

# EPPLEBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Eppleby Parish Council, c/o 14 Twinsburn Road, Heighington, Co. Durham, DL5 6RL

## MINUTES

DRAFT Minutes of MEETING of EPPLBY PARISH COUNCIL on 3<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2026 held in Eppleby Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillor A. Allum (AA) (Chairman)  
Councillor P. Dowson (PD) (Vice Chair)  
Councillor A. Burnett (AB)  
Councillor D. Burrell (DB)

In Attendance: Jenny Pears (Clerk)  
Residents

- 03-03-26/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE **ACTION**  
Councillor A. Simpson (AS) - **ACCEPTED**  
Councillor A. Thompson (AT) – North Yorkshire Council. – **ACCEPTED**
- 03-03-26/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST  
None.
- 03-03-26/03 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 are confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.
- 03-03-26/04 UPDATES FROM MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026  
**RESOLVED** – No update/change on the two main issues of transportation to Middleton Tyas School and the issue of children in Eppleby being allocated 3 different schools under the NYC home to school transportation policy still remains unresolved. Clerk followed up with Street Scene at NYC as the vegetation on the footpath still needs cleaning, they passed the issue onto the housing team. Clerk has followed this up and included a contact from another department at NYC to see if they can help. Councillors agreed to hold off asking Chapman to clean the path as this is something that NYC are responsible for and should be carried out by them. Clerk has contacted Highways and the flood risk team. A meeting took place on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026. AA met with the flood risk team on site and invited residents to attend. The meeting covered all areas of flooding, the main actions included flooding at Caldwell end of village, culvert issues, works at Tank Bridge and a plan of works at Back Lane near Dowson’s Farm and feasibility of diverting the highways water at the drain near to the bus stop. Clerk has arranged for an annual play park inspection to be carried out. Following the NYC latest playpark inspection report it flagged the positioning of the adult gym equipment as a medium risk. Clerk will look into this and contact the Parish Council insurer to see if this will affect the insurance. AA was looking at costs to repair the play park seesaw. The cost to repair seemed excessive and Councillors wondered if it would be more cost effective to replace it? AA look into the costs and it was agreed to wait until after April as clerk confirmed that AT could fund this through the locality budget for 2026/27. Clerk will contact AT again mid-April. Clerk also confirmed that AT will look to fund the replacement goal posts through the 26/27 locality budget. Councillors agreed to wait and see the outcome of this. Clerk has raised the issue of the tarmac melting/bubbling by the school and shop. As yet no update/response had  
**Clerk**  
**Clerk**  
**AA**  
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**Clerk/AT**

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	been received. Clerk will follow this up again. Councillors did raise that there are a number of roads that need re-surfacing in particular the south end of the village. Clerk will raise this with Highways. Clerk has applied for a grant to cover the costs of replacing the bench around the tree. The outcome of the grant will be confirmed by end of March. The dog waste bin on the entrance to New Road has been damaged and removed. Clerk shared cost of £350+VAT to replace and install the bin with AA. AA will share the costs with a resident as they have agreed to cover the costs. AB gave an update on the NYC Rural Housing needs In Eppleby and working with Forcett and Caldwell. There was an issue that was raised from the initial meeting of the Parish Councils. This could affect further developments in and round Eppleby. Caldwell Parish Council have asked if Eppleby Parish Council would consider supporting them to push for improvement of the road conditions and also the restriction of Agricore's license. It would appear their heavy traffic of wagons is causing deterioration of the roads and giving rise to safety issues. The road effected is Winston A66. These roads are used and do affect Eppleby road users. AA has raised these issues with Highways. Councillors agreed to support this in principle. A meeting is being arranged and Councillors are invited to attend and support this. AB shared his concerns with dealing with NYC as they seem limited in what they can offer for support and the information they use isn't reflected on Eppleby. For example, the average cost to rent and buy in the village isn't accurate and doesn't truly represent Eppleby and surrounding villages. AB will arrange a meeting with the three parishes. Next steps are to agree what they are trying to achieve and how they take this forward. AA has spoken to the school to raise that the school bus left tracks on the grass. Residents did ask if the Parish Council could do more with speeding through the village. Clerk contacted PCSO Elliott Brown to ask for further information about creating a community speed watch. Clerk shared a post on Facebook to see if residents would be interested in volunteering to support this. There was an interest and Clerk contacted the police speed watch team. There would be a cost of £450 to purchase the equipment and arrange training. Councillors discussed the cost and agreed that they will speak to Caldwell Parish Council as they already have an established community speed watch. Could Eppleby share their equipment? This is something Melsonby Parish Council do with a neighbouring village. AB will look into this.	Clerk Clerk Clerk/AA AB AA AB Completed AB
03-03-26/05	<u>REPORT FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</u> <b>RESOLVED</b> – Clerk read out a brief email 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. He will be putting out a report in late March.	
03-03-26/06	<u>PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS NOTICES</u> <b>RESOLVED</b> –None received.	
03-03-26/07	<u>SPENDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS</u> <b>RESOLVED</b> – 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: Village Hall room hire - £55.00, Clerk invoice - £268.50, WJPS- website and email - £271.20. Clerk shared that the AGAR 25/26 will be prepared and ready for sign off at the May meeting. Clerk will follow the same protocol as in previous years and the accountant will carry out the internal audit prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed for Clerk to proceed. Clerk shared the grass cutting quote from CE and CM Walker Limited for 26/27 – It is £168 +VAT per cut. It was £157 + VAT for 25/26. Councillors agreed to work with CE and CM Walker for 26/27. Clerk will send them an email confirming this.	Clerk

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- 03-03-26/08 TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER BUSINESS;  
**RESOLVED** – The Parish Council discussed this year’s Rotary Club of Richmond Best Kept Village Competition. Councillors agreed they will not be participating. Clerk will respond. **Clerk**  
Councillors discussed the applications received for the allotment vacancy. Councillors agreed that Megan McCready will be offered the allotment. Clerk will respond to all applicants. **Clerk**
- 03-03-26/09 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC  
**RESOLVED** – The village green near Victoria Row and Jubilee Cottages has been damaged. **AB/Clerk**  
The water board had to access the area via the village green. Initially Councillors asked Clerk to write to both Yorkshire Water and Northumbrian Water and found out who is responsible and ask them to repair it. DB suggested that he speak with colleagues first. Councillors agreed to leave this with DB.  
Residents shared that they thought the daffodils looked good.  
The Herbert bench has been removed. Please can the plaque be removed from the bench and kept. **AA**
- 03-03-26/10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING  
The date of the next meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday 5th May 2026** at **6.30pm** in Eppleby Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed immediately by the Ordinary General Meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

SIGNED: ..... (Chairman) DATE: .....

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