

EATON & ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Thursday 9th July 2026 In the Upstairs Meeting Room, Eccleston Village Hall

PRESENT

Cllrs Tony Deakin (Chair), Tony Jordan, Janet Middlehurst, Kathryn Rees Wright, Dean Shepherd, Greg Vickers.
Ruth Shackleton (Clerk). Sarah Dawson (Grosvenor Estate). Ward Cllr Stephen Mosley.
PC Sarai Kilshaw. PCSO Carl Laing

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Lee Hobson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Rees Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 13 of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ward Cllr Stephen Mosley introduced himself to the meeting provided a brief report to the Council regarding highways issues in the parish, including the traffic lights on Wrexham Road, and neighbouring parishes.

4. MINUTES

Resolved:- The Council agreed to accept the minutes of parish council meeting held on Thursday 7th May 2026 and the extraordinary meeting parish council meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Middlehurst and seconded by Cllr Deakin.

5. POLICE

The police report was previously circulated.

PC Sarai Kilshaw and PCSO Carl Laing attended the meeting.

Cllrs raised concerns regarding anti-social behaviour at the Ferry Car Park. PC Kilshaw and PCSO Laing confirmed that they were aware of the issues and advised that they would seek to increase police patrols at the site.

PC Kilshaw provided an update on recent policing incidents within the parish.

A request was made for the police to include the car park at Eccleston Village Hall in their routine patrols when officers are in the area, following reports of anti-social behaviour.

The police were also informed that speed counters are due to be installed within the parish in September. Officers advised that they would explore opportunities for enforceable speed monitoring once the survey data is available.

6. ASSERTION 10

The Council considered the report, including quotations, regarding compliance with Assertion 10 through the provision of a Parish Council website and email addresses ending in .gov.uk.

Resolved: That the Council place an order with Then Media to design, build and host a new Parish Council website and provide .gov.uk email addresses at a cost of £342.00 plus VAT per annum.

Proposed by Cllr Rees Wright and seconded by Cllr Middlehurst.

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
649	R Shackleton	Reimburse expenses	£ 34.43
650	J Middlehurst	Reimburse cost of hanging baskets	£ 197.49
651	JDH Business Services	Internal Audit	£ 321.60

The Clerk was paid by Standing Order.

Receipts:-

None received.

7.3 Bank Account:-

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 31st May 2026:- £100.00

Reconciled balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 31st May 2026:- £13,417.27.

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

Proposed by Cllr Rees Wright and seconded by Cllr Deakin.

8. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

JDH Business Services have carried out the internal audit.

The Council noted the following issues and how they have been addressed:-

- Issue 1:-

"The council has incorrectly completed box 11 on the AGAR accounts page. The response to this box for 2025/26 should be 'YES' if the council is not a sole trustee. The response should only be 'NO' if the council is a sole trustee and it has erroneously included trust transactions with the council accounts."

Action:- The box is to be amended.

- Issue 2:- Assertion 10 Compliance

"In 2025/26 the Council weren't compliant with assertion 10 of the annual governance statement due to the following:

- *The council do not have a generic email account hosted on an authority owned domain.*

- *The Council website states it is partially conformant with WCAG 2.1 level AA. The Practitioners Guide states: 'All websites must meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 AA and the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (where applicable).' Accessibility Regulations were incremented to WCAG 2.2 AA in October 2024.*

We have not seen evidence that the Council have a privacy notice."

Action:- The following note was sent to both the Internal Auditor and External Auditor at the same time as the AGAR was submitted:-

"Note to Accompany AGAR 2025/26 – Assertion 10

Eaton and Eccleston Parish Council wishes to advise the External Auditor that it only recently became aware that compliance with Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement is mandatory.

As a very small parish council with a limited precept and budget, the Council has historically operated with limited administrative resources. Upon becoming aware of the requirement, the Council took immediate steps to address the matter.

The Council has now instructed a new provider to establish a compliant website and implement a .gov.uk email system for the Clerk. Work is currently in progress and the Council expects the transition to be completed within the next few months.

The Council is committed to achieving full compliance with Assertion 10 and has made the necessary arrangements to ensure this is achieved as soon as practicable."

A privacy notice is to be prepared for approval by the Council

9. PLANNING

Register:-

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

10. FERRY CAR PARK

Update from the Clerk's meeting with Highways:-

Highways have sent an email to Grosvenor Estate to check they would support highways adoption of the car park area. Information was also provided to the Estate regarding the offer to install posts for CW&C notices advising No Overnight Parking.

Highways advised that the notices are only advisory and non-enforceable.

The Council noted that Severn Water has made community funding available in recognition of the inconvenience caused by the recent works within the parish. It was suggested that the funding could be used towards the provision of information panels at the Ferry Car Park.

The Clerk is to contact Annabel Farbon to obtain further information regarding the funding, as she is in contact with Severn Water.

11. TRAFFIC CONCERNS

11.1 Highways – General:-

Highway Works – Severn Water:-

The Clerk reported that, following the concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding Severn Water's ongoing works in Eccleston, a response had been received from CWaC were reminded that the concerns included the two-year warranty for road reinstatements, the number and frequency of excavations in the roads, and the standard of the repairs being carried out.

CWaC has advised that any concerns should be submitted as an enquiry for the attention of the Highways Street Works Team and that specific locations are required to enable the matter to be investigated.

Councillors were therefore asked to provide details of the roads and locations where they have concerns so that the Clerk can submit the enquiry on the Council's behalf.

Stone Wall, Eaton Road and Hill Road:-

The Clerk reported that CWaC is awaiting a quotation from a contractor for repairs to the collapsing stone retaining wall supporting the footpath at the corner of Eaton Road and Hill Road.

Councillors expressed concern regarding the deteriorating condition of the wall and the potential safety risk to pedestrians. Cllr Middlehurst agreed to provide the Clerk with a recent photograph of the wall, which will be forwarded to CWaC with a request that the matter be treated as a priority and urgent action taken.

Pavement, Eccleston:-

The Clerk advised that CWaC is awaiting a quotation from a contractor for repairs to the elevated section of pavement on the sandstone outcrop opposite the Police House in Eccleston.

11.2 Traffic Counters:-

The Clerk reported that, due to the ongoing Severn Water works within the parish, a request had been made for the traffic survey dates to be postponed until September. Confirmation has now been received that the surveys in Eccleston will be installed from 18 September 2026, with monitoring taking place during the week commencing 21 September 2026. The survey equipment will be collected on 28 September 2026.

11.3 Speedwatch:-

The Council is seeking a resident to volunteer to lead and coordinate the Community Speedwatch initiative within the parish.

11.4 Parking in Layby:-

The Clerk reported that concerns had previously been raised with CWaC regarding the lay-by, as it is not wide enough for vehicles to park safely.

CWaC has advised that the lay-by requires siding out to increase its width to the maximum practicable. The location will be assessed, with the works programmed for the 2026/27 financial year.

11.5 Speed Limit Policy:-

The Clerk reported that CWaC's Speed Limit Policy remains on hold for approximately a further 12 months while the findings of the recent 20 mph speed limit rollout are reviewed. However, the Parish Council may wish to consider fully funding a speed limit scheme outside of the current policy.

Following the Council's previous discussions regarding a potential reduction in the speed limit on Eaton Road, the Clerk sought an indication of the likely costs CWaC advised that the Parish Council would be responsible for all associated costs, including the required surveys and implementation, with an estimated cost of approximately £10,000.00.

Should the Parish Council wish to pursue the proposal, a formal request would need to be submitted to CWaC.

12. PARISH ORDERLY

Cllr Shepherd updated the meeting in item 5 regarding anti-social behaviour in the parish.

13. PLAY FACILITIES

Cllr Rees Wright updated the Council on the legal position regarding the proposed formal arrangement. Cllrs noted that the matter is more complex than initially anticipated, as the school leases the land from the Grosvenor Estate.

The Clerk is to forward a copy of the correspondence received from the Grosvenor Estate to Cllr Middlehurst. Cllr Middlehurst will then seek advice from a local resident, who is a conveyancer, regarding the legal position and any options available to the Council.

14. CLERKS REPORT

There was no consideration of this item.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The Council noted the correspondence as circulated.

16. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8th October 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm