

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 EPPLEBY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on 5TH MAY 2026 held in Eppleby Village Hall. Held immediately after the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

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

In Attendance: Jenny Pears (Clerk)
Residents

05-05-26/01	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Councillor A. Thompson (AT) – North Yorkshire Council. – ACCEPTED	ACTION
05-05-26/02	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None.	
05-05-26/03	<u>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3rd March 2026</u> RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd March 2026 are confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
05-05-26/04	<u>UPDATES FROM MINUTES OF 3rd March 2026</u> NOTED – No update/change on the two main issues of transportation to Middleton Tyas School and children in Eppleby being allocated 3 different schools under the NYC home to school transportation policy. Councillors asked if Clerk could ask NYC what savings have been made following the new policy. Clerk will also speak with the resident who suggested using the public bus service. With some tweaks to the timetable and route this could be used as transport to school. RESOLVED - The NYC housing team have confirmed that the footpath has been cleaned. NOTED – AA, residents and the NYC flood risk team met on site on 10 th February 2026. Highways confirmed that a high-pressure jetting contractor was booked for 17 th March NYC will have a camera to look in the private culvert and investigate the other drainage issues throughout the village. Councillors agreed this needs following up. Councillors asked Clerk to request that the gullies are cleaned. RESOLVED - Clerk has spoken to the Parish Insurers and they have confirmed the issue flagged on the latest play park inspection report will not affect the insurance. NOTED – Clerk has contacted AT and asked if funding is available to replace the seesaw and goal posts through the 26/27 locality budget. Councillors agreed to wait and see the outcome of this. Clerk will contact AT again. NOTED - Clerk has raised the issue of the tarmac melting/bubbling by the school and shop. Highways have responded on 27 th April 2026 and advised that any areas of damage or potholes which met our intervention criteria for repair have now been treated. There are no plans for any further works within the village Councillors did raise that there are a number of roads that need re-surfacing in particular the south end of the village. Clerk has a new contact at Highways so will raise this with him and include AT.	Clerk Completed Clerk/AA Completed Clerk Clerk

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RESOLVED – The grant to cover the costs of replacing the bench around the tree has been granted. It will cover £3200. Clerk asked Councillors to confirm which supplier will be used. All agreed that Foxtail should be used. Clerk will update grant and AA will contact Foxtail as soon as Clerk is given the go ahead to start the project.

Clerk/AA

RESOLVED - The dog waste bin that was removed from the entrance to New Road has been replaced and recited. The costs will be covered by a resident. NYC will invoice the Parish Council and Clerk will re invoice the costs to the resident.

Clerk

NOTED - AB gave an update on the NYC Rural Housing needs In Eppleby. The 3 parishes involved have agreed what they want to do and a survey will go out on 8th June. There will be a further meeting on 16th June. The question that needs addressing is “is there a housing need in the 3 villages”. AB will lead on this and share information to all Councillors. AB shared his concerns with dealing with NYC as they seem limited in what support they can offer and the information they use isn’t reflected of Eppleby.

AB

RESOLVED - 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. Councillors agreed to support this in principle but all agreed that the Parish Council will not send a letter of support as requested.

Completed

NOTED – AB spoke with Caldwell Parish Council to see if Eppleby could share their speed watch equipment. Unfortunately, the equipment is unusable. Councillors discussed that a post should be shared on Facebook to see if someone would volunteer and co-ordinate setting up a community speed watch and whether anyone would want to fund the set-up costs of £450.00.

AA

Clerk

RESOLVED - DB spoke with colleagues to raise the issue of the damaged village green. This has now been repaired.

Completed

05-05-26/05 REPORT FROM NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

RESOLVED – No update received.

05-05-26/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS NOTICES

RESOLVED – Councillors discussed both applications received:

ZD26/00171/FULL - 3 Chapel Row

ZD26/00192/FULL- South View

Councillors discussed the applications, the observations were noted and Clerk will respond to planning.

Clerk

05-05-26/07 SPENDING AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

RESOLVED – The Clerk provided an overview of the finances for 2025/26

The year-end accounts for 2025/2026 were accepted and approved and signed by the Chairman.

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) was considered and approved.

The certificate of exemption in relation to the AGAR was considered and approved. Clerk to submit to external auditors.

Clerk

The following cheque payments were approved and signed:

Clear Councils - £530.74, NYC Playpark Inspection fee - £245.64, Clerk invoice - £290.30,

Village Hall invoice £55.00, CE and CM Walker £604.80, Riley Accountants Audit fee

£66.00.and D. Chapman £2183.20. Clerk confirmed that the invoice from D Chapman

included all work to April 2026.

The asset register was agreed and approved by the Chairman. The governance documents were reviewed and approved. Clerk shared the draft budget for 26/27.

Clerk shared insurance quotes from Zurich and current provider. Councillors agreed the insurance should be renewed with the current provider Clear Councils Insurance at a cost of £530.74. The reclaimed VAT for 25/26 totalled £3314.38.

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- 05-05-26/08 TO DISCUSS ANY OTHER BUSINESS;
RESOLVED – The Parish Council discussed the number of white stones around the village. **PD**
Councillors agreed that some of the smaller stones could be removed and have more
spacing between each one, perhaps 5 feet. PD will speak with D Chapman and get a price **PD**
to do this.
RESOLVED - Councillors agreed that the mirror on the corner needs to be concreted into **PD**
place. PD will ask D Chapman if he could do this.
RESOLVED - AS asked for the beck edges to be tidied up. Councillors agreed for the work **AS**
to go ahead. PD to instruct D Chapman.
RESOLVED – AS asked Councillors to consider spending on the village flower tubs. **Completed**
Councillors agreed that a budget of up to £300 could be spent.
RESOLVED – Clerk shared a road closure notice on the A66 from National Highways with **PD**
councillors. It has also been shared via Facebook and Parish Council website.
NOTED – They are no way markers on the official footpath to Caldwell. Councillors asked **PD**
PD to speak with the land owner.
- 05-05-26/09 TO CONSIDER QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC
RESOLVED – None.
- 05-05-26/10 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING
The date of the next meeting was agreed to take place on **Tuesday 7th July 2026** at
6.30pm in Eppleby Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

SIGNED: (Chairman) DATE:
