PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Meeting of the Council held at Penwortham Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, Penwortham on Tuesday 7 October, 2025 at 6:30pm.

Present:	The Mayor:	Cllr W Adams
	Councillors:	D Bennett, A Cassidy, T Flannery, G Crewe, H Crewe, P Cronin, H Hancock, D Howarth, K Martin, A Rae, D Shaw, R Taylor, A Turner, I Watkinson and T Young.
	In attendance:	Marie Curran, Town Manager
		Members of the Public: 18

62. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors D Ashton and J Patten.

63. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

64. Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

65. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

66. Co-option of a Town Councillor

Councillor Howarth proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that Mr Tim Young be duly co-opted to the Town Council. The Council voted unanimously in favour. The Mayor formally declared Mr Young duly co-opted to the Council. Councillor Young accepted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the meeting.

RESOLVED: that Mr Tim Young be duly co-opted as Town Councillor to represent Howick & Priory Ward for Penwortham Town Council.

67. **Appointment to Committees**

Councillor Howarth proposed that Councillor Young be appointed to the Environment, Events and Planning Committees of the Town Council. It was further proposed that Councillor Turner be appointed a member of the Personnel Board. The proposals were seconded by Councillor Watkinson.

RESOLVED: i) that Councillor Young be appointed to the Environment, Events and Planning Committees of the Town Council; and

ii) that Councillor Turner be appointed to the Personnel Board.

68. **Local Government Re-organisation**

Guest Speaker, South Ribble Borough Councillor James Flannery, Lead Member for Local Government Reform presented the Town Council with the developments concerning the Local Government Reorganisation.

Councillor Flannery introduced himself and explained his role as Lead Member for Local Government Reform. Cllr Flannery explained that it had been over fifty years since a local government reorganisation had occurred and that the current two-tier administration would become one single tier of unitary councils as part of this process. Cllr Flannery had sought views from leaders in other local councils including Preston, West Lancs, South Ribble and Chorley to come up with proposals for South Ribble and Chorley Council. Cllr Flannery explained that proposals were being considered for a 3-unitary Lancashire, 4-unitary, 5-unitary and 2-unitary. It was suggested that Chorley and South Ribble Borough Council would become a 4-unitary authority within Lancashire.

Cllr Flannery explained that the reorganisation timeline began with the English Devolution White Paper in December 2024 with the elections aiming to take place in May 2027 and implementation from 1 April, 2028. It was noted there would be less councillors as part of the new arrangements.

Cllr Flannery spoke about stakeholder engagement. A more comprehensive survey would commence in January 2026 and he encouraged residents to speak to their local councillors. Cllr Flannery offered to visit any local groups and organisations that would like to find out more on this subject.

Cllr Flannery explained that the newly created councils would create Neighbourhood Area Committees to enhance community engagement and local service delivery.

Cllr Flannery set out the plans and explained what was happening now. The Councils were developing proposals with five other councils in Lancashire. They were working across the county on wider issues around LGR and would be carrying out engagement and decision making throughout October and November.

Each individual council in Lancashire would make a decision in November and submit their proposals to Government by 28 November, 2025 to establish and deliver the unitary authorities.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Flannery for attending the meeting of the Town Council and invited members to ask any questions.

Councillor Cassidy agreed for a need to have the best model of local government for the local people; however raised concerns with not aligning with Preston and considered South Ribble's decision not advantageous. Cllr Cassidy suggested that South Ribble was close in location to Preston and expressed his disappointment in the direction that South Ribble Borough Council were moving in. He considered they had missed an opportunity to create a central Lancashire economic powerhouse that would benefit businesses and local people. He suggested they hadn't followed the guidance to cover areas of at least 500,000 people or more. Cllr Cassidy raised concerns for local housing and made reference to the successful work that had been completed with neighbouring councils to create the Central Lancashire Local Plan.

Cllr G Crewe suggested that if 63% of respondents were happy with the current service from their local service, why it had to be changed. Cllr Crewe also questioned how the new unitary boundaries would affect the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner, police and fire services.

Councillor Howarth referred to area committees and a desire for locality. Councillor Howarth informed members that Penwortham had two neighbourhood committees previously which almost ceased to exist now. Councillor Howarth expressed that this must be legislated so that Council administrations cannot remove them in future years.

Town Councillor T Flannery understood the current council systems were disjointed and often frustrating for residents and stated that she would like to see a more integrated service moving forward. Councillor Flannery expressed her desire for the outcome and decision making to be based on wider data rather than solely on cultural data.

Councillor Bennett suggested that to be in a unitary authority without Preston City Council did not make good sense. He agreed with Councillor Howarth's comments regarding Neighbourhood Committees, which he suggested were previously very well attended by local communities.

Further concerns were raised at the possibility of becoming a unitary council without Preston. Additional questions were raised regarding the guidance to cover areas of at least 500,000 people and whether South Ribble had adhered to this.

In response to Chorley and South Ribble Borough Council's decision not to align with Preston City Council, Cllr Flannery suggested that there was no economic data available

at that time. He explained that Preston had made their decision first not to include South Ribble and that South Ribble had followed this in their decision making.

Councillor Flannery confirmed that police forces and fire services would not be affected by the local government reorganisation arrangements.

Councillor Howarth referred to concerns raised during the meeting on whether the newly created authority would be large enough to deliver the required services. Cllr Howarth suggested there were lots of existing unitary authorities in the country including Wigan Oldham, Merseyside etc and asked for their sizes.

Councillor Flannery reassured elected members and members of the public that whatever the outcome, competent staff would continue to deliver Council services and encouraged people to keep communicating with their local councillors.

Members of the public were asked to raise any questions.

A member of the public raised concerns for the newly created council's ability to manage social care demands and specialist care, suggesting residents would fall between the cracks.

The Town Mayor reiterated that the meeting was a public meeting to ask questions, and that the Town Council had no authority on the decisions that had been made.

Borough Councillor Forshaw suggested that the decision to align with Skelmersdale was based on opinions that it was slightly better than with Preston, which didn't make good financial sense. Cllr Forshaw referred to financial data over five years and suggested that the Borough Council hadn't worked with financial figures. He added these figures should have been included in the presentation. Councillor Flannery confirmed that it was important to establish the best option and asked Cllr Forshaw to forward him with any relevant financial data he had.

Another suggestion was to make no changes and to keep the council authorities as they were.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Flannery for attending the meeting.

69. **Questions from Members of the Public**

A local resident expressed her gratitude following the installation of a new public bench, recently moved on Cop Lane, adjacent to Penwortham Girls' High School.

70. **Communications by the Town Mayor**

The mayor reported on the recent events he had attended including a visit to Galloway's Society for the Blind for their event, Vision Zone 2025. The mayor met with members of staff and service users.

71. **Town Manager's Report**

i) **HILL ROAD CEMETERY AND PENWORTHAM WAR MEMORIAL**

The lengthsman and assistant have been finishing off grass cutting and other maintenance tasks in the formal cemetery grounds and within the woodland burial site, as well as clearing pathways, trimming hedges, removing litter and general maintenance throughout the town.

If you would like the lengthsman to tidy a particular area of public land in Penwortham or if you would like to volunteer at Hill Road Cemetery please email: marie@penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk

Please report highways issues such as potholes, street lights, damaged signs etc to: Report it - Lancashire County Council

Report It on the go with the 'Love Clean Streets' app on your mobile phone or tablet. It's simple to use and your issue can be logged in seconds.

ii) **WHAT'S ON AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRES**

In addition to the regular activities that take place at Priory Lane Community Centre and Penwortham Community Centre, please make a note of the following additional events and support where you can.

Priory Lane Community Centre

- Wednesday 15 October – Rebuild with Hope Sale.
- Tuesday 21 October – Monthly Mini Market
- Monday 27 October – St. Catherine's in the Frame Open Day, 11am to 3pm.

Penwortham Community Centre

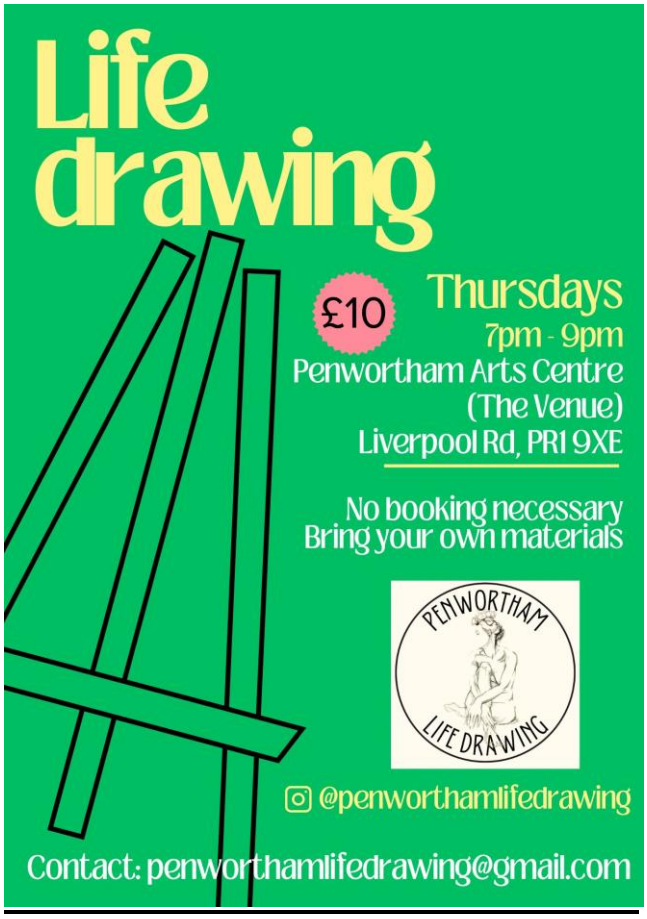
- The Youth club has extended its provision to four nights a week at Penwortham Community Centre from 6pm on Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.
- Tuesday 14 October – Penwortham in Bloom Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 6.30pm.

Penwortham Arts Centre 'The Venue'

- Life drawing at The Venue every Thursday from 7pm until 9pm.

- Guitar classes every Thursday from 1pm.
- Wednesday 8 October - Penwortham in Bloom Scarecrow Awards evening from 5pm.
- Penwortham Community Cinema screen a range of monthly films on the last Wednesday evening of the month and the third Friday afternoon.
- 2-day Mental Health First Aid Training Course provided free of charge to residents on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 October, 2025.






REBUILD WITH HOPE
REBUILD WITH HOPE
BRAND NEW HIGH STREET FASHION AT DISCOUNT PRICES
COMMUNITY SALE
WEDNESDAY 15TH OCTOBER
11AM-2PM
PRIORY LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE
3 PRIORY LANE, PENWORTHAM, PRESTON, PR1 0AR


YOUTH CLUB
FIRST KICK FOUNDATION
In partnership with PENWORTHAM TOWN COUNCIL
NEW SESSION TIMES
RUNNING FOUR NIGHTS A WEEK!
@PENWORTHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
Kingsfold Dr, Penwortham, Preston PR1 9EQ
WINTER TIMETABLE:
Monday's 6-8pm: Primary Age Session
Thursday's 6-9pm: Secondary Age Session
Friday's 6-8pm: Primary Age Session
Saturday's 6-8pm: Secondary Age Session



- **FURTHER UPDATES AND REPORTS;**

Dates for your diary:

- **Penwortham Town Council annual Fireworks Display** – Wednesday 5 November 2025 at 7pm
- **Remembrance Sunday Service and Parade –** Sunday 9 November, 2025 from 9am
- **Kingsfold Christmas Market –** Monday 1 December 2025 from 6pm
- **Liverpool Road Christmas Market –** Wednesday 10 December from 6pm.

The East Irish Sea Transmission Project is seeking consent to bring secure renewable energy from the Mooir Vannin Generation Project in the Isle of Man's territorial waters to UK consumers. An application was submitted in March 2025 to the Isle of Man Government for consent to build the Mooir Vannin Generation Project which is located within the Isle of Man territorial waters. The project consists of up to 87 wind turbines, three offshore platforms, cables connecting the wind farm to the Isle of Man, and landfall assets on the Isle of Man. Once in operation, it will have a generating capacity of 1.4 GW. 80 MW to 100 MW of this is expected to be delivered to the Isle of Man, with the

remaining power delivered to the UK National Grid through the East Irish Sea Transmission Project. The infrastructure required includes offshore and onshore transmission assets including Energy Balancing Infrastructure (EBI).

In October 2024 the Secretary of State determined the East Irish Sea Transmission project should be considered a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project under Section 35 of the Planning Act 2008. Given that determination, the project requires a Development Consent Order and scoping studies are now underway. The project has been introduced to the local community and community engagement began during August with an information booklet posted to local residents inviting them to attend a local event which took place at Penwortham Arts Centre on Saturday 13 September.

As the project scoping boundary overlaps with Penwortham's parish boundary, this was an opportunity to find out more and have the opportunity to ask questions. Representatives from Ørsted, the East Irish Sea Transmission Project hope to attend the November meeting of the Town Council.

In response to concern raised at the October meeting of the Town Council, the following response was received from the Penwortham Tesco store.

With regards to below we seem to have a regular bunch congregating in the evening and frequenting the store to buy goods and generally being a bit of a nuisance for my team. We have 7 day guarding at present with some more investment in guarding hours coming. My team regularly log incidents with Tesco head office which gives them an idea of what anti social activities are going on. Any behaviour that is seen or reported to us in store in swiftly acted upon and groups will always be asked to leave where necessary.

We have a good relationship with Janine the local PCSO and any ongoing issues or certain individuals can be raised with her to assist us. We always put the safety of our team first alongside customers so happy to work together in anything you maybe discussing at the council. I have a good relationship with our neighbours who also spot and report anything we may need to act on. We have really good CCTV on site which is useful should we need to pass to the police. I think a regular drive by or walk through from the PCSO's and neighbourhood officers is one of the most impactful measures that could be put in place. I have CC Janine into this mail so she is aware of your concerns.

The following communication was received from the Transformation and Policy Lead at Chorley Council in relation to the local government reorganisation and devolution.

Dear Partner

Re: Local Government Reorganisation in Lancashire – Stakeholder Engagement

We are writing to inform you of an important development regarding the future structure of local government in Lancashire.

As you may be aware, the government has announced its intention to simplify governance in areas with two-tier systems, such as Lancashire, by creating new unitary councils that deliver all local services through a single authority.

Currently, Lancashire County Council provides services such as social care, education, highways, and libraries, while district and borough councils deliver services including waste collection, planning, housing, and leisure. Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen already operate as unitary authorities.

All 15 councils in Lancashire are working collaboratively to develop proposals for new unitary arrangements with options ranging from between two and five new unitary councils.

The business case proposals for new unitary councils must be submitted to Government by 28 November 2025 and must demonstrate:

- Stronger local leadership
- Improved service delivery and outcomes
- Financial sustainability and value for money
- Economic growth and prosperity
- Community identity and effective local partnerships

To inform this process, we are seeking views from key stakeholder organisations across Lancashire.

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey **before 28 September** at the link below and share it within your networks for others to complete.

Give My View

Accessible formats and paper copies are available on request via lgr@lancashire.gov.uk or by calling 0300 1236701.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

Following the September meeting of the Town Council, local resident, Mr Woronowicz asked the Town Manager to pass on his thanks to Town Council members for supporting the residents in relation to the planning and development of the former Shampan site on Pope Lane and Cop Lane.

The Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference followed by Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) - You are invited to attend the conference followed by the AGM which will be held on Saturday 1st November 2025 at 2.30 pm at County Hall, Preston.

Amria Khatun, Keynote Speaker, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will be speaking on Devolution and Re-organisation of Local Government at the AGM.

South Ribble residents are to be asked for their thoughts on plans to introduce charges at nine of the borough's currently free car parks. If the move is ultimately approved, daytime parking fees would be rolled out at off-street facilities in Leyland, Penwortham, Bamber Bridge, Walton-le-Dale and Higher Walton.

The authority's cabinet approved a 21-day public consultation, a launch date for which has yet to be published. Only after the results have been considered will a final decision be taken.

Unfortunately, more anti-social behaviour has been experienced during September at Penwortham Community centre with youths on the roof and criminal damage caused to the Council's CCTV cameras.

72. Questions from Councillors

No questions were raised.

73. Development Control – Plans List

No comments were made.

74. Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Council was asked to approve the minutes of the following committee meetings:

Community Centres Management Committee – Tuesday 16 September 2025
Personnel Board – Tuesday 16 September 2025
Strategy and Finance Committee – Tuesday 16 September 2025
Events Committee – Not Applicable
Cemetery Committee – Not Applicable
Environment Committee – Not Applicable
Planning Committee – Not Applicable

Councillor Shaw reported that he was not in attendance at the meetings of the Personnel Board and Strategy and Finance Committee as recorded and asked to be removed from the names listed as present.

RESOLVED: i) that the minutes of the meetings, held on 16 September 2025 be amended accordingly and approved as a correct record.

75. Dates of Committee Meetings

The Council was asked to approve the proposed dates of forthcoming committee meetings:

Community Centres Management Committee – Tuesday 21 October 2025
Events Committee – Tuesday 21 October 2025
Personnel Board – Tuesday 21 October 2025
Strategy and Finance Committee – Tuesday 21 October 2025
Cemetery Committee – Not Applicable
Environment Committee – Not Applicable
Planning Committee – Not Applicable

RESOLVED: that the proposed dates be approved.

76. **Delegates' Reports**

Cllr Martin reported on a recent CPRE (countryside charity for England) Meeting that he had attended. During the meeting, the devolution and reorganisation of local councils was discussed. Cllr Martin also referred to the upcoming Lancashire Parish and Town Council Conference followed by the Lancashire Association of Local Councils AGM to be held the following month.

77. **Accounts for Payment – September 2025**

The Council was asked to note the below accounts for payment:

SEPTEMBER 2025 ACCOUNTS FOR AUTHORISATION

FOR	**AREA**	**AMOUNT**	**VAT**
NATWEST CREDIT CARD	ADMIN	£ 22.94	£ -
VODAFONE LTD	ADMIN	£ 24.24	£ 4.04
BOSTON SEEDS LTD	ADMIN	£ 49.00	£ 8.17
ONECOM LTD	ADMIN	£ 383.56	£ 63.93
VIKING	ADMIN	£ 84.70	£ 14.12
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 14.90	£ 0.71
FUEL INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 113.32	£ 18.89
WATER INVOICE	CEMETERY	£ 24.95	£ -
MILLHOUSE TRAINING	CEMETERY	£ 1,170.00	£ 129.00
WATER INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£ 124.98	£ -
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PRIORY LANE CC	£ 252.08	£ 12.00
KEY ENGINEERING	PRIORY LANE CC	£ 122.42	£ 20.40
SCAR FIRE SAFETY CALL OUT & REPAIR	PRIORY LANE CC	£ 60.00	£ -
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	PEN CC	£ 496.10	£ 16.26
GAS INVOICE	PEN CC	£ 137.40	£ 6.54
WATER INVOICE	PEN CC	£ 145.01	£ -
KEY ENGINEERING	PEN CC	£ 113.21	£ 18.87
GARDNERS HARDWARE	PEN CC	£ 27.50	£ 4.58
WATER INVOICE	ARTS CENTRE	£ 73.08	£ 3.44
ELECTRICITY INVOICE	ARTS CENTRE	£ 227.97	£ 10.86

BOOKER LTD	ARTS CENTRE	£	417.66	£	69.61
SRBC PREMISES LICENCE	ARTS CENTRE	£	70.00	£	-
GAS INVOICE	ARTS CENTRE	£	6.84		

In response to a question from Councillor Howarth, the Town Manager confirmed that the payment to Millhouse Training was for a chainsaw training course that the lengthsman would be attending. Councillor Howarth expressed his thanks to the lengthsman for his hard work.

RESOLVED: that the presented accounts be noted.

78. **Hill Road Cemetery – September 2025**

The Town Manager reported that during September 2025 there were nine interments at Hill Road Cemetery. Of these, three were full coffin burials and six were for cremated remains. Five of the interments were in new plots.

RESOLVED: that the presented deeds be approved.

79. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The Council was asked to consider whether, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, it considers that the public should be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated against the heading to the item.

Resolved: It was agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the appropriate paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

80. **Management of Penwortham Arts Centre**

Following a resolution of the Strategy and Finance Committee, held on 16 September, 2025. The Town Manager reported on a proposal to outsource the management of the

arts centre to a local business for a period of six months, with the arrangements to be reviewed at the end of that period.

The Council considered the report. Following a short period of debate, it was agreed that the Council would invite the volunteers of the arts centre to the next meeting of the Strategy and Finance Committee to seek their views.

RESOLVED: that the volunteers of Penwortham Arts Centre be invited to the next meeting of the S&F Committee.

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

……Town Mayor

(The meeting finished at 8:20pm.)

The minutes of this meeting will be published on the website
www.penworthamtowncouncil.gov.uk