



EARBY TOWN COUNCIL



Chair: Cllr T. Hardman
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Meeting of Earby Town Council
Monday 30th March 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.

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 26th January 2026](#) as an accurate record (Proposed SW, 2nd JM).

6. Public Participation

Pendle Borough Councillor S. Land 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 the removal of fixtures and fittings internally at the council offices and the installation of new lighting in the upstairs community space.

7.2 All the council's playgrounds continue to be inspected weekly with graffiti and litter being removed at each visit. The MUGA lighting control mechanism had been upgraded to automatically follow the timing of sunset before activation up to 10pm. Two items of

playground equipment required immediate replacement. The play surface at Rushton Avenue requires addressing subject to current funding applications and enquiries were being made into jet washing all the playground sites for the summer.

7.3 Following the installation of a height barrier, knee rail fencing and new signage at the Cemetery Road undesignated car park, in addition to clearing fly-tipping, litter, overgrown hedgerows and cleaning the footpaths and car park surface of moss and debris, feedback from residents and passersby continued to be positive. Action was being taken on one unroadworthy vehicle appearing in recent days.

7.4 The new regime in place for maintaining the turf at the two football pitches owned by the town council continues to show visible improvement, with close co-ordination between the town council, football club and the grounds team proving positive.

7.5 Grounds maintenance contracts continued to be reviewed for providing value for money. The pole planters have been ordered from the usual supplier and a move to peat free compost this year will be closely monitored to ensure the displays remain to the same high standard. This week will see a move to the council managing the grass cutting of the village green, providing a grass collection function to benefit all users and particularly the events held at the site.

7.6 The replacement bench on New Road has now been installed.

7.7 Council were updated on the correction to the alignment of the electricity account and the recent installation of additional solar panels and a scalable battery storage system at the former fire station. The process of transferring the account to an appropriate export energy tariff could now commence and the capability of the system maximised.

8. Crime Prevention/Anti-Social Behaviour

Members discussed recent disorder and anti-social behaviour at Wentcliffe Drive and were reassured that the correct agencies were aware and engagement was to be initiated with the relevant housing association.

It was noted that a vehicle had once again been on the football pitch and caused damage to the playing surface at Hill Top Recreation ground.

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 now been paid. A number of plots had become available for allocation ahead of the spring and two were to be sub divided into smaller plots when resources permitted.

10. Pride in Place Impact Fund

The Town Council was updated on the latest developments with the Pride in Place Impact Fund.

£1.5m has been allocated from central government for investment in Pendle, with Pendle Borough Council (PBC) allocating £137,000 of it 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>

At the PBC Executive Committee on [Thursday 19th March 2026](#) the Leader of Pendle Borough Council announced that the council would proceed with the selection of projects following the request from Jonathan Hinder MP to pause the process for a review. As the Borough Council has received 50% of the funds to date, the Executive identified that the following Earby

projects would be invited to submit applications for the funding identified in phase 1, subject to the match funding amounts shown;

First Half of projects

Town	Total scores	Synopsis	Project Value	PIPIF Request	Match £
EarbyTown Council	59	Rushton Avenue play ground resurface	20,685	8,685	12,000
Earby - West Craven Committee (Sough Park/Earby	55	Earby Memorial Park changing rooms	20,000	13,460	6,540
Earby - West Craven Committee (Sough Park/Earby	55	Earby Memorial Park toilets	10,000	6,730	3,270
Earby - West Craven Committee (Kelbrook)	53	Kelbrook play area Capital improvements	5,000	4,000	1,000
Earby - West Craven Committee (Sough Park/Earby	51	Earby Memorial Park Drainage for Football Pitch	25,000	16,825	8,175
EarbyTown Council	51	Station hotel toilets upgrade	6,000	6,000	undetermined
EarbyTown Council	51	Pavillion refurb. Hill Top Rec	12,000	11,000	1,000
			98,685	66,700	31,985

10.11 Council unanimously resolved to defer decisions on the three PBC supported projects at this time, citing the application form/requirements had not yet been received and the £12,000 sought in match funding represented the maintenance contingency for all the town's playgrounds (Proposed TH, 2nd JM).

10.12 Council unanimously resolved to defer decisions on allocating the required £13,000+ match funding sought at this time, citing it was not a requirement of the guidance from central government and awaiting clarity on the process (Proposed TH, 2nd JM).

10.13 Council resolved to explore further how unsupported projects - which were given higher priority by members of the town council - were now to be funded and delivered (Proposed DA, 2nd TD). Options would be presented at the next full meeting of council on 27th April 2026.

Council expressed its gratitude to members and residents who had raised awareness and clearly communicated the relevant issues to the public, challenging the wealth of misinformation being circulated by other individuals and organisations. Cllr Anderson was singled out for praise in challenging misleading and false information on social media and in person with local residents and business owners.

11. Correspondence

11.1 Council noted the content of an external enquiry containing misinformation about the PIPIF process and considered that sufficient factual information was already available through the approved Minutes and News Items published by the Town Council.

12. Town Centre CCTV Infrastructure

Council received a presentation from the Town Manager on the current state of the Earby Town Council CCTV system comprising seven town centre CCTV cameras and microwave link infrastructure connecting the video feed to the Blackburn With Darwen CCTV Control Hub, itself closely linked to the Lancashire Constabulary communications hub.

The system was transferred to the Town Council in 2019 from Pendle Borough Council who now have no role in its operation. The annual expenditure incurred by the Town Council includes ~£1,800 electricity costs and ~£6,200 for a monitoring and minor maintenance annual fee from Blackburn With Darwen Borough Council. The majority of the technology and equipment employed pre-dates 2019 and whilst operational, is of low quality and sensitive to environmental conditions.

12.1 In the absence of PIPIF funding to support this priority project, Council resolved to identify alternative funding sources in maintaining and improving the quality and reliability of the system for continued public safety and crime detection. And to allow wider coverage to vulnerable locations such as Hill Top Recreation Ground and the Station Hotel Bus Terminus/Public Toilet. Options would be presented at the next full meeting of council on 27th April 2026 (Proposed DA, 2nd AI).

13. Internal Auditor

Council received an update on the commencement of the audit process for the financial year 2025/2026 and ratified the appointment of an internal auditor (Proposed TH, 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 and Cllr Dickinson updated the meeting on the activity of the Earby Events Group in relation to their 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 Hardman updated council on progress in securing design options and costings for a new playground at the existing Birley Playing Field playground site. A meeting would be scheduled for the Working Group in the near future when all designs are received.

16. Finance

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

16.2 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 end of Financial Year briefing on actual spend v the 2025/2026 Budget. Council had met its financial obligations on budget once again with robust financial management and continuous improvement in obtaining value for public money. Approximately £12,000 of earmarked funds had been utilised during the year whilst enhancing assets across town with over ~£46,000 of direct investment.

16.4 Council approved the expenditure of £704 + VAT replacing worn equipment at Rushton Avenue playground – the swing basket and chains (Proposed TH, 2nd JM).

16.5 Council approved a £500 donation to the Earby Cricket Club towards their crowd funding initiative in raising funds towards replacement screens and the refurbishment of the clubhouse (Proposed AI, 2nd DA).

16.6 Council noted the allocation of £12,200 from the Legacy Fund from Pendle Borough Council and the position that the funds were to be used as determined by the Town Council.

16.7 Council noted that the Council's current Direct Debit list remained unchanged on commencing the new financial year.

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

17. Next Meeting Date

Council noted the next scheduled meeting of the Town Council is **Monday 27th April 2026**
An agenda will be published in advance of the meeting to confirm it taking place.

18. Meeting Close

The meeting was closed at 21.04 hrs and Cllr Hardman thanked all present for their attendance and contribution.