

Minutes of Eyam Parish Council meeting held Monday 26th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Mechanics Institute.

Councillors present: Cllrs, Peter Silley (Chair), John Plant (Vice-Chair), Mano Belivanis, Rebecca Haywood, Leslie Spittle, Kym West, Paul Wiles and Jeremy Wright.

In attendance: Colin Swindell (Clerk) and Cllr Peter O'Brien (DDDC).

Item		Action by
0126/1 Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllr Ian Jackson. Apologies were also received from Cllr Alasdair Sutton (DCC), Cllr Simon Ripton (DDDC) and Adrian Webster (Handyman).	
0126/2 Variation of business	Agreed: Agenda item 0126/8 Housing regeneration be brought forward and taken after item 0126/5 Approval of minutes .	
0126/3 Interests	- Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 0126/8 Housing regeneration. - Cllr Spittle declared an interest in item 0126/8 Housing regeneration.	
0126/4 Public speaking	Cllr Peter O'Brien reported the following: - The Real Time Information Display continues to display incorrect times and dates. This has been reported to DCC on several occasions. - Residents of Hucklow Edge have not been supplied with piles of grit, as they have in previous years, and it was questioned if the Parish Council could assist with supplies of bagged grit. - The Clerk asked if Cllr O'Brien had any update on the grant from DDDC towards the running of the public toilets. Cllr O'Brien would be happy to liaise with the Clerk after the meeting to follow this up. Councillors went on to express disappointment at the grant award of £1,000, considering the toilets have been kept open by the Parish Council at a cost of approximately £13,000 per year. Action: The Clerk is to pursue the grant from DDDC but also communicate the Council's disappointment at the lack of financial support in keeping the facility open. Cllr Simon Ripton (DDDC) gave the following report on housing by email: - DDDC is continuing to progress with the purchase of '2nd site' for the development of local needs housing. - Cllrs O'Brien and Ripton are encouraging DDDC to continue with plans to develop the car park site, along with the provision of coach parking and a new pavilion. This should be done in parallel with works to secure the 2nd site to help derisk any failure of the 2nd site. - It has been suggested to DDDC that they meet with the Parish Council, Museum and Eyam Sports Association to consider how they may work together to bring forward the above scheme.	Clerk
0126/5 Approval of minutes	On the motion of Cllr Belivanis, seconded by Cllr Plant it was agreed: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 15th December 2025 be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	

0126/6 Chair's report	Cllr Silley made the following remarks: - Following attendance at a recent meeting at the Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF), Cllr Silley updated the Council on the Local Plan Review, now that the consultation period had been concluded. Two noteworthy points were: • There was much concern expressed regarding the house size allocations. It is to be seen if these concerns will transpire to change, • The settlement strategy will almost certainly be changed in relation to the number of settlements in the respective listings. It does, however, look as though Eyam will stay in the listing of the larger settlements. - The PPPF was alerted to a meeting the following day of the 'Hope Valley Parish Councils', where the issues of visitor management were to be considered along with concerns over parking and overnight campervan parking. Notably, neither Eyam nor Bradwell Parish Councils have been made aware of the meeting. The meeting agenda also included a discussion on the formulation of a 'Hope Valley Parish Councils Forum' which would seek to address and have a greater impact on shared local issues. Cllr Silley has asked to be kept updated. - Cllr Silley has been contacted by C3 Media and their production partner Volteo Meida who are working on a television drama series based on the Eyam Plague story. They have also been in touch with several village groups and organisations. Cllr Silley is to meet with representatives in the coming days.	
0126/7 Clerk and Handyman report	The Clerk reported the following actions and updates since the last meeting: - Streetlight at Townhead, outside 3 Orchard Bank obscured by a laurel tree (FS-Case-562396255 and follow-up reference FS-Case-592138858) – No update. DCC have told the Clerk that there is no further action for them to take on this matter, other than to cut the tree back to clear the streetlight. - Streetlight at Old Butchers – DCC and its contractor is to visit the site on Friday to agree a plan to carry out the works. The DCC Officer responsible for this matter has promised to update the Clerk on Friday afternoon. - Footpath 16 – No update. The Clerk continues to pursue this with DCC PROW. - Broken fingerpost at Churchyard entrance/Footpath 13 (FS-Case-733151561) – No update. DCC Highways Fault Tracker gives the status as 'In progress'. - Condition of Footpath 13 through Churchyard (FS-Case-733152986) – No update. DCC Highways Fault Tracker gives the status as 'In progress'. - Japanese Knotweed by the Eyam sign on the closed section of New Road (FS-Case-727255592) – No update. DCC Highways Fault Tracker gives the status as 'In progress'. - Collapsing bank on Riley Lane (FS-Case-770479907) – This has recently been reported to DCC by Cllr Belivanis, who has asked that it be added to the ongoing list of highways reports. - Pollarding of trees on New Road (FS-Case-727251025) – No update. DCC Highways Fault Tracker gives the status as 'In progress'. - Meeting with Cllr Hill – Still no response from Cllr Hill. - Fingerpost in The Square – The signs are now with Pennine Wood for replacement, and the Handyman is to paint the metal post in the coming weeks. - Collapsed culvert – No update from the contractor.	

	- Replacement CCTV Annual Service – There has been no contact from the contractor who has visited Eyam to quote for the replacement CCTV camera and service. - Outside light at the toilets – The defective lights have been repaired by DDDC (COMPLETED). - DDDC public toilet grant – Details requested by DDDC have been supplied and the grant is awaited. - Replacement (Parish Council) grit bin for Dunlow Lane – The Handyman plans to install the bins in the next week. - Replacement (DCC) grit bin for The Hillock (FS-Case-768110627) – No update. - Snow Warden Scheme – No update from DCC. The Clerk has chased delivery of the 1-tonne of free grit. - Market Hall electricity contractor – In consultation with the Chair, the Clerk has renewed the electricity contract for the Market Hall. The 4-year contract, at £8.00 per month, has come to an end and a new 4-year contract, with payments of £21.08 per month, began on 8th January 2026 (COMPLETED). - Defibrillator – As agreed at the December meeting, the Clerk has purchased and installed a new AED in the telephone kiosk in the Square. The Defib Guardian has been updated on the proceed for inspecting the device (COMPLETED). - Parish Precept 2026/27 – The Precept requirement has been submitted to DDDC (COMPLETED).	
0126/8 Housing regeneration	Cllr Silley reported on recent discussions between members of the Housing Working Group, where the following points were made: - The prospect of development on the car park site appears to be back in favour with DDDC but appear to have discounted the Parish Councils plans, as set out in the feasibility study. - There is little clarity about how DDDC see the future provision of public toilets nor where to relocate coach parking and turning elsewhere in the village. - Taking the above points into consideration, the Working Group agreed to meet with the Eyam Museum to update them as they continue to develop plans to extend the Museum. In relation to the meeting with the Eyam Museum, Cllr Silley reported the following: - The Museum plan to submit a grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund during 2026. - Any extension to the museum will be a long term project, likely to be greater than 5 years. - The Museum will be dependent on the provision of public toilets and coach parking up to and throughout the process. - The Parish Council and Museum are to keep each other updated on developments. Members discussed the above report by Cllr Silley and recent meetings and emails exchanges with DDDC and G&CT Consultants. Members concluded that DDDC repeatedly fail to acknowledge the need to purchase and develop land adjacent to the car park and, therefore, it is evident that they plan to develop	

	the car park site only. It is also apparent that the toilets would be kept in situ, but no detail has been given on the future provision of coach parking or turning space. Agreed: With all of the above points taken into consideration and the progression of a potential 2nd housing site, the Parish Council's plans – as set out in the feasibility study and submitted to DDDC supported by Eyam Parish Council – have been completely disregarded by DDDC. Agreed: The Parish Council will continue to support opportunities for and the provision of local needs housing in Eyam, but the Parish Council's involvement in promoting the car park site has run its course. Thanks were expressed to the members of the Housing Working Group for all their efforts on this matter.	
0126/9 Village communication	Councillors discussed messages that have recently been put out by parishioners via the Eyam Village WhatsApp Group. These messages were in relation to matters such as parking and services provided by the Parish Council. Councillors felt that some of the messages were critical of the Parish Council and its alleged failure to tackle issues in the villages and this was a result of misinformation or being unaware of the actions taken by the Parish Council. Agreed: The Parish Council must do more to improve its communication with the community and better explain what it does and how it is addressing issues of concern. This should include: - The Parish Council is to proactively signpost residents to the Parish Council's website, notices and minutes of meetings through noticeboards, and social media. This is to raise greater awareness of what the Parish Council is doing. - The Clerk is to research the cost of purchasing a mobile phone to enable the Council to communicate with the community on the Eyam Village WhatsApp group. - Newsletters are to be distributed, when necessary, to update parishioners on topical matters. - The Clerk is to formulate a document that explains what the Council has or is doing to address issues such as parking, highways matters, tourism, signage and more.	Clerk Clerk
0126/10 Permanent closure of Hucklow Edge	Councillors considered correspondence from a resident of Hucklow Edge in relation to the permanent closure of the road. The resident requests the views and agreement of Eyam Parish Council. The resident claims that Derbyshire County Council are unlikely to repair the road and, therefore, has agreed to close it and turn Hucklow Edge into a 'green lane'. The resident goes on to claim that both Foolow Parish Meeting and Great Hucklow Parish Council are also in favour of the proposals. One the motion of Cllr Wiles, seconded by Cllr Wright, it was agreed: - Eyam Parish Council does not support the closure of Hucklow Edge and advocates its repair and reopening. In principle all roads that suffer from slippages should be repaired, as opposed to setting a default position of simply closing them. - The Parish Council shall not make any representations to DCC on this matter until it is formally consulted on this matter. Action: The Clerk is to communicate the Parish Council's response to the resident of Hucklow Edge.	Clerk

0126/11 Business savings account	Councillors considered several business savings accounts into which reserves can be kept and generate a greater return on interest. On the motion of Cllr Spittle, seconded by Cllr Plant, it was agreed: - The Parish Council is to open a '32 Day Notice Business Savings Account' with Unity Trust Bank. - The signatories for the account are to remain the same as on the Parish Council's Unity Trust Current Account; Cllr Silley, Cllr Jackson and Cllr Plant. - The Clerk is given delegated authority to open the new account and make an initial deposit of £40,000.	Clerk																																							
0126/12 Village reports	- Cllr Wiles noted the passing of Sue Longden, former District Councillor, Parish Council and Parish Clerk for Eym. Members recognised and paid tribute to her service and commitment to the Parish and community. - Cllr Haywood reported that 2 taps in the ladies' toilets are not working. Action: The Clerk is to report the above to DDDC. - It was noted that Townhead had not been gritted by the Handyman and it was questioned if better equipment or assistance is needed to cover the top end of the village. Action: The Clerk is to discuss this matter with the Handyman. - Cllr West proposed that the grassed area at the junction of Townhead and Tideswell Lane be the next location for the planting of bulbs and wildflowers. It was noted that a small group of volunteers has expressed an interest in helping with this. On the motion of Cllr Belivanis, seconded by Cllr Spittle, it was agreed: - The Council agrees to the planting of bulbs and wildflowers in the grassed area outlined above. - Cllr West and Cllr Haywood are given delegated authority to spend up to £100.00 (excl VAT) on bulbs, as they see fit.	Clerk Clerk Cllrs West & Haywood																																							
0126/13 Finance	i. Approval of payments On the motion of Cllr Spittle, seconded by Cllr Belivanis the following payments were agreed: <table data-bbox="411 1420 1361 1823"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee:</th><th>Item of expenditure:</th><th>Amount:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk and Handyman</td><td>Salaries, pension and tax (Dec 2025)</td><td>£ 2,094.05</td></tr> <tr> <td>Clerk and Handyman</td><td>Salaries, pension and tax (Jan 2026)</td><td>£ 2,396.81</td></tr> <tr> <td>JA Porter</td><td>Cleaning (January 2026)</td><td>£ 510.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>EDF Energy</td><td>Market Hall electricity (Dec 2025)</td><td>£ 51.02</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td><td>Bank charges (December 2025)</td><td>£ 6.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cooperative Bank</td><td>Bank charges</td><td>£ 30.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Eyam Church Centre</td><td>Room hire</td><td>£ 40.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>PWLB</td><td>Loan repayment</td><td>£ 3179.93</td></tr> <tr> <td>Defib4Life Ltd</td><td>Defibrillator (Mediana Hearton A15)</td><td>£ 918.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Blachere UK Ltd</td><td>Christmas lights</td><td>£ 7,389.60</td></tr> </tbody> </table> ii. Income received <table data-bbox="411 1899 1361 1980"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee:</th><th>Item of income:</th><th>Amount:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Undisclosed</td><td>Auction of Promises (Christmas Lights)</td><td>£ 1,100.00</td></tr> </tbody> </table> iii. Budget and accounts monitoring The Budget and Bank Reconciliation Statement (as of 31st December 2025) was circulated to members – see Appendix 0126/A1	Payee:	Item of expenditure:	Amount:	Clerk and Handyman	Salaries, pension and tax (Dec 2025)	£ 2,094.05	Clerk and Handyman	Salaries, pension and tax (Jan 2026)	£ 2,396.81	JA Porter	Cleaning (January 2026)	£ 510.00	EDF Energy	Market Hall electricity (Dec 2025)	£ 51.02	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges (December 2025)	£ 6.00	Cooperative Bank	Bank charges	£ 30.00	Eyam Church Centre	Room hire	£ 40.00	PWLB	Loan repayment	£ 3179.93	Defib4Life Ltd	Defibrillator (Mediana Hearton A15)	£ 918.00	Blachere UK Ltd	Christmas lights	£ 7,389.60	Payee:	Item of income:	Amount:	Undisclosed	Auction of Promises (Christmas Lights)	£ 1,100.00	
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	Agreed: The Budget and Bank Reconciliation Statement is noted and accepted. The Clerk produced an income and expenditure statement for the Christmas Lights Fund – see Appendix 0126/A2. Agreed: The amount of £4,757.56 is ring-fenced for future Christmas lights projects and purchases.	
0126/14 Planning	- NP/DDD/1225/1314 – 6 New Close Eyam Single storey rear extension On the motion of Cllr Silley, seconded by Cllr Plant, it was agreed: The Clerk is to submit the following comments to PDNPA in relation to the above application: - Eyam Parish Council does not object to the above application. - The Parish Council believes that the property has previously been extended and would question if this exceeds the overall permitted development area.	Clerk
0126/15 Correspondence	The following correspondence were considered and noted: - Severn Trent – Councillor Newsletter (Winter 2025) - Cllr Peter O’Brien – PDNPA Local Plan response - DALC – Newsletter (January 2026) - Local resident – Changes to highways status of Hucklow Edge - Parishioner – Winter maintenance - Darley Dale Town Council – The Big Green Event - DCC – Road Closure Notice (High Cliffe, Eyam) - Eyam Half Marathon Committee - Eyam Half Marathon 2026	
0126/16 Next agenda	Agreed: The next agenda is to include a revision of the Financial Regulations. in line with the most recent template provided by NALC.	
0126/17 Next meeting	Agreed: The next Eyam Parish Council meeting is to be held on Monday 23rd 2026 at 7.30pm in the Mechanics Institute.	

The meeting closed at 9.48pm

DDDC – Derbyshire Dales District Council
DALC – Derbyshire Association of Local Councils
PPPF – Peak Park Parishes Forum

DCC – Derbyshire County Council
PDNPA – Peak District National Park Authority
NALC - National Association of Local Councils

Appendix 0126/A1

Budget and Bank Reconciliation Statement

Budget 2025/26

31st December 2025

Category of expenditure	Actual	Budget	Variance	2024/25
Salaries, pensions and PAYE	£ 20,282.24	£ 27,000	£ 6,717.76	£ 25,535.52
Administration and expenses	£ 153.99	£ 100	-£ 53.99	£ 159.33
Handyman's supplies and equipment	£ 366.60	£ 550	£ 183.40	£ 97.19
IT and website	£ -	£ 100	£ 100.00	£ 16.00
Advertising	£ -	£ 150	£ 150.00	£ -
Room hire	£ 37.50	£ 250	£ 212.50	£ 294.00
Payroll	£ 132.00	£ 160	£ 28.00	£ 132.00
Insurance	£ 1,340.79	£ 1,250	-£ 90.79	£ 1,099.37
Audit	£ 415.00	£ 500	£ 85.00	£ 400.00
Subscriptions	£ -	£ 425	£ 425.00	£ 429.30
Training	£ -	£ 500	£ 500.00	£ -
Toilet cleaning	£ 4,451.78	£ 6,000	£ 1,548.22	£ 5,577.42
Washroom contract	£ 2,571.20	£ 3,500	£ 928.80	£ 4,032.90
Market Hall electricity	£ 64.00	£ 150	£ 86.00	£ 96.00
Defibrillators	£ 765.00	£ 300	-£ 465.00	£ -
CCTV maintenance	£ 375.00	£ 500	£ 125.00	£ 365.00
Footpaths	£ -	£ 300	£ 300.00	£ -
Maintenance and contingency	£ 1,008.74	£ 2,000	£ 991.26	£ 19,071.90
Elections	£ -	£ 300	£ 300.00	£ -
Grants/donations	£ 1,250.00	£ 1,200	-£ 50.00	£ 2,075.00
PWLB loan repayments	£ 3,179.93	£ 6,360	£ 3,180.07	£ 6,359.86
Bank charges	£ 105.00	£ 200	£ 95.00	£ 120.00
Flood Prevention	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Christmas lights	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000.00	£ -
Total expenditure:	£ 36,498.77	£ 53,795.00	£ 17,296.2	£ 65,860.79
Income				
Parish precept	£ 50,250.00			£ 43,695.00
Donations (Facilities)	£ 723.10			£ 1,485.14
Donations (Christmas lights)	£ 10,211.50			£ -
Grants	£ 250.00			£ -
Eyam Museum (Advertising)	£ 1,000.00			£ 1,000.00
Grant - UK Shared Prosperity Fund	£ -			£ 14,895.00
Bank shares	£ 5.13			£ 4.46
Bank interest	£ 1,081.62			£ 1,169.31
VAT reclaim (2024/25)	£ 4,697.67			£ 530.53
Total income:	£ 68,219.02			£ 62,779.44

Bank Reconciliation

31st December 2025

Cash Book		Bank	
Balance from 2024/25	£ 45,936.37	Unity Trust Current Account	£ 3,649.26
Plus receipts	£ 68,219.02	Unity Trust Instant Access Account	£ 45,096.08
Less payments	-£ 36,498.77	Coop Current Account	£ 10,000.00
Less VAT paid	-£ 933.25	Coop Reserve Account	£ 17,978.03
	£ 76,723.37	Plus unrepresented receipts	£ -
		Less unrepresented cheques/payment	£ -
			£ 76,723.37

Appendix 0126/A2

Income and Expenditure Statement for Christmas Lights Fund

Christmas Lights Fund		
Income		
Donations	£ 6,240.00	
Grants	£ 450.00	
Auction of Promises	£ 4,621.50	
Parish Council grant	£ 4,000.00	
Total income		<u>£ 15,311.50</u>
Expenditure (excl VAT)		
Blachere Illuminations Ltd	£ 6,683.00	
DCC power supply 124548	£ 1,935.47	
DCC power supply 42633	£ 1,935.47	
Total expenditure		<u>£ 10,553.94</u>
Balance/ring-fenced reserve		<u>£ 4,757.56</u>