan for an agricultural worker.

AT: Piked Edge Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne

Members noted that a previous application was refused because an agricultural need could not be proven, and that the applicant had argued for the last three years that the former chicken building was not agricultural. Members did not consider that an agricultural need for a worker to live on site had been demonstrated.

RESOLVED to object on the basis that an agricultural need has not been proven.

APPLICATION: 26/0529/FUL

PROPOSAL: Erection of an agricultural building.

AT: Land to the South East of High Clough Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne

APPLICATION: 26/0549/FUL

PROPOSAL: Erection of an agricultural storage building.

AT: High Clough Farm, Skipton Old Road, Colne

Members noted that these two applications are neighbouring sites accessed from the same farm track, and that national planning policy sets no limit on scale and no requirement to show necessity for farm buildings. Members expressed doubt, based on local knowledge, that the complex is being farmed as an agricultural holding.

RESOLVED to comment on both applications that Pendle Borough Council needs to satisfy itself that the property is a genuine agricultural holding, as the Parish Council does not believe it is, and that it would expect farm records and stock records to be available to demonstrate this.

APPLICATION: 26/0564/CEU

PROPOSAL: Certificate of Lawful Use (S.191 Existing Development): lawful commencement of development of Planning Permission 21/0647/HHO and 21/0648/LBC.

AT: 15 Carriers Row, Colne, Lancashire

Members noted that the application states the permission granted on 24 December 2021 was lawfully started in June 2024, following discharge of conditions, through replacement of the roof to the original house, installation of rainwater goods, drainage works and relocation of the boiler. Members considered that this work is not relevant to the approved development, which is the demolition of the existing conservatory, garage and workshop and the erection of a two storey extension. It was noted that the application is likely to be dealt with under delegated powers.

RESOLVED to comment that the Parish Council does not believe the work carried out is relevant to the development in the original planning application and does not amount to lawful commencement. Members noted that this is consistent with the Council's approach to the other applications.

13. Events Working Group

RESOLVED to receive the update from the Events Working Group. Planning is progressing for the Halloween event, the bonfire, the Christmas lights switch on and the Christmas party. This year the Christmas dinner will be for the over 60s rather than the over 70s, to widen the number of people who can attend, with live music, pie and peas.

RESOLVED that the Clerk send out the dates of forthcoming events on Facebook, which has worked well, and that the events be publicised in the October newsletter.

14. In Bloom Group

RESOLVED to receive an update on the work of the In Bloom Group. A weeding session was held the previous day and all work is in hand.

The In Bloom awards event is usually held in October. **RESOLVED** that the Clerk confirm the date and inform members. Members supported taking children from the school to the event if transport can be arranged by minibus.

15. Playground Working Group

To receive an update from the Chair of the Playground Working Group.

The pub quiz went very well, with a full house apart from one table, and raised approximately £450 on the night. A further £250 contribution was received towards the event.

The bid to the FCC is due to be decided by 15 September 2026. Fundraising currently stands at approximately £47,285 against a total cost for the full plan of just over £200,000.

Members noted that the Lottery and Pride in Place funding both carry timescales and conditions on how they can be used. The Working Group will meet at the end of September, having not met for two months, to consider at what point work should start with the funds available. Members agreed the Working Group should ask the contractor what could be delivered for the available amount, and that a grand opening next year would provide a fitting end point, after which a toilet working group could begin.

Members discussed an outdoor film night in the autumn. Big screen hire has cost upwards of £5,000 in the past, so a marquee with a travelling cinema was suggested as an alternative, with the hirer advising on any licence requirements.

RESOLVED to note the update.

16. Council Communications

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk is taking control of the Council newsletter and will circulate a draft before the next meeting for approval, so that it can be distributed well ahead of the Christmas events.

16. Replacement Noticeboard

i) To consider purchasing a new noticeboard to be sited on the land adjacent to the entrance onto the playing field from Kinseley Road

Members considered locations. The site previously proposed by the Clerk was rejected because it would destroy a neighbour's small garden. Members preferred the top end of the playing field, either just past the last bench or opposite, where the wall curves. A board set above the wall would be visible to both school traffic through the park and people walking up the road, and both sides could be used. Members preferred a metal board as it lasts longer, and noted past problems with condensation on glazed boards. Cllr Cockburn-Price suggested the Colne Area Committee might fund the board.

RESOLVED to agree the top end of the playing field as the preferred location.

RESOLVED that the Clerk bring a design and costs for the noticeboard to the next meeting before a purchase decision is made.

ii) To remove the existing noticeboard on Kinseley Road

RESOLVED that the existing noticeboard on Kinseley Road be removed. The surrounding area is a target for In Bloom next year, and the Lengthsman is to cut back the bushes so the area can be planted.

17. Asset Transfers

To receive an update from the Parish Clerk on the transfer of the Amenity area adjacent to Covey Bridge and Footpath at Ball Grove together with Footpath at the rear of Brooklands.

i) To note PBC will only transfer the amenity area adjacent to Covey Bridge if the Parish Council also takes the footpath at the rear of Brooklands

Members noted that the footpath runs for well over a kilometre around the lake, is in poor condition and includes wooden bridges, so taking it on would be a significant liability.

RESOLVED to decline the footpath and to write to Pendle Borough Council stating that the Parish Council does not accept the transfer of either asset on those terms. As the Parish Council has carried out considerable work on the orchard, the letter is to request that Pendle Borough Council grant a lease of the orchard if it will not transfer it, with the footpath remaining the responsibility of Pendle.

ii) To consider the asset transfer of Allotment Site being land at the rear of 5 to 15 and 35 to 39 Sheridan Road

Members noted that the village has no allotments and that this could be a valuable asset for villagers. Concerns were raised that some plots appear to have been absorbed into neighbouring private gardens, that access is blocked at one end, and that legal costs for individual agreements could be considerable. Careful due diligence is required.

RESOLVED to agree in principle to the transfer of the allotment site.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to Pendle Borough Council to ask for each plot: who the tenant is, whether there is a tenancy agreement and its length, the rent, when rent was last collected, the ownership of the land, and the income and expenditure for the site.

18. Councillors Issues

Ash Grove: Water is flowing between numbers 3 and 4 Ash Grove. A trench was dug and the garages blocked off, and a manhole installed, but the problem has not been resolved. The pipework is cracked beneath the garage outside number 3. A new drain is to be laid across the back of the garages and piped to the main road, with works expected in one to two months. Rubble and boulders have also been left outside a garage.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the engineering department asking them to inform garage owners before the works commence, and to raise the rubble left outside the garage.

19. Calderdale Energy Park

RESOLVED to note the joint correspondence with Colne Town Council sent to Calderdale Energy Park and the Planning Inspectorate setting out the Council's concerns about the shortcomings in the recent public consultation.

Members noted that the only response so far has been from the Planning Inspectorate, saying it is not their responsibility. A follow up letter of eight pages has been sent by the Council's lawyer to the developer and the Planning Inspectorate, confirming that a duty to respond remains. The government changed the law at the end of July so that applicants no longer need to consult, but the consultation closed on 10 July, when consultation was still required. The developer is not

obliged to take the consultation results into account and could submit its application with revised plans. A planning application is expected in November, when the Council will have a further opportunity to object.

RESOLVED that a press release be issued following a final review.

20. Police & Crime Commissioner Community Fund

To consider preparing a joint application to the PCC Community Fund with Colne Town Council, Foulridge Parish Council and Trawden Forest Parish Council to tackle speeding in the parishes.

Members noted that parish and town councils are eligible applicants and that funds received would add to the £10,000 already committed for police overtime.

RESOLVED to prepare a joint application, with each council submitting the same wording, drafted centrally.

21. Local Government Reorganisation

RESOLVED to note that the electoral arrangements item has been superseded by the announcement made today that Local Government Reorganisation is now paused. Members noted that the delay appears to relate to the legality of the decisions taken, and that it may be restarted in another form.

The agenda items on the 2027 parish council election and the following election in 2032 were not discussed in view of the pause.

22. Date & Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5 October 2026, at 7.00pm, at Laneshaw Bridge Primary School, Emmott Lane, Laneshaw Bridge.