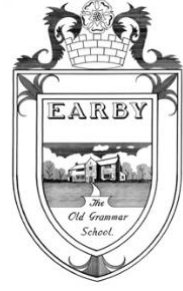




EARBY TOWN COUNCIL



Chair: Cllr T. Hardman
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Extraordinary Meeting of Earby Town Council
Thursday 15th November 2026
The Parish Rooms, Victoria Road, Earby

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Councillor Hardman, Chair to Council, welcomed all present to the meeting at 7.00pm

2. Attendance, Apologies, and non-attendance

The attendance of all members was recorded: Cllrs T. Hardman, J. Myers, V. Cocker, A. Inman, D. Anderson, T. Dickinson and S. Wadsworth were present.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified on the agenda.

4. Exclusion of the public and press

There were no relevant matters identified as meeting the criteria for exclusion on the agenda.

5. Minutes

This was an extraordinary meeting of council and the first on this subject matter.

6. Public Participation

There was no representation made by members of the public.

7. Pride of Place Funding Opportunity

The Town Manager outlined that on 18th December 2025 Council received notification that central government had allocated £1.5m of the Pride of Place Impact Fund (PIPIF) to the Borough of Pendle.

The programme consists of 100% Capital funding with 50% of the fund paid to the borough council in 2025/26 and the other 50% in 2026/27. The fund is not ring-fenced for a particular area of the borough and so can be used wherever the local authority deems most appropriate.

Nevertheless, PBC Executive have identified five areas of the borough for investment (Colne, Barnoldswick, Brierfield, Barrowford and Earby) and a % split of the fund determined by

electoral age of the population by Parish area in 2022 resulting in Earby being apportioned the lowest sum of £137,101 (9.1%) of the total £1.5m

The timescale in which to spend the funding is very tight. It consists of the remaining portion of this financial year plus the next; giving little more than a year for delivery. All funds must be spent by March 2027 or be returned to government. The 50% of funding already allocated for 2025/26 can be rolled over into next year but **only** if there is a plan for its use at end of year monitoring i.e. in April 2026.

When considering opportunities some basic criteria should be met

- Is it Capital spending?
- Does it fit with the 3 Objectives for the programme as below?
- Can it be delivered by 31st March 2027?
- Does it require a lengthy planning process or public consultation that would prevent delivery?
- Is there match or leverage funding available?

Eligible activities must fall within one of three objectives:

- **Community spaces** – creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control or ownership of underused but valued local assets.
- **Public spaces** – enhancing the physical environment in public spaces examples of initiatives include new or improved green spaces or public squares, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.
- **High streets & town centre revitalisation** – making these areas more attractive and welcoming places where people congregate and which encourage economic activity. Examples of initiatives that could be funded are shop frontage improvements, adaptations that bring premises back into use, streetscape improvements, public art, trails and wayfinding, and creating or improving the infrastructure for regular markets.

8. Initial Town Council Proposals

At a meeting convened by Pendle Borough Council on Friday 9th January 2026 members of the Town Council outlined ten project proposals in support of ongoing activity by the council to improve the town for residents, visitors and those working here. These projects were

8.1 Improving and extending the town centre CCTV system to Hill Top Recreation Ground, Aspen Lane Green, Station Hotel bus terminus and Cemetery Road for public safety, crime detection and tackle anti-social behaviour.

8.2 Installation of an accessible footbridge across Wentcliffe Brook, Birley Playing Fields to provide direct wheelchair/pram appropriate route to playground and picnic area earmarked for renewal by the Town Council.

8.3 Planting and landscaping of the banked area at the junction with Colne Road Skipton Road and Victoria Road.

8.4 Re-landscaping, removal of planters and installation of new seating layout in the paved area at the junction with Colne Road Skipton Road and Victoria Road including new pavement trees, shrubs and plants and seating arrangement.

8.5 New wet poor playground surface to Rushton Avenue Playground.

8.6 Festive Lighting (across highway) structures at the gateway entrances to the town, three locations.

- 8.7 Refurbishment/reopening of the single unisex toilet at Station Hotel.
- 8.8 Refurbishment of the toilets, heating, woodwork and ceilings in the Pavillion at the Hill Top Recreation Ground following a flood event and irreparable damage in recent years.
- 8.9 Repainting of all the street furniture along Victoria Rd/Water St/Colne.
- 8.10 Art Gallery/Creative space – complete the ongoing renovations to the upstairs front council office, including small kitchen, new flooring, furniture/fixings.

9. Next Steps

9.1 Council members each resolved to continue engagement with the public and community groups on the above projects, seeking feedback and collating suggestions and recommendations locally.

9.2 Council resolved to ratify each as appropriate and viable project proposals, a member was identified to lead on each project. The projects were put in a prioritised order as follows

9.2.1 Improving and extending the town centre CCTV system to Hill Top Recreation Ground, Station Hotel bus terminus, Aspen Lane Green and Cemetery Road for public safety, crime prevention and detection and to tackle anti-social behaviour.

9.2.2 Refurbishment/reopening of the single unisex toilet at Station Hotel.

9.2.3 Refurbishment of the toilets, heating, woodwork and ceilings in the Pavillion at the Hill Top Recreation Ground following flood events and irreparable damage in recent years.

9.2.4 Planting and landscaping of the banked area at the junction with Colne Road Skipton Road and Victoria Road *and (merged into this single project)* Re-landscaping, removal of planters and installation of new seating layout in the paved area at the junction with Colne Road Skipton Road and Victoria Road including new pavement trees, shrubs and plants and seating arrangement.

9.2.5 New wet poor playground surface to Rushton Avenue Playground.

9.2.6 Art Gallery/Creative space – complete the ongoing renovations to the upstairs front council office, including WC, small kitchen, new flooring, furniture/fixings for public use.

9.2.7 Repainting of all the street furniture along Victoria Rd/Water St/Colne.

9.2.8 Enhancing the Town's Festive Lighting to attract residents and visitors.

9.2.9 Installation of an accessible footbridge across Wentcliffe Brook, Birley Playing Fields to provide direct wheelchair/pram appropriate route to playground and picnic area already earmarked for renewal by the Town Council.

9.3 Council resolved to review the use of Earmarked Reserves already held for the themed areas, noting that the central government funding guidance explicitly states that match funding is not required and that this is a Pendle Borough Council consideration.

9.4 Council resolved to further explore asset boundaries to assess ownership of land by Lancashire County Council which may be affected by the project.

9.5 Council resolved to seek the transfer of the land asset (relating to 9.2.4 above) from Pendle Borough Council as offered in the recent Transfer of Assets to Parish Councils programme.

10. Next Meeting Date

To note the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the Town Council on **Monday 26th January 2026**. An agenda will be published in advance of the meeting to confirm it taking place.

11. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 21.00 hrs and Cllr Hardman thanked all present for their attendance and contribution.