

EPPLEBY PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Parish Council: Jenny Pears, T: 07867122005 e: epplebypc@gmail.com
Eppleby Parish Council, c/o 14 Twinsburn Road, Heighington, Co. Durham, DL5 6RL

MINUTES

RATIFIED Minutes of MEETING of EPPLEBY PARISH COUNCIL on 16TH SEPTEMBER 2025 held in Eppleby Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Allum (AA) (Chairman)
Councillor A. Burnett (AB)
Councillor P. Dowson (PD)
Councillor A. Simpson (AS)

In Attendance: Jenny Pears (Clerk)
Residents

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| 16-09-25/01 | <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>
Councillor D. Burrell (DB) and Councillor A. Thompson (AT) – North Yorkshire Council. –
ACCEPTED | |
| 16-09-25/02 | <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u>
None. | |
| 16-09-25/03 | <u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1st July 2025</u>
RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 st July 2025 are confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. | |
| 16-09-25/04 | <u>UPDATES FROM MINUTES OF 1st July 2025</u>
RESOLVED – Highways have repaired the damaged grills in School Lane. The home to school transportation issue is still unresolved. Clerk read out an update report from AT. This has been shared by email to councillors and on the Parish Council Facebook page. AT did share that he is working on the initiative brought forward by Sharon Diamond, a resident of Eppleby.
The issue of children in Eppleby village being allocated 3 different schools under the home to school transportation policy still remains unresolved. The school allocated is dependent on where they live in the village. This needs to be one school allocated to all children of Eppleby. Some of the bench remedial work has been carried out by JN Bentleys. The tree around the bench needs replacing and Councillors agreed that quotes should be sought. Once quotes have been sought, they will make a decision on next steps. AA asked Clerk if they could confirm the cost of the previous bench. A figure of over £2000 was suggested. PD will seek a quote and AA will look to get a quote. Councillors agreed that JN Bentleys have moved onto the next site and anything left behind may need to be disposed of. AA will contact JN Bentleys before disposing anything. AA has looked into replacing the goal posts and has suggested the sleeves are replaced, they are over 20 years old and they have already been repaired. Clerk confirmed that the installation for the outdoor gym equipment has been completed with the exception of one piece. Clerk is waiting for an installation date for this remaining piece of equipment. Clerk will complete the report and send to funders once the installation is complete. The vegetation growth on the footpath still needs cleaning. Clerk will follow this up with Street Scene at NYC as still an issue. | |

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No update had been received from Steve Barker at Highways on the various issues raised with flooding, blocked gullies and drainage around the village. Clerk will follow this up again. AA did mention the dye testing had been carried out. He wasn't aware of this until afterwards. Clerk to request an update. There was flooding at New Road, this was from the old gully/bus stop to the new gully. Clerk will request that the gullies are cleaned. Councillors agreed that Clerk will formally propose to Highways, the suggestion to take responsibility for the culvert issues. The suggestion had been previously put forward by AA. AS suggested that the noticeboards are refreshed. The supplier no longer offers a repair service. It was agreed to monitor the existing boards and mark as completed. AA had received the email correspondence between the resident and Highways regarding Chapel Row flooding. AA contacted Highways as the words used in the email response to the resident could be misleading. Highways agreed that the choice of words weren't clear. Councillors discussed that they had spoken about this issue years previously and options had been given to the residents. The Parish Council have agreed it is not their responsibility. AA will feed this back to the resident. A pre planning meeting took place on 11th June 2025 with Melsonby, Stanwick, and Aldbrough St John Parish Councils. Planning have not come back with a date to meet. Clerk has asked AT to if he can liaise with Planning to facilitate a date. As nothing has been agreed. It has been made clear that planning is understaffed and are limited on time. AA will wait to hear from Melsonby Parish Council as they are leading on this.

AA will not be taking the suggestion of the quoits pitches any further. Clerk had drafted a letter to the resident whose chickens were roaming the village. Councillors agreed to hold off as there are no chickens roaming. A councillor has spoken to the resident and made them aware chickens can roam on their own land. However, if any damage is incurred it will be the owner's responsibility. Clerk confirmed that the elections will take place in May 2026. AA has asked that an election take place to give other residents the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor. Clerk noted that she had raised the issue of the tarmac melting/bubbling by the school and shop. As yet no update/response had been received. Clerk will follow this up.

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| 16-09-25/05 | <u>REPORT FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u>
RESOLVED – Clerk read out the September report from Councillor Angus Thompson (AT) as he was unable to attend the meeting. No update/change on the two main issues of transportation to Middleton Tyas School and the transportation for children attending secondary school. A copy of the report has been shared on the Parish Council Facebook page. | Clerk |
| 16-09-25/06 | <u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS NOTICES</u>
RESOLVED – None. | Completed |
| 16-09-25/07 | <u>SPENDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS</u>
RESOLVED – The Clerk provided an overview of the finances since the last meeting. This was shared with Councillors by email prior to the meeting.
The following cheque payments were approved and signed:
Clerk invoice - £379.99, CE and CM Walker £188.40 and £376.80.
Clerk confirmed a payment of £292.36 had been received from Northern PowerGrid.
Clerk wasn't sure what period the payment covered. Clerk will contact Northern PowerGrid. | Completed

Clerk |
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- 16-09-25/08 TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER BUSINESS;
RESOLVED – The Chapel Row item was discussed in in 16/09-25-04. The BT pole in front of the shop has been an ongoing item on the agenda. AA has spent hours of time on this since the pole was erected in November 2020 without permission. The Parish Council have given a number of options to B.T. Councillors discussed the options; these are to either ask BT to take the pole down or just leave it as is. Councillors agreed that it should be left as is. Enough time and resources have been put into this. Clerk
Completed
Clerk shared an email from NYC regarding the precept 2026/27. The Parish Council will need to apply for the precept before the end of December 2025. Clerk will share the draft budget for 2026/27 at the November meeting. NYC have confirmed they will now be carrying out the playpark inspections on a monthly basis. The Parish Council insurer have a requirement for the play park to have a weekly visual inspection. This can be carried out by a councillor and should be recorded on a simple sheet or book. AS will look into this and put something together to use as a template. Councillors agreed to continue with the NYC monthly inspections. Clerk will look into an annual play park inspection as per the council insurance requirements. The cost may be reduced if the inspection can coincide with neighbouring inspections. Clerk indicated this would be around £100 + VAT. AA will look into repairing the play park seesaw. Clerk will look at old accounts to confirm the supplier of the equipment. Councillors discussed the road closure dates and how this effects business in the village and also public transport. Dates for work to be carried out are changed and not communicated to the community or consideration given on the effects of this. Clerk will share this with Highways. Clerk
AS
Clerk
Clerk
Clerk
- 16-09-25/09 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
RESOLVED – A resident asked if a road repair list could be shared. Clerk will share information and notifications when received but this can vary dependant on the company carrying out the work. The footpath by Orchard House is overgrown. Could the trees/hedges from the resident's property be cut back and maintained? PD will speak with the residents. PD
- 16-09-25/10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday 4th November 2025** at **6.30pm** in Eppleby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

SIGNED: (Chairman) DATE: