

ECCLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 2 July 2025
at Carus Centre, Hoddlesden

Present: Councillor E Whittingham (In the Chair)
Councillors L Taylor and J Slater

Also present: J Smith (Clerk) and 2 members of public

Apologies: Councillors M Desai and A Shaw

1166 Public Participation

Mr & Mrs Summerfield were disappointed in the lack of interest from residents to the Parish Council meeting, even though there had been notifications on the website, facebook page and on the local noticeboards.

The Parish Council felt that residents engage when there are problems to be sorted and the fact that nobody was attending the meetings must mean that they are happy with the situation which is good to know.

Cllr Slater wanted Mr & Mrs Summerfield to reassure the residents again that the Councillors are here for the next ten months and in that time are hoping to evolve the parish council ready for residents to take over at the next elections in May 2026.

Cllr Slater also explained how parish councils are important in the run up to the government's Devolution Priority Programme as they will feed into the new authorities and residents need to realise the importance of feeding into the new structure and protect the identity of their parish council.

The Parish Council will arrange for more information to be posted on the local noticeboards so that residents can see what the parish council is doing. The parish council will also publish a newsletter at the beginning of next year to be sent out to every house in the Parish and ask for volunteers to sit on the parish council next year.

Mrs Summerfield asked why some of the noticeboards have no information and it was explained to them that the previous council had the keys and they were not passed over. However new noticeboards have recently been purchased and the current council have the keys for those. The new noticeboard on the Roman Road has been fitted, Cllr Taylor is awaiting approval from BwDBC for the new noticeboard at Waterside to be fixed to the bus shelter and a further new noticeboard has been purchased for Eccleshill Gardens. Mrs Summerfield agreed to put up any notices on the noticeboard in Waterside once it is in place if she can be given a key.

Mrs Summerfield also asked about the possibility of changing the name of the parish council to include Waterside to make those residents feel part of the Council. Cllr Slater explained that any name change would need to be approved by the Secretary of State and could take years to be approved – Cllr Whittingham agreed to speak to the MP to see if that is something he would be willing to support.

Cllr Whittingham again wanted to reassure residents that the changes to the Parish Council that took place earlier this year were all done through the correct channels. When Cllr Neil Slater realised the situation the parish council were in ie not quorate, he approached Mr Laher, Deputy Director – Legal & Governance at BwDBC for legal advice. Mr Laher acted accordingly under Section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972 and appointed four Councillors from BwDBC on a temporary basis so that the Parish Council would be quorate and could continue to act. This was all done in an appropriate manner to protect Cllr Taylor.

The members of public then left the meeting.

1167 Apologies for absence

Noted: Cllrs Shaw and Desai

1168 Matters arising from previous meeting

Noted: None

1169 Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

1170 Minutes of the AGM

Resolved: The minutes of the AGM held on 14 May were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

1171 Declaration of Interest

Noted: None

1172 Accounts for payment

Resolved: The following accounts were approved:

7	School Furniture Direct	2 x memorial benches	£1333.08
8	Noticeboard Warehouse	Outdoor noticeboard	£1017.52
9	ERYCA	Room hire 2025-26	£82.00
10	Mr Bamber	Instal noticeboard	£50.00
11	Clerk salary	May	£484.95
12	Clerk salary	June	£161.65
13	HMRC	Tax & NI (May/June)	£189.97
14	Lengthsman	June	£85.00
17	Dingles Waste Removals	2 x skips	£500.00

1173 Risk Assessment and Policies

Resolved: The clerk to update the policies as necessary.

1174 Outstanding issues from previous meetings

- a) Rubbish Amnesty - 2 skips to be ordered to be placed in Waterside and Davyfield Gardens.
- b) Asset Maintenance - 2 new recycled plastic noticeboards to be ordered to replace the existing wooden ones that are rotten and have no keys. One to be placed at Eccleshill Gardens and the other in Waterside. 2 new waterproof memorial benches to be ordered to replace the existing wooden benches at Eccleshill Gardens.
- c) Events – will look at putting something on later in the year to raise the profile of the parish council
- d) Newsletter – will put a newsletter together to be distributed to every house in the parish at the beginning of next year
- e) Lengthsman - arrangement put in place for the grassy areas in Eccleshill Gardens to be mowed every month from June until October/November (weather dependent)
- f) Bus stop at Eccleshill Gardens – Cllr Taylor to liaise with Tim Paley at BwDBC to discuss the possibility of moving the current bus stop. Cllr Slater said it is unlikely that a bus stop can be moved but Cllr Taylor felt that the current position is wrong and has been speaking to Tim about moving it to the top of Mill Lane and he is investigating who owns that piece of land.
- g) Bus shelter at Waterside – this has now been fixed and despite previous comments is not being removed
- h) Victoria Buildings – need to write to the builders asking them to rectify the problem with the tarmac
- i) Road flooding – water coming off the land where there has been a lot of building work can cause problems in cold weather when it freezes
- j) Speeding – could request a speed review on Roman Road, Johnson New Road & Johnson Road
- k) Eccleshill play area and open green space – BwDBC agreed at Cllr Julie Slater's request to assign S106 monies from the new Waterside Paper Mill/Chapmans development to enhance and improve the play area on the park

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 3 September 2025 starting at 7.00pm at the Carus Centre, Hoddlesden. The public and press are invited to attend and to listen.

.....

Signed - Chair

The meeting closed at 9.00pm