

# ECCLESHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14 January 2026  
at Carus Centre, Huddlesden

**Present:** Councillor E Whittingham (In the Chair)  
Councillors L Taylor, J Slater, M Desai and A Shaw  
**Also present:** J Smith (Clerk) and 4 members of the public  
**Apologies:** None

## **1184 Public Participation**

*Prior to the meeting members of the public were given an opportunity to speak.*

*One resident was in attendance to talk about Shaws dumping rubbish at the boundary to his property. He advised they stopped tipping about 25-30 years ago but have started again and is worried that they could potentially block the brook. He was questioning why BwDBC have allowed them to tip again after they have already had an enforcement notification telling them to stop. Apparently in the last few months there have been hundreds of lorries going there and they are causing damage to the road. The Chair agreed that the Clerk would write to Tony Watson, Director for Environment and Resident Services and copy in the 3 Borough Councillors and Cllr Jim Smith who is the Executive Member for Environment and Communities.*

*The same resident was also querying the trees that have been chopped down near his property in Waterside. The trees were apparently planted in the 1960/70's and the Parish Council paid for the trees. There was a query around who owned the land and whether there were TPO's on the trees. If it is private land and the trees are not subject to TPO's then the owner of the land can chop them back and there is nothing the Parish Council do.*

*Another resident had a query around some white powder that was on land owned by Lower Waterside Farm, but this white powder has blown onto nearby cars and residents are worried what this powder is. The resident was under the impression that if there was going to be a substantial amount of this white powder that the owner would need planning permission. The powder has also covered the hedgerow which is covered by the Local Plan. Clerk to look into this.*

*Another resident raised the issue of the grit bins across Eccleshill being removed by BwDBC. This is an ongoing issue across all areas of Blackburn and has been raised previously by the Borough Councillors. The resident thought that the grit bin had been purchased by the Parish Council many years ago but was in a bad way. Cllr Slater thought if the original bin was damaged then BwDBC may have replaced it and then removed it as part of their cost cutting plans. The resident explained that the residents in Waterside have successfully applied to BwDBC to be members of the "Grit Squad" but felt that they needed additional grit for certain areas and asked whether there would be funding from the Parish Council for that. The resident was informed that as they are registered with BwDBC they would need to apply to them for additional salt.*

#### **1194 Apologies for absence**

**Noted:** None

#### **1195 Matters arising from previous meeting**

*Waterside bus shelter* – the results of the online poll were in favour of keeping the bus shelter. The old noticeboard will therefore be removed and the new one secured to the bus shelter in the next couple of weeks.

*Waterside bin* – a replacement bin has been purchased and will be installed in the next couple of weeks.

*Speeding issues in Waterside* – Cllr Shaw has raised this issue and the Police will be carrying out some random speed checks across the whole of the Parish. Once he has some dates he will communicate these to the other Parish Councillors as it would be good for them to go out with the police.

#### **1196 Minutes of the last meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

#### **1197 Declaration of Interest**

**Noted:** None

#### **1198 Accounts for payment**

**Resolved:** The following proposed accounts were approved to the end of the current financial year:

30	Clerk salary	December	£166.90
31	HMRC	Tax & NI (Oct/Nov/Dec)	£125.00
32	Clerk salary	January	£167.00
33	Mr S Bamber	Various installations	£380.00
34	Clerk salary	February	£167.00
35	Clerk salary	March	£167.00
36	HMRC	Tax & NI (Jan/Feb/March)	£125.00

#### **1199 Precept for 2026/27**

**Noted:** The precept has not been raised for the last couple of years but the Band D Council tax figure for 2025/26 was lower than in 2020/21 due to the tax base figure increasing each year. The Chair proposed to increase the precept by 10% for 2026/27 which would mean an increase per household in Band D of approx. £2.29 per year but the figure will still be lower than it was in 2020/21.

The Councillors voted unanimously to this increase, but Cllr Shaw did ask for it to be noted that the Councillors had not been democratically elected, however Cllr Slater reminded him that their election had been ratified by the full Council at BwDBC.

Cllr Slater also asked for it to be noted that there may possibly be no elections at Parish Council level this year due to the Local Government Reorganisation that is due to take place in 2027. Clerk to check with BwDBC whether Parish Council elections will take place this year or not.

**1200 Any other business**

*Lengthsman* – a request was made for the Lengthsman to include cutting back the verges on the road from Waterside to Eccleshill – Clerk to contact him about this.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4 March 2026 starting at 7.00pm at the Carus Centre, Hoddlesden. The public and press are invited to attend and to listen and give their views.

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**Signed - Chair**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm