

Eyam Parish Council

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Draft minutes of Eyam Parish Council held Monday 27th July 2026 at 7.30pm in the Mechanics Institute.

These minutes are a draft until resolved as a true record by the next meeting of Eyam Parish Council.

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

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

Item		Action by
0726/1 Apologies	Apologies were received from Cllrs, Rebecca Haywood, Ian Jackson and Kym West. Apologies were also received from Cllr Alasdair Sutton (DCC) and Adrian Webster (Handyman).	
0726/2 Variation of business	None.	
0726/3 Interests	Cllr Wright declared an interest in item 0726/11 Donations post.	
0726/4 Public speaking	Cllr Simon Ripton (DDDC) reported the following: - The Government has announced that the outcome of the Local Government Reorganisation will see Derbyshire split into a north and south unitary council. There is still uncertainty around the transfer of assets and powers between principal authorities and town and parish councils. - Talks to secure a local needs housing site appear to be progressing well. - Parish Councils are being encouraged to display posters at popular tourist locations and public rights of way warning of the dangers of wildfires and banning the use of barbeques and campfires. - DDDC is looking to make available £600,000.00 through a Community Regeneration Fund to bring forward projects that will benefit local communities. Details are to be confirmed. - On Tuesday 4th August 2026, DCC will undertake works to clear vegetation from Jacobs Ladder. - The Clerk asked if Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Ripton had had discussion with DDDC officers over the future funding of Eyam public toilets. Cllr Ripton agreed to chase this up with relevant officers.	
0726/5 Approval of minutes	On the motion of Cllr Plant, seconded by Cllr Belivanis, it was unanimously resolved: The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held Monday 29 th June 2026 be accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	
0726/6 Chair's remarks	Cllr Silley gave the following report as Chair of the Council: - As I am sure most Councillors will be aware that little over a week ago there was a fire at a property in Water Lane, after discussions with the Fire Brigade it transpired that two of the hydrants in Water Lane were not able to be used and only the hydrant at the bottom of Water Lane was serviceable. The Clerk has followed this up requesting that all the hydrants in the village are inspected and repaired as necessary.	

	- Again, I believe all will be aware that Government has announced its decision on the new structure of Derbyshire under LGR. There will be two unitary authorities – North and South – replacing DCC, Derby City Council, and the eight districts and boroughs. - The changes will be implemented from 1 April 2028 and the split will put Bolsover DC, Chesterfield BC, Derbyshire Dales DC, High Peak BC and parts of Amber Valley in the north, while the South will be made up of Derby City Council, Erewash BC, South Derbyshire DC, and parts of Amber Valley BC. - After discussions with the Clerk I believe we should include LGR as a standing item on our monthly agenda. - Derbyshire Dales Local Plan 2026 – 2042 Pre-Submission Draft Consultation, 3rd August to 14th September. Derbyshire Dales District Council is consulting upon the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan 2026 – 2042. The Derbyshire Dales Local Plan sets out the overall vision, objectives, and policies for the future development of the district outside the National Park for the period up to 2042. Is this relevant to Eyam Parish Council? - The latest iteration of the Peak Park Plan has been published, the consultation is the final chance for any individual, business or organisation to express their views on whether the Plan meets legal requirements and the 'tests of soundness' before it is submitted for examination by a Planning Inspector. The consultation period is 9:00 am on Monday 27 July to 11.59pm on Sunday 20 September. In effect they are only looking for objections to what is present; these will be made known to the reviewing Inspector. Whilst I've not yet read the current version, I do understand that all new builds in the Park will need to have a permanent residency clause which will necessitate a planning application to convert them to holiday lets, if that is correct it is a move forward. Conversely the house sizes have not been changed, and we could make an objection in this respect. I also understand that all trails will be protected as trails, so not changes to the Monsal Trail. As the consultation will close before our next PC meeting can I ask that Parish Councillors read and let me know any issues before 13 September and so I can formulate a response - I attended a meeting of the Peak Park Parishes Forum on Tuesday 21 July, there was nothing of substance to report, other than the issues we are already involved in.	
0726/9 Clerk and Handyman report	The Clerk reported the following actions and updates since the last meeting: Ongoing highway matters: - Field at High Cliffe – the Clerk has requested an update on this matter from Peak Park Planning Enforcement. - Streetlight 42610 at Town Head, outside 3 Orchard Bank obscured by a laurel tree (FS-Case-802398755) – No update. - Footpath 16 – No update. - Broken fingerpost at Churchyard entrance/Footpath 13 (FS-Case-733151561) – No update. - Condition of Footpath 13 through Churchyard (FS-Case-733152986) – No update - Japanese Knotweed by the Eyam sign on the closed section of New Road (FS-Case-727255592) – No update.	

- **Collapsing bank on Riley Lane (FS-Case-770479907)** – No update.
 - **Replacement (DCC) grit bin for The Hillock (FS-Case-768110627)** – No update.
 - **Bulging retaining wall (FS-Case-838202314)** – No update.
- On the motion of Cllr Silley, seconded by Cllr Plant, it was unanimously resolved that:**
- The Clerk is to submit a formal complaint to DCC and the Director of Highways over the lack of action taken over the above highway matters.
- **Fire hydrants** – Following a house fire in the village and the Fire and Rescue Service finding that fire hydrants were not functional. As suggested by the Fire Service, the Clerk has asked DCC to inspect all hydrants and repair as necessary. The response from DCC was that the Fire Service is responsible for carrying out the inspections.
- Resolved:** The Clerk is to follow-up the above matter with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- **Damaged bus shelter at Townhead** – Under delegated authority, granted at the June 2026 meeting, the Clerk has accepted a quote of £308.00 (excl VAT) from Shelter Maintenance for the replacement glass panel. Repairs are awaited.
 - **Repairs to culvert and gate post at the Parish Council Car Park** – The works have been carried out and completed by the contractor. A broken drain was uncovered in the grass verge. The contractor also removed the damaged tree and stump from the car park (**COMPLETED**).
- Resolved:** The Handyman be instructed to install a fence around the repaired verge to prevent vehicles encroaching or parking onto the verge.
- Resolved:** The grass verge, behind the fence, be planted with wildflowers.
- **Telegraph poles at High Cliffe (Case Reference: C126646891)** – Objections have been submitted to BT Openreach over proposals to install 7x 8-meter telegraph poles along the section of road between Well Cottage and High Cliffe. The Parish Council's objections have been dismissed.
- Resolved:** The Clerk is to press Openreach for an update and time on the provision of fibre optic broadband in Eyam.
- **Mechanics Institute CCTV** – The Clerk has notified the Mechanics Institute Management Committee that the CCTV system will not be replaced.
 - **Replacement Royal Mail pillar box (Case Reference 1204465 and 13338203)** – The Clerk has challenged the statement all delivery points in Eyam are within 0.5 miles of a pillar box, only to be repeatedly rebuffed with standardised responses from the company.
- Action:** The Clerk is to pursue the above matter with Royal Mail and submit a formal complaint is necessary.
- **Cleaner's contract** – A revised contract has been signed by the contracted cleaner which reflects the increase in the hourly rate of pay agreed by Council.
 - **External Audit submission** - The 'Notice of Conclusion of Audit' is awaited from the External Auditor.
 - **Community Toilet Grant 2026/27** – The Clerk has applied for grant funding from DDDC Community Toilet Grant. A response is awaited.

0726/8 Member dispensation	Councillors considered a request from Cllr Ian Jackson for a 6-month dispensation of absence due to personal reasons. On the motion of Cllr Plant, seconded by Cllr Spittle, it was unanimously resolved that: Cllr Ian Jackson be given a dispensation of absence for 6-months.	
0726/9 Working Group	The 'Aims and Objectives Working Group' met on 9th July 2026 to identify realistic objectives for Eyam Parish Council over the next 12–24 months. These will then be taken forward by the Parish Council and any delegated members. The minutes of the meeting are attached as Appendix 0726/A2. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Belivanis for taking and writing-up the minutes of the Working Group meeting. On the motion of Cllr Spittle, seconded by Cllr Berlivanis, it was unanimously resolved that: - The minutes of the Working Group meeting are noted and accepted as an accurate record. - The Working Group is to meet on a regular basis to develop the ideas and plans identifies at the most recent meeting and put forward any recommendations to Full Council.	
0726/10 CCTV	At the June 2026 Parish Council meeting, Councillors considered a quote from Hasland Security Services for a replacement CCTV system and ANPR camera in the Parish Council car park. Council instructed to get further clarity over the specification and effectiveness of the proposed system. This was obtained and distributed to members shortly after the June meeting. On the motion of Cllr Wiles, seconded by Cllr Plant it was unanimously resolved to: - Note the satisfactory answers from Hasland Security Services to queries raised over the CCTV specification and effectiveness. - Accept the quote of £9,443.72 (excl VAT) from Hasland Security Services for the recommended car park CCTV system and ANPR camera. - The Clerk to make the necessary arrangements for the installation of the CCTV system.	
0726/11 Donations post	At the June 2026 Parish Council meeting, members considered the installation of donations post at the Parish Council Car Park. Cllr Silley reported that he had had initial and informal discussions with the Chair of the ESA about possibly sharing responsibility and proceeds from a donations post, but to also relocate and use the existing donations post (owned by the ESA) in children's play area. It was noted that should the Parish Council and the ESA agree to the above plans, a comprehensive agreement would need to be drawn-up to clarify who will be responsible for the installation, repairs, maintenance and servicing of the post. The agreement would also state who will manage the donations and how they are to be split between the 2 parties. On the motion of Cllr Wiles, seconded by Cllr Belivanis, it was unanimously resolved that: - The Parish Council agrees to Cllr Silley meeting again with the Chair of the ESA to progress talks over a shared donations post in the car park.	

	- Cllr Silley is to bring an update and/or proposals to a future meeting of the Parish Council. - A copy of the car park lease agreement is to be sourced to check for any conditions relating to charges or donation requests from visitors.																															
0726/12 Washroom services contract 2026/27	On the motion of Cllr Belivanis, seconded by Cllr Wiles, it was unanimously resolved to: Approve payment of £1,594.36 (excl VAT) to Initial for the 2026/27 annual washroom services contract at Eyam public toilets.																															
0726/13 Village reports	The following matters were reported: - Cllr Wiles told the meeting that he has reported the streetlight fault on the corner of Tideswell Lane. - Cllr Belivanis has reported motorbikes using Riley Lane to the police. - Cllr Belivanis has arranged to meet with a Peak Park ranger to discuss ongoing concerns over Footpath 16.																															
0426/14 Finance	i. Approval of payments On the motion of Cllr Wiles, seconded by Cllr Plant, it was resolved that: The following items of expenditure be approved for payment: <table> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee:</th><th>Item of expenditure:</th><th>Amount:</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Clerk and Handyman</td><td>Salaries, tax and pensions (July 2026)</td><td>£ 2,438.69</td></tr> <tr> <td>AJ Porter</td><td>Cleaning (July 2026)</td><td>£ 540.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>EDF Energy</td><td>Market Hall electricity (June 2026)</td><td>£ 32.27</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unity Trust Bank</td><td>Bank charges (June 2026)</td><td>£ 7.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>PWLB</td><td>Loan repayment</td><td>£ 3,179.93</td></tr> <tr> <td>RA Fairey Ltd</td><td>Drain and gate post repairs</td><td>£1,005.13</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ann Harrison</td><td>Cleaning products</td><td>£ 60.44</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mechanics Institute</td><td>Room hire (July 2026)</td><td>£ 6.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Microsoft</td><td>Microsoft 365 subscription (2025/26)</td><td>£ 84.99 *</td></tr> </tbody> </table> * Purchased by and to be reimbursed to the Clerk ii. Income received None. iii. Budget and accounts monitoring The Monthly Budget and Bank Reconciliation Statement, as of 30th June 2026, was circulated to members for consideration – see Appendix 0726/A1 Resolved: The Parish Council's budget and financial position be noted. Resolved: The results of the Bank Reconciliation Statement agree with the month end bank balances.	Payee:	Item of expenditure:	Amount:	Clerk and Handyman	Salaries, tax and pensions (July 2026)	£ 2,438.69	AJ Porter	Cleaning (July 2026)	£ 540.00	EDF Energy	Market Hall electricity (June 2026)	£ 32.27	Unity Trust Bank	Bank charges (June 2026)	£ 7.00	PWLB	Loan repayment	£ 3,179.93	RA Fairey Ltd	Drain and gate post repairs	£1,005.13	Ann Harrison	Cleaning products	£ 60.44	Mechanics Institute	Room hire (July 2026)	£ 6.00	Microsoft	Microsoft 365 subscription (2025/26)	£ 84.99 *	
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0726/15 Planning	Council considered responses to the following planning applications received: - NP/DDD/0726/0674 - Walkway/fire escape from second floor Dale Cottage, The Dale, Eyam Resolved: No objections - NP/DDD/0726/0718 - Dale Head Barn, Church Street, Eyam Proposed conversion of barn to dwelling Resolved: The Parish Council fully supports the application as it will enhance the local vicinity.																															

	- NP/DDD/0726/0719 - Dale Head Barn, Church Street, Eyam, Listed Building consent - Proposed conversion of barn to dwelling <u>Resolved:</u> No objections	
0726/16 Correspondence	<u>Resolved:</u> The following correspondence were considered and noted: - Eyam Carnival Committee – Event Risk Assessment - DALC – Local Government Reorganisation in Derbyshire - DCC – Community News - Stoney Middleton Flood Warden – Feasibility study - Openreach - QIS822788 - Pole Objection - S32 5QT - DCC – Inspection of hydrants in Eyam - Parishioner – Questioning of Chair’s position	
0726/20 Next agenda	<u>Resolved:</u> The next agenda is to include: - Any update from the Aims and Objectives Working Group. - Any update from the Chair regarding discussions with the ESA over the car park donations post.	
0726/21 Next meeting	<u>Resolved:</u> The next Eyam Parish Council meeting be held Monday 28 th September 2026 at 7.30pm in the Mechanics Institute.	

The meeting closed at 8.58pm

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

ESA – Eyam Sports Association

Appendix 0726/A1**Monthly Budget and Bank Reconciliation Statement****Budget 2026/27**As of 30th June 2026

Category of expenditure	Actual	Budget	Variance
Salaries, pensions and PAYE	£ 7,060.08	£ 27,750	£ 20,689.92
Administration and expenses	£ 41.29	£ 150	£ 108.71
Handyman's supplies and equipment	£ 36.89	£ 550	£ 513.11
IT and website	£ 250.00	£ 650	£ 400.00
Advertising	£ -	£ -	£ -
Room hire	£ -	£ 250	£ 250.00
Payroll	£ 132.00	£ 160	£ 28.00
Insurance	£ 1,371.53	£ 1,500	£ 128.47
Audit	£ -	£ 500	£ 500.00
Subscriptions	£ 440.89	£ 450	£ 9.11
Training	£ -	£ 250	£ 250.00
Toilet cleaning	£ 1,339.40	£ 6,500	£ 5,160.60
Washroom contract and supplies	£ 499.89	£ 3,500	£ 3,000.11
Market Hall electricity	£ 70.89	£ 250	£ 179.11
Defibrillators	£ -	£ 300	£ 300.00
CCTV maintenance	£ -	£ 500	£ 500.00
Footpaths	£ -	£ 300	£ 300.00
Maintenance and contingency	£ 240.00	£ 2,000	£ 1,760.00
Elections	£ -	£ 300	£ 300.00
Grants/donations	-£ 100.00	£ 1,200	£ 1,300.00
PWLB loan repayments	£ -	£ 6,360	£ 6,360.00
Bank charges	£ 21.00	£ 100	£ 79.00
Flood prevention	£ -	£ 1,000	£ 1,000.00
Christmas lights	£ 2,556.60	£ 1,000	-£ 1,556.60
Total expenditure:	£ 13,960.46	£ 55,520.00	£ 41,559.5
Income			
Parish precept	£ 52,763.00		
Donations (Facilities)	£ -		
Donations (Christmas lights)	£ -		
PROW Minor Maintenance Grant	£ 430.00		
Grants	£ -		
Eyam Museum (Advertising)	£ -		
Bank shares	£ -		
Bank interest	£ 492.87		
VAT reclaim (2025/26)	£ -		
Total income:	£ 53,685.87		

Bank ReconciliationAs of 30th June 2026

Cash Book		Bank	
Balance from 2025/26	£ 57,839.13	UTB Current Account	£ 5,530.56
Plus receipts	£ 53,685.87	UTB Instant Access Account	£ 56,258.79
Less payments	£ 13,960.46	UTB 32 Day Notice Savings Account	£ 40,309.64
Less VAT paid	£ 143.58	Plus unrepresented receipts	£ -
	£ 97,420.96	Less unrepresented cheques/payment	£ 4,678.03
			£ 97,420.96

Eyam Parish Council Informal Workshop – Notes for Agreement Prior to Inclusion in the Formal Parish Council Agenda

Date: 9 July 2026

Time: 7:00 pm

Venue: The Mechanics Institute, Eyam

Attendees: Becky Haywood, John P, Peter Silley, Mano Belivanis and Paul Wiles.

Purpose of the Workshop

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and identify realistic objectives for Eyam Parish Council over the next 12–24 months. The group agreed that the Council should focus on projects and initiatives that are within its own ability to influence and deliver, rather than those that rely heavily on decisions from external organisations.

Issues Outside the Parish Council's Direct Control

Whilst recognising these remain important concerns for residents, the group felt it would be helpful to acknowledge publicly that progress in the following areas is currently limited due to factors beyond the Parish Council's direct control:

- **Village Parking** – Despite continued efforts, Derbyshire County Council has not meaningfully engaged with the Parish Council regarding parking issues within the village.
- **Local Government Reorganisation (Unitary Authority)** – The uncertainty surrounding the forthcoming changes presents challenges in planning and decision-making.
- **Housing and the Parish Council's Social Housing Scheme** – Progress on the Parish Council's housing aspirations has stalled due to a lack of meaningful engagement from Derbyshire Dales District Council. Members expressed frustration given the considerable time, effort and public money invested in developing the Eyam Regeneration Plan. It is understood that Derbyshire Dales District Council may now be progressing the purchase of a site within Eyam for a housing development with a developer. The working group reaffirmed that the Parish Council's long-standing objective has been to support the provision of homes primarily for local people to rent and expressed the view that any future housing proposals should reflect that objective.

The working group agreed that, whilst these matters remain important, the Parish Council's immediate focus should be on projects that it can actively progress itself.

Initial Objectives and Ideas

1. Improving Communication Across the Village

The group agreed that communication between the Parish Council, village organisations, community groups and residents could be improved.

The Parish Council will consider inviting representatives from organisations and groups across the village to a meeting to explore opportunities for better collaboration, improved communication, the sharing of information and the adoption of a more joined-up approach where appropriate.

Examples of organisations and groups that may be invited include (but are not limited to):

- Eyam Sports Association and its affiliated groups (including the Carnival, Bonfire and Pump Track groups where appropriate)
- Eyam Half Marathon
- Eyam Church
- Eyam Village Society

- Eyam Museum
- The Mechanics Institute
- Eyam C of E Primary School PTFA
- Village gardens and environmental groups
- Eyam village businesses
- Other community organisations, charities and volunteer groups.

2. Improved Village Signage

The group discussed improving signage throughout the village to better assist both residents and visitors.

Potential areas include:

- Free parking locations.
- Public toilets.
- Tourist attractions.
- Public facilities.
- Walking routes and other key destinations.

Improved signage could enhance the visitor experience, encourage greater use of local facilities and attractions, and help reduce unnecessary vehicle movements and parking pressures within the village.

3. Reducing the Financial Burden on Parishioners

The group discussed exploring ways of generating additional voluntary income to help offset ongoing maintenance costs that currently fall on the Parish Council and, ultimately, local residents.

Ideas discussed included:

- Installing voluntary donation posts at appropriate locations.
- Exploring appropriate advertising or sponsorship opportunities associated with new information or directional signage where suitable.

4. Footpaths

The maintenance, reopening and promotion of historic footpaths was discussed.

The group recognised that a number of routes have become overgrown or difficult to use and that improving these could benefit both residents and visitors by encouraging walking throughout the parish.

It was recognised that this work would require volunteer support and could complement the proposed improvements to village signage by creating clearly signed walking routes linking key locations throughout the parish.

Summary

The workshop concluded with a shared view that the Parish Council should concentrate its efforts over the next 12–24 months on projects that are achievable, visible to residents and largely within its own control, whilst continuing to acknowledge and advocate on wider issues that remain dependent upon external authorities.

These notes are intended as a draft summary of the workshop discussion and are circulated to those present for review. Subject to agreement, they will be forwarded to the Parish Clerk for inclusion in the agenda papers for the next formal Parish Council meeting.