

EATON & ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 15th January 2026
In the Upstairs Meeting Room, Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs Tony Deakin (Chair), Lee Hobson, Tony Jordan, Janet Middlehurst,
Kathryn Rees Wright, Dean Shepherd, Greg Vickers.
Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). Sarah Dawson (Grosvenor Estate)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rees Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 16 of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no consideration of this item.

4. MINUTES

Resolved:- The Council agreed to accept the minutes of the parish council meeting held on Thursday 9th October 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Hobson and seconded by Cllr Rees Wright.

5. CASUAL VACANCY

There was no consideration of this item as there are no vacancies.

6. POLICE

The police report was previously circulated.

PC Sarai Kilshaw is the new beat officer for the parish; she has emailed to introduce herself and hoping for a PCSO to attend the May meeting. She is aware of the issues at Eccleston Ferry and has added it to her hotspot patrol plan and will try to get across on her late / evening shifts.

7. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

7.1 Accounts:-

The Council noted the accounts as circulated.

7.2 Payments:-

The Council considered the following payments including:-

Chq No	Payee	Details	Amount
SO	Dean Shepherd	Village Maintenance	£1,027.98
641	HMRC	PAYE Quarter 3	£ 115.60
642	R Shackleton	Reimburse expenses	£ 31.05
643	G Vickers	Reimburse cost of Christmas Tree	£ 240.00
644	HMRC	PAYE Quarter 4	£ 115.60

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Receipts:-

None received.

7.3 Bank Account:-

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 31st December 2025:- £100.00

Reconciled balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 31st December 2025:- £7,883.01.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to the above payments and accounts as circulated.
Proposed by Cllr Middlehurst and seconded by Cllr Deakin.

7.4 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted budget to date as at 31st December 2025.

8. **BUDGET**

This was considered at the end of the meeting.

Resolved:- The Council approved the attached budget for 2026 – 27.

Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Vickers.

9. **PRECEPT**

This was considered at the end of the meeting.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to set the precept for 2026 – 27 at £9,500.00.

Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Vickers.

10. **PLANNING**

Register:-

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

11. **FERRY CAR PARK**

The Clerk has contacted CWaC again regarding the following actions:-

- 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.

CWaC have agreed to put up a temporary laminated sign to warn 'No overnight parking', the Council has requested that it is mounted on a structure that is owned by CWaC and not the Grosvenor Estate.

The Grosvenor Estate has offered to install posts for the sign to be attached to.

The Council discussed putting up CCTV at the car park to try and deter anti-social behaviour.

The Clerk is to follow up the following:-

- Signage:- to make arrangements with CWaC and Grosvenor Estate to site the signs on posts and to request sight of the notice before it is put in situ ;
- Granite Post:- to contact CWaC and enquire when this will be replaced at the car park as it was removed;
- 'No overnight parking':- to ask CWaC again to advise who will enforce this and are there any by-laws that the Council ought to be made aware of.
- Police:- to contact the police and request they carry out vehicle ID checks for the campers that are parked overnight at the car park.

12. **TRAFFIC CONCERNS**

12.1 Highways:-

Brick work on Eaton Road (ref. HW585116148:-the Clerk is to follow up this fault and send photos; this was reported to Highways in February 2024 and remains outstanding. Concerns were raised as it is a safety hazard and could potentially endanger life.

12.2 Traffic Counter:-

The Council wish to request the following information from the traffic counters:-

- Time of day
- Speed of traffic
- Volume of traffic

The Council have previously agreed the five locations for the traffic counters and to place them in May (during term time).

Resolved:- The Council agreed for the Clerk to place an order up to the value of £1,500.00 to place traffic counters at five locations in Eccleston and to request that the data provides the information as above.

Proposed by Cllr Deakin and seconded by Cllr Middlehurst.

12.3 Speedwatch:-

Cllr Middlehurst updated the meeting regarding the arrangements for the Speedwatch co-ordinator and the locations in the parish.

12.4 Layby on Eaton Road:-

Cllr Vickers expressed concern about parking in the layby as it is not wide enough for a vehicle to park safely. The Clerk is to raise the issue with CWaC with photos.

13. **PARISH ORDERLY**

Cllr Shepherd updated the meeting regarding bin collection; fly tipping in Belgravia and at the end of Rake Lane.

14. **MEMORIAL BENCH**

The Council considered the provision of a memorial bench outside the village hall and decided not to progress the matter.

15. **BT PHONE BOX**

The Clerk has contacted BT regarding the phone box on Eaton Road and circulated the information regarding adopting the kiosk. The Council discussed what action to take and agreed not to pursue adoption of the kiosk.

16. **PLAY FACILITIES**

Cllr Rees Wright updated the meeting regarding the costs for the CWaC Legal Department is to draw up an agreement between the Parish Council and the school detailing the terms and conditions for the use of outdoor play facilities at the school field by local children outside of school hours.

Cllr Rees Wright requested advised that a litter bin will now be provided at the site.

Resolved:- The Council agreed to pay the one off payment of £897.00 in respect of legal fees to provide the access licence / agreement between the Parish Council and the school. Cllr Rees Wright is to progress the request with CWaC.

Proposed by Cllr Deakin and seconded by Cllr Middlehurst.

17. **VILLAGE HALL**

The Clerk has contacted Cheshire Community Action with regards to taking out membership; they have agreed to add the Council's membership for the last three months for free and then send a renewal in April.

The Clerk has requested information regarding trusteeship of the Village Hall; this has been shared with Cllrs and the Annabel Farbon and is to be considered at the next meeting of the Village Hall committee.

18. **HIGHWAYS**

18.1 Speed Limit - to request for a survey for a deceleration zone on Eaton Road approaching the village:- CWaC has advised that speed assessments remain on hold until the new speed limit policy document has been formally approved and becomes live; they are unable to provide a date at this time when assessments can proceed.to consider

18.2 Meeting with Highways:- report circulated.

19. **CHALC AGM**

Cllr Middlehurst attended the CHALC AGM and updated the meeting including devolution proposals, financials, the Civility and Respect Pledge (the Council is to consider

adopting), membership of CHALC and NALC, annual report, officers and board members.

20. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk is to contact CHALC to enquire how the Council can encourage Ward Cllrs to attend parish council meetings.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council noted the correspondence as circulated.

22. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 7th May 2026.

PART TWO

Resolved:- The Council resolved to exclude the press and members of the public as the items to be discussed relate to employment matters and / or are either of a contractual or sensitive nature.

Proposed by Cllr Shepherd and seconded by Cllr Vickers.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm