

# EATON & ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025  
In the Upstairs Meeting Room, Eccleston Village Hall**

## **PRESENT**

Cllrs Tony Deakin (Chair), Lee Hobson, Tony Jordan, Kathryn Rees Wright, Dean Shepherd, Greg Vickers.

Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). Annabel Farbon (Grosvenor Estate), Sarah Dawson (Grosvenor Estate)

## **1. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Janet Middlehurst (ill).

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Shepherd declared a pecuniary interest in part 2; item 1.

## **3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no consideration of this item.

## **4. MINUTES**

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to accept the minutes for the parish council meeting held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Deakin and seconded by Cllr Rees Wright.

## **5. POLICE**

PCSO Carpenter is no longer the PCSO for the area; his replacement is PC Ellie Barnett, she has been invited to the next Council meeting.

The police report was previously circulated.

## **6. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS**

### **6.1 Accounts:-**

The Council approved the accounts as circulated .

### **6.2 Payments:-**

The Council considered the following payments including:-

<b>Chq No</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
637	HMRC	Quarter 2	£ 119.00
638	R Shackleton	Running Costs / backdated pay	£ 96.43
639	Royal British Legion	Donation for lamppost poppies	£ 125.00
640	Dean Shepherd	backdated pay	£ 97.86
SO	Dean Shepherd	Street Orderly services (monthly)	£ 326.35

### **6.3 Receipts:-**

None received

### **6.4 Bank Account:-**

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025:- £100.00

Reconciled balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025:- £9,767.58

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to the above actions, payments and accounts as circulated.

Proposed by Cllr Vickers and seconded by Cllr Rees Wright.

### **6.5 Budget to Date:-**

The Council received and noted the budget to date as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## **7. EXTERNAL AUDITOR**

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015 and the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities the Council has published the following documents on the website:-

- (i) Certificate of Exemption (page 3 of the AGAR);
- (ii) Annual Internal Audit Report 2024 – 25 (page 4 of the AGAR);
- (iii) Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024 - 25 (page 5 of the AGAR);
- (iv) Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024 – 25 (page 6 of the AGAR);
- (v) Analysis of Variances;
- (vi) Bank Reconciliation;
- (vii) Notice of the period for the exercise of public rights and other information required by Regulation 15 (2) Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The External Auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has sent an automated message to notify the Council that the AGAR has been received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## **8. PLANNING**

### Register:-

The Council accepted the observations as recorded in the planning register.

## **9. FERRY CAR PARK**

Sarah Dawson has emailed a copy of the plan which proves that the car park is owned by CWaC and not by the Grosvenor Estate this (it was noted that part of the access is owned by the Grosvenor Estate but the rest is owned by CWaC).

This has been sent to CWaC to request clarification of the issue regarding ownership. CWaC is looking into the issue.

The Clerk has spoken with CWaC regarding the Council's request to put up a 'No overnight parking' sign at the car park. CWaC enquired whether the Grosvenor Estate would provide permission for CWaC to place the sign on property that is owned by the Estate.

It was felt that it would be more effective if the sign was placed on land that is owned by CWaC rather than Grosvenor Estate property as this could be challenged.

The Council discussed who would be responsible to ensure that the sign is enforced.

The Clerk is to contact CWaC again regarding the following actions:-

- to follow up the issue of ownership
- to request that place CWaC put up a 'No overnight parking' sign at the car park and for it to be sited on land that is owned by CWaC;
- to confirm that CWaC are responsible for managing the 'No overnight parking' at the car park.

## **10. TRAFFIC CONCERNS**

### **10.1** Traffic Surveys:-

The Clerk has contacted CWaC to clarify traffic surveys, they have advised the following:-

- the surveys are typically for one week during school term times;
- notice of between 1-2 weeks is usually required (depending on the capacity of the provider);
- pneumatic tubes laid across the road are attached to a traffic counter to carry out the surveys.

The approximate cost for each survey is £250.00.

The Council discussed carrying out traffic surveys at the following five locations in the parish:-

- Rake Lane
- The Paddocks
- Ferry Junction

- Eaton Road
- Paddock Road

The Council agreed to look to carry out the surveys in May 2026; the cost is to be taken into consideration when setting the 2026 – 27 precept.

The Council discussed the benefit of carrying out the traffic surveys; the perceived perception of traffic vs actual statistics for the traffic figures and that the statistics could be used at a future date to compare volumes of traffic in the village.

#### 10.2 Outstanding Highways Issues:-

The Clerk is to follow up the following with Highways:-

- when are the culvert works due to be completed on Eaton Road;
- when will work be carried out to the wall that is in danger of collapsing at Hill Road / Eaton Road.

#### 11. **SPEEDWATCH**

Cllr Middlehurst is arranging for a new co-ordinator to take over the Speedwatch rota.

#### 12. **PARISH ORDERLY**

Cllr Shepherd informed the meeting that it has been a quiet summer in the parish.

#### 13. **BT PHONE BOX, ECCLESTON VILLAGE**

The phone in the phone box is due be decommissioned. The Council discussed whether to adopt the phone box; the Clerk is to contact BT and make enquiries.

#### 14. **PLAY FACILITIES**

Cllr Rees Wright informed the meeting that permission has been granted for local children to use the field to the rear of the school.

The Legal Department is to draw up an agreement between the Parish Council and the school detailing the terms and conditions. Cllr Rees Wright requested that the Council fund a litter bin at the site which would be emptied by the school. The Council agreed in principle to the request.

#### 15. **VILLAGE HALL**

##### 15.1 Trusteeship of The Village Hall:-

The Council discussed the trusteeship for the Village Hall and the suggestion that the Parish Council be appointed as a corporate / custodian trustee.

Both the Charity Commission and Cheshire Community Action are able to provide further information on the role and responsibilities.

**Resolved:-** The Council agreed to the join Cheshire Community Action and to make enquiries about the Parish Council being appointed as a corporate / custodian trustee.

Proposed by Cllr Deakin and seconded by Cllr Vickers.

##### 15.2 Hire of the Hall:-

The Council considered paying rent for use of the Hall. It was agreed that the Council is supportive to pay rent. This is to be relayed back to the Village Hall Committee for their consideration.

#### 16. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

An order has been placed for 25 lamppost poppies which are to be put up in the parish.

#### 17. **CHRISTMAS**

There was no consideration of this item.

#### 18. **CLERKS REPORT**

There was no consideration of this item

**19. 2026 DATES**

The Council agreed to hold meetings on the following dates:-

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October

**20. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Council noted the correspondence as circulated.

**21. DATES OF MEETINGS**

The Council date of the next meeting is:-

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**PART TWO**

**Resolved:-** The Council resolved to exclude the press and members of the public as the items to be discussed relate to contractual matters.

Proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Deakin.

1.

**The meeting closed at 8.45 pm**

**The website for Eaton and Eccleston Parish Council is:-**

**[www.cheshireparishcouncils.co.uk/welcome/eaton-eccleston-parish-council/](http://www.cheshireparishcouncils.co.uk/welcome/eaton-eccleston-parish-council/)**

**The email address for Eaton and Eccleston Parish Council is:-**

**[eatonandecclestonpc@hotmail.com](mailto:eatonandecclestonpc@hotmail.com)**