



# Garstang Town Council

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Garstang Scout and Guide

Headquarters

Kepple Lane

Garstang

PR3 1PB

## Full Council Extraordinary Meeting, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Agenda

### **Councillors and members of the press & public**

You are summoned to attend the meeting of the Council to consider the items detailed on the attached agenda.

The meeting will be held at Garstang library,  
Windsor Road, Garstang, PR3 1EX

**on Tuesday, 8 September 2026 at 7.30pm.**

If you are unable to attend please could you submit an apology to the Clerk.

### **Members of the public and press are invited to attend the meeting**

Please contact the Clerk by 13.00, Tuesday, 8 September 2026, to express your interest in attending the meeting.

### **Recording of Public Council Meetings**

Please be aware that the public meeting may be recorded for the accuracy of the minutes.

As per standing orders 12g; for any meeting that has been recorded the recording will be kept for a period of 6 months after the minutes have been approved as accurate before the recording is deleted.

*E Parry*

Town Clerk

2 September 2026

# Agenda

- 1) **Apologies for absence**  
To receive apologies for absence.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests and Dispensations**  
To receive disclosures of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and dispensation requests from Councillors on matters to be considered at the meeting.
- 3) **Public participation**  
The Mayor will ask Councillors to agree to adjourn the meeting to allow non-Councillors to speak and will ask Councillors to agree to reconvene the meeting on the conclusion of the public participation.  
The Clerk is reminding Councillors of standing orders applying to public question time:
  - 3e Members of the public may make representations, answer questions and give evidence at a meeting which they are entitled to attend in respect of the business on the agenda.
  - 3h In accordance with standing order 3(e), a question shall not require a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chairman of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given.
  - 3f The period of time designated for public participation at a meeting in accordance with standing order 3(e) shall not exceed 15 minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.
- 4) **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Exclusion of the Press and Public**  
Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, the Council may resolve to exclude the press and public to discuss the following items relating to the co-option of Town Councillors. It is anticipated that the press and public will be excluded for the presentations. This advice has been received from LALC to maintain the possible confidentiality of applicant's personal details.
- 5) **Town Councillor vacancy; opportunity to meet the candidates – for information**  
Four applications have been received for the Town Councillor vacancy.  
  
The 4 applicants attending are:
  1. 7.35pm David Bicknell, Riverside Court, Bridge 2Street
  2. 7.50pm Marcus Lord, Nateby Court, Garstang
  3. 8.05pm Ryan Shields, Anderton Way, Garstang
  4. 8.20pm Dennis Ford, Leathercote, Garstang  
They will give a short presentation (3 minutes) on why they would like to become a Town Councillor and there will be an opportunity for Councillors to ask any questions. Detailed in the Appendix is a statement detailing why they wish to stand as a Town Councillor. Supporting information (confidential to

Councillors only, to comply with GDPR) has been circulated with the agenda paper.

6) **Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 - Re-admission of the Press and Public**

To resolve that the confidential business, of applicant's personal details being disclosed, having been concluded, the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

7) **Voting on appointment – for decision**

As outlined in standing orders, point 8, the Council will vote to fill the Town Council vacancies.

## Appendix

Please tell us your reasons for wishing to become a Town Councillor?

### **David Bicknell**

Pay back to the community I grew up in Help champion and support the local community in their concerns and aspirations

Provide a voice and considered argument for those who can't themselves

Ensure that there is always a balanced, considered view on all subjects and debates

Strive to make Garstang future-proofed against long-term decline and dysfunction

Help maintain Garstang as a genuinely interesting, historical town Contribute to making Garstang a unique and compelling place to live and visit

Provide more attractions to improve tourism and boost local economy

Help maintain a balance between progress and protecting heritage

Solve the high street issues

Become an active participant – not just a commentator

### **Marcus Lord**

I have lived in Garstang for two years and think it is the best place I have ever lived, so I would like to do more to help this wonderful town and its charming people.

I worked as a volunteer for the Victorian Christmas and have been to almost all the events over the past year and am amazed at how big and professionally produced they all for a town of this size. Although a relative newcomer, I have made more friends in two years than I did in 20 years living in Manchester.

Living in Garstang has done a lot for me so I really would like to be of benefit to Garstang as I love walking along the canal to the town, shopping in the High Street and chatting to my local friends at Navarro's.

Overall, I would like to see Garstang continue to prosper and grow, building on the great work already being done and bring more opportunities for young adults and the Garstang communities.

### **Ryan Shields**

I have had close links with the council, having sat on the Greater Garstang Partnership board for many years, heading the Chamber of Trade, and running the Victorian Festival. With my 10 years of experience running a shop on the High Street I wish to continue to provide my help and assistance to furthering Garstang.

### **Dennis Ford**

Since relocating to Garstang just over two years ago, I have been fortunate to become part of a warm, friendly, and welcoming community. It is clear that the residents here take great pride in their town, consistently speaking positively about the local environment, the people, and the strong sense of belonging that defines Garstang. After completing a military career spanning 33 years, during which I experienced the challenge and excitement of moving house numerous times, I can confidently say that Garstang stands out as an exceptional place to settle down. The combination of its community spirit, natural beauty, and vibrant local life makes it truly unique. Having witnessed and benefited from this

supportive atmosphere, I am eager to contribute to Garstang's future development. I see this as a meaningful opportunity to give back to the community that has welcomed me so warmly and to serve as a dedicated and committed representative for its people, ensuring their voices are heard and their interests are well represented.

Currently, I am employed by the Ministry of Defence as a quality assurance engineer. In this capacity, I serve as a vital liaison between civilian and government project managers, facilitating clear communication and collaboration to ensure project objectives are met on time and to the highest standards. This role has further honed my skills in stakeholder engagement, problem-solving, and quality management.

I am passionate about bringing this wealth of experience and dedication to public service into local governance as a Town Councillor. I believe that effective local government requires transparency, accountability, and a genuine commitment to representing the interests of the community. I am eager to work collaboratively with fellow councillors, residents, and local organisations to promote sustainable development, enhance community well-being, and ensure that local services are delivered efficiently and fairly.

My commitment to continuous improvement and quality assurance, combined with my leadership experience and strong communication skills, will enable me to contribute positively to the governance and development of our town. I am motivated by the opportunity to make a tangible difference at the local level, ensuring that the voices of all community members are heard and that our town continues to thrive for current and future generations.