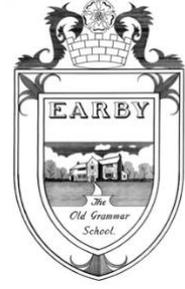




EARBY TOWN COUNCIL



Chair: Cllr T. Hardman
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Meeting of Earby Town Council
Monday 26th January 2026
The Parish Rooms, Victoria Road, Earby

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Councillor Hardman, Chair to Council, welcomed all present to the meeting at 7.30pm

2. Attendance, Apologies, and non-attendance

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

Council noted the resignation of Cllr N. Goodman.

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

Council resolved to accept and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on [Monday 24th November 2025](#) and an extraordinary meeting held on [Thursday 15th January 2026](#) as accurate records (Proposed AI, 2nd VC).

6. Public Participation

One member of the public was in attendance and observed the meeting in full.

7. Update of ongoing issues from previous Minutes

The Town Manager provided an update to members on the progress made against the following ongoing issues.

7.1 A summary of maintenance tasks carried out since the last meeting was presented to council which included repairs to the Public Toilets, Welfare Room guttering and internally at the council offices.

7.2 All the council's playgrounds continue to be inspected weekly and graffiti and litter were being removed at each visit. The MUGA lights remained inoperative and would be addressed at the earliest opportunity.

7.3 Grounds maintenance contracts continued to be assessed for providing value for money.

7.4 Council were updated on the performance of phase 2 of the Renewables Project which has involved the installation of additional panels and a scalable battery storage system. Unfortunately, the system had been wrongly aligned by the installer with the incorrect electricity account held at the council offices and therefore council were, as yet, unable to make full use of renewable tariffs on offer. Charging of the batteries was currently restricted to winter solar provision and the full operation of the system would follow in the coming weeks.

7.5 The Town Manager confirmed that the paved area and embankment on the A56 opposite Victoria Road have been added to the list of Assets sought for transfer of ownership to the Town Council from Pendle Borough Council.

7.6 The installation of a height barrier, knee rail fencing and new signage was nearing completion at the Cemetery Road undesignated car park, following three days' work clearing fly-tipping, litter, overgrown hedgerows and cleaning the footpaths and car park surface of moss and debris. Feedback from residents and passersby had been entirely positive on the action taken by council and close monitoring of the site would now follow to identify and take action against those responsible for anti-social behaviour such as unroadworthy vehicle abandonment, fly-tipping and parking on grass verges.

7.7 The transition to a new contractor responsible for maintaining the turf at the two football pitches owned by the town council has gone well and the grounds were being mown and marked in co-ordination with the football club.

8. Crime Prevention/Anti-Social Behaviour

There had been no anti-social behaviour reported at the bus station public toilets since November's meeting when consultation took place with several young people present.

9. Allotments

Council was updated on the management of its five allotment sites. The waiting list remained at 50+ residents with an average wait of three years for residents to be offered a plot. Annual invoices had been issued with 95% paid to date. Council was briefed on a number of issues with tenants that had been addressed since the last meeting. A number of plots had become available for allocation ahead of the spring and two were to be sub divided into smaller plots during the summer.

10. Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Town Council was updated on the latest estimates for the nine projects put forward for consideration of support from the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

£1.5m has been allocated from central government for investment in Pendle with the Borough Council allocating £137,000 to Earby based on the adult population. Further information can be found on the following HM Gov website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-impact-fund/pride-in-place-impact-fund-prospectus>

The Town Council is currently consulting the community over its project proposals, as below and agreed at an extraordinary meeting held on [Thursday 15th January 2026](#)

10.1 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.

10.2 Refurbishment/reopening of the single public toilet at Station Hotel.

- 10.3 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.
- 10.4 Planting and landscaping of the banked area at the junction with Colne Road Skipton Road and Victoria Road and 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.
- 10.5 New wet poor playground surface to Rushton Avenue Playground.
- 10.6 Community/Art Gallery/Creative space – complete the ongoing renovations to the upstairs front council office, including WCs, small kitchen, new flooring, furniture/fixings for community use.
- 10.7 Repainting of all the street furniture along Victoria Rd/Water St/Colne Rd shops.
- 10.8 Enhancing the Town’s Festive Lighting for residents and to attract visitors.
- 10.9 Installation of an accessible footbridge across Wentcliffe Brook, Birley Playing Fields to provide a direct wheelchair/pram access route to the playground and picnic area already earmarked for renewal by the Town Council.

11. Correspondence

- 11.1 Council noted a letter of thanks received from the Royal British Legion for financial support and use of facilities for the annual Poppy Appeal.
- 11.2 Council noted a letter of thanks received from the Earby Events Group for financial support and use of facilities for their community events during 2025.
- 11.3 Council To note a letter of thanks received from the Earby Brass Band for the provision of new outdoor jackets for its members.
- 11.4 Council were informed of a fundraising initiative by the Earby Cricket Club and committed to donating at the next meeting after consideration of an appropriate amount.
- 11.5 Council noted the removal of a pole planter on Water Street near to the roundabout with Victoria Road. Council resolved to relocate the planter to the grass verge at Goodall Close to allow for the new pavement to be laid without obstruction (Proposed VC, 2nd DA).
- 11.6 Council were informed of the lack of formal response to the communications with Gleeson Homes regarding the reinstatement of the public bench on New Road. The Town Manger committed to resolving the matter prior to the next meeting.

12. Tree Surveys

Council was updated on a tree survey carried out on an Ash tree in Birley Playing Fields that has caused concern due to its unusual growth pattern and a large horizontal branch. The tree has been professionally assessed as safe and council resolved to take no further action at this time (Proposed TH, 2nd SW).

Council was informed that a professional survey of all trees on Town Council owned land has been scheduled for the summer when the trees are in full leaf. This will then take place every three years thereafter to inform any maintenance or treatments necessary.

13. Festive Lighting

Council reflected on the standard of provision of the town’s festive lighting for 2025 and resolved to explore alternative/additional suppliers in conjunction with the project forming part of the Pride In Place Impact Fund (Proposed VC, 2nd JM).

14. Planning Applications

There have been no new planning applications received and circulated since the previous meeting that Members have sought to debate.

15. Reports from meetings with other organisations

15.1 Cllr Myers informed the meeting that the Earby Events Group had carried out a debrief of their 2025 events and has committed to delivering events in May, August and December 2026. The Group were keen to secure the help of more volunteers in the year ahead as the core team had taken on significant work individually. The Group's meetings would continue to be held at the council offices and advertised on social media - all were welcome to come along and contribute to the delivery of these excellent, volunteer-led community events.

15.2 Cllr Inman deferred an update on the activities of the Birley Playing Fields Working Group until the next meeting. Cllr Hardman informed Council that he has started to identify suitable play equipment manufacturers and was arranging site meetings to discuss design options and costings. The Lengthsman, Mr Kelly, has commenced enquiries into potential foot bridge manufacturers to improve the accessibility to the playground and picnic area.

16. Finance

16.1 Council noted the outcome of the Internal Financial Control Review conducted on Wednesday 14th January 2026 by Cllr Cocker who reported all matters were in good order.

16.2 Council resolved to approve the Payment List, as circulated (Proposed TH, 2nd DA).

16.3 Council received and noted the latest (Year to Date) Payments & Receipts document and the Council's current Earmarked Reserve funds.

16.3 Council received an update on the Actual Spend against 2025/26 Budget at the completion of Q3. Despite extraordinary expenditure in the region of £38K the council remained on track through robust financial management to deliver its obligations and services with an end of year projected net balance of -£9K before any realignment of Earmarked Reserves.

16.4 Council noted, and Cllr Anderson signed this month's reconciliation report between the bank account and the Council's accounting software.

17. Budget 2026/27

17.1 Council received a presentation from the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) on the proposed Budget for 2026/2027. There were a significant number of external threats and unknown variables outlined in addition to known cost increases for utilities, energy and building materials. After a 10% reduction, the precept had held for 3 years but could no longer do so.

17.2 Council considered and resolved to approve a recommendation from the RFO on the Precept amount required for the 2026/2027 Financial Year for the Town Council to meet its service delivery obligations. Council approved a 10% increase to the Precept demand which represents a £10.95 rise to a Band D household (TH, 2nd SW).

18. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is provisionally scheduled for **Monday 23rd February 2026**

19. 2026 Meeting Dates

Monday 23rd February 2026

Monday 30th March 2026

Monday 27th April 2026

Monday 18th May 2026 (Annual Meeting of Council)

Monday 29th June 2026

Monday 27th July 2026

Monday 24th August 2026

Monday 28th September 2026

Monday 26th October 2026

Monday 30th November 2026

20. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 20.45 hrs and Cllr Hardman thanked all present for their attendance and contribution.