



**MINUTES FROM A MEETING
OF EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 8TH JANUARY 2026, COMMENCING AT 7.03pm
IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, EAGLESCLIFFE**

CLLRS PRESENT: Cllrs K Roebuck (Chair), J Fletcher, A Collier, A Marsden & Dr J Ramsay, B Newcombe & R Richardson

IN ATTENDANCE: J Linsley – Clerk to the Council

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| 139/25 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr M de Launay |
| 140/25 | DISPENSATIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS There were no requests for Dispensations or Declarations of Interest received |
| 141/25 | TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF 4TH DECEMBER 2025 The minutes of the meeting were reviewed and Cllr Roebuck asked Cllr Fletcher if the paragraph concerning Cllr Taylor should be included, Resolved: - That the paragraph should be removed and that the minutes were approved by Cllr's Roebuck & Fletcher and would be signed after the amendment on Page |
| 142/25 | MATTERS ARISING Cllr Roebuck advised that the contractors working on the property on Yarm Road, had caused significant damage to the grass verges and asked that a letter be sent to the property owner. Resolved: - Cllr Roebuck to take photographs and provide the property number to the clerk to draft the letter to the property owners |
| 143/25 | COUNCILLORS REPORT BACK Cllr Fletcher advised that there had been an article in Private Eye Magazine concerning the Chrome Works at Urlay Nook, which had been acquired by a US company. Cllr Ramsay said that the contractors working on the Story Homes site had been asked not to use the back access to the site as it was private land. Cllr Richardson had said that there were two entrances to the site. Cllr Collier raised concerns about development of contaminated land and the impact that it was having on the quality of water in Nelly Beck and beyond. Cllr Newcombe said that the residual chrome was contained in concrete. Cllr Collier said that EA were monitoring the water quality, at the Eaglescliffe Treatment Works, any disturbance to the land could lead to increased pollution in the beck and River Tees as the report in Sept 2025, highlighted that the treatment works were not adding the appropriate chemicals before discharging the waste. Cllr Fletcher said that the collapse at Eliffs' Mill a few years ago had been caused by failure of a pipe carrying runoff from the Elementis Chrome Site. There has been no application to build on the land as at 08.01.2026. Resolved: - Noted |
| 144/25 | CLERKS REPORT 1. Documents Circulated – Pegasus Group – Telephone Mast (Planning Application) Resolved: - The height of the mast is to be raised to improve telecommunications, and no objects were received from the Council. |
| Page 58/25 | Signed..... <i>K. Roebuck</i> Date..... <i>12/2/26</i> |

CLERKS REPORT

2. Documents Circulated – Lighthouse Green Fuels (Consultation) **Resolved:** - The Councillor’s had no comments on the matter
3. Meeting room Bookings – Church Hall booked for all of 2026. **Resolved:** - The Clerk confirmed that the church had already been booked for the upcoming year by the previous clerk.
4. Victoria Park – Tilly Bailey & Irvine have said it may take up to 1 year for Land Registry to issue the document. **Resolved:** - That there may still be some legal work to be carried out once the land was registered.
5. Email from Egglescliffe School PTA regarding the issues with the last Eggsoup Newsletter, a refund of the grant has been offered. **Resolved:** - The offer a refund would be taken up if the next addition was not circulated in accordance with the grant application.
6. Email from Northeast Cancer Voices for a donation – circulated via email. **Resolved:** - A copy of the Grant Application Form was sent to the organization, which said they would review it in the spring,
7. Electronic Christmas Card from SBC – circulated via email
8. Confirmation of Inspection of Bells Bridge from Network Rail – Inspection ref 251210-000355 **Resolved:** - Network Rail inspected the bridge, however said that the bridge was owned by SBC. Cllr Fletcher said that the bridge could only be repaired if SBC & Network Rail agreed a plan of closure as the railway line going under the bridge was in current use. **Action:** The Clerk to follow up the matter with SBC.
9. Telephone call (resident) regarding 14 Carradale and retrospection application for AirBnB – being used as a contractor’s house. **Action:** Councillors’ asked for the Clerk to comment on the Planning Portal “The Council supports the objections raised by the residents”
10. Email from Carole Jones (resident of neighbouring village) re Pedestrian issues on Aislaby Road, circulated to Councillors **Resolved:** - The clerk had received comments from Cllr fletcher & Collier, and an email was sent to advise the resident of the Parish Boundary and referred her to contact Eaglescliffe West Ward Councillors. Cllr Newcombe advised that MP Matt Vickers had been approached by the resident regarding the speed limit on the road, which was currently 60mph. Cllr Roebuck advised that the stretch of road from Nelly Beck towards Yarm currently had a speed restriction of 30mph.
11. Planning Matters – H3G Mast circulated to Councillors – no objections.
12. Clerk Training – Booked for Allotments Management – 3 dates in January
13. Clerk has now passed PIALC exam – Principles of Internal Auditing of Local Councils **Resolved:** - Congratulations were received from the Councillors

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Planning Applications for Council meeting 8th January 2026

| Planning ref | Address | Application description |
|--|--|--|
| Ref. No: 25/2221/X Received: Mon 20 Oct 2025 Validated: Fri 05 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision | 4 Egglescliffe Court Egglescliffe Stockton- on-Tees TS16 9BU | Application to lower the canopy of 1no Elm tree (T16) by 5m of tree preservation order 2 (00.8.5.10) |

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Signed..... *J. Roebuck* Date..... *12/2/26*

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|---|---|---|
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2671/X Received: Tue 23 Dec 2025 Validated: Tue 23 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>3 Egglecliffe Court Egglecliffe Stockton- On-Tees TS16 9BU</p> | <p>Application to remove Southern side branch back to main trunk to 1No. Oak Tree (T18) of Tree Preservation Order 2 (00.8.5.10)</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2625/TNOT Received: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 57 Burnmoor Drive Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 9 metre medium wooden</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2615/TEL Received: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Validated: Wed 17 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Communication Station, Rear Of 5 Wass Way Durham Lane Industrial Park Egglecliffe TS16 ORG</p> | <p>Prior approval application to replace the existing 23.7m telecommunications mast with a new 25.52m mast together</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2624/TNOT Received: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 1 Bowfell Close Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of the electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 13 metre medium</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2626/TNOT Received: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 15 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 79 Burnmoor Drive Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 9 metre medium wooden</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2569/TNOT Received: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 21 Roedean Drive Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 8 metre light wooden pole.</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2570/TNOT Received: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 28 Roedean Drive Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 8 metre light wooden pole.</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2571/TNOT Received: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Validated: Mon 08 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>Land Adjacent To 31 Roedean Drive Egglecliffe</p> | <p>Notice under regulation 5 of electronic communications code regulations for the installation of 1no 9 metre medium wooden</p> |
| <p>Ref. No: 25/2528/FPD Received: Wed 03 Dec 2025 Validated: Wed 03 Dec 2025 Status: Awaiting decision</p> | <p>18 Glades Road Egglecliffe Stockton- on-Tees TS16 OSX</p> | <p>Replacement of second floor front window to Juliet balcony.</p> |

Resolved: - There were no objections raised for the above applications.

Precept/Budget 2026/7

The Council commenced discussions on the setting of the Precept for the forthcoming municipal year, the following matters were considered: -

Insurance Policy

The current policy with Hiscox's expires on 31st March 2026 and was procured via AJ Gallagher Insurance Brokers (AJG) and was the last year of a 3-year policy.

The clerk had obtained a quotation for the Insurance Premium to insure the Playground Equipment; the additional Premium would be £1413.45. The current annual premium is £1460.47. The Insurance broker AJG had not been able to provide an indicative quotation for the renewal of the policy, the quotation would be received by the middle of February 2026.

Cllr Collier asked for the Clerk to obtain 2 or 3 other insurance quotations for comparison.
Action: - Clerk to source alternative providers in accordance with best value practice and report back to the finance committee.

Cllr Roebuck said that the increase in premium would double the current premium for a period of 3 years, in line with the terms of the existing policy. There has only been a handful of low value claims in the past which did not amount to the proposed increase in the premium. Cllr Collier asked for an indicative figure for comparison.

Cllr Ramsay suggested that a lump sum (equivalent to the next 3 years premium) was added to the budget.

Cllr Fletcher said that in accordance with Standing Orders, we need to consider the financial impact and that the 2025/6 budget could be overspent and there would need to be a virement from another budget heading.

Cllr Collier said that there could be an increase in arson attacks on the equipment. Cllr Richardson said that the wooden play equipment was being reviewed with the CFYA from SBC next week to establish which equipment was likely to need replacing soon and it could be replaced with metal and fire-resistant materials.

Cllr Newcombe said that most policies did not include vandalism. The Clerk would need to review the T&C's of any policy covering play equipment.

Cllr Fletcher said that there was drainage issues within St Margaret's play area and there are 3 drains that converge in the area, it was thought that the drains had been damaged by the installation of the Adult Equipment, however a review of the old maps held in storage at the Council Office would establish the exact location of the drains, notwithstanding the area would need drainage works to make the equipment accessible.

Cllr Collier suggested a show of hands for those who wished to amend the policy to include the play equipment in the new insurance policy.

RESOLVED: - Cllr Roebuck said that the matter would be discussed further once the Clerk had obtained the renewal notice and any competitive quotations and closer to end of the current policy in March 2026. The budget of £2000

Christmas Lighting

Cllr Collier suggested improving the Christmas Lights throughout the Parish and that the matter had been raised previously. The Clerk had been asked to contact SBC (minute 124/25) for an update on the ownership of the lights and installation costs.

The Clerk reported that EEC owned 2 sets of strings lights, which were installed in the trees on Durham Lane and Yarm Road. The lights in Eggescliffe Village are installed for free, Mark Wardle of SBC advised that the ownership of these lights was unknown, however they would continue to install them whilst they were in good working order. The missing lights at Orchard Shops had been vandalised in 2024 (146/24).

It is recorded in the Reserves that there is a balance £1500 for Christmas Lighting. Cllr Roebuck said that in 2025/26 the reserves had been reduced from £6370 to reduce the precept (07/25). Cllr Collier raised his concerns that he was unaware of this adjustment (apologies were received from Cllr Collier for the meeting held 9th January 2025).

Cllr Roebuck said that the reserves of £1500 would cover the costs to install the lights for Christmas 2025, however the Clerk advised that during her conversation with Mr Wardle of SBC, that there were no unpaid invoices from prior years and no charges going forward for the installation of the string lights. If however new lighting was to be installed, then they would need to generate an SLA.

Cllr Collier asked that the Council take the decision to purchase lights in the forthcoming financial year and that the budget should be increased. Cllr Richardson suggested that a virement could be made from the Playground Maintenance Budget.

Cllr Ramsay & Richardson said that lighting was affordable from such companies as Christmas Direct Lighting. The Clerk had been advised the SBC uses a company called Tornak for their lighting. Cllr Newcombe said that there are sufficient UK Manufacturers who could be found online. Cllr Collier suggested that there were German Brand worth looking into.

Following on from an email sent by the Clerk regarding a sale of Christmas Lighting, Cllr Fletcher said that it was not best value to buy any refurbished lighting, Cllr Roebuck agreed that if lighting is purchased it should be new and come with a warranty/guarantee.

The Clerk advised that SBC would need a list of the lighting columns that any new lights were to be installed on and that there may be a charge of £100 per column, if a new connector fitting was needed. The Council would need to establish where the new lighting was to be fitted and to provide the Clerk with the Column numbers, to obtain a quotation from SBC.

Cllr Roebuck proposed that £1500 should remain in the Reserve Balances, with a further £1500 to be added to the budget. **Resolved;** - The motion was carried. Councillors to make arrangements after Easter to plan where the new lights could be installed for Christmas 2026.

Play Equipment

Cllr Fletcher asked the Councillor's if the proposed 2026/7 budget of £20,000 combined with the balance in the Reserves of £28,227 was overstated for the improvements to the play areas.

Cllr Roebuck said that SBC were reducing their number of play areas due to the increased costs of maintaining them. However, Amberley Way was nearing completion and the 4 play areas are well used, so the Parish should continue to review the facilities and where possible install or update the current equipment. **Resolved:** - The budget is £20,000 for 2026/7 and any reserves are carried forward. The Recreation Committee to discuss any planned expenditure at their next committee meeting.

Seats/Notice Boards/Bins

Cllr Ramsay said that there were no bins on the new Taylor Wimpy Estate / Hunters Estate and the areas was strewn with litter and was there any funds in the budget to buy some bins. **Action:** - The Clerk to contact SBC to see if there were plans to install bins. Cllr Roebuck advised that the £4500 for maintenance of the Seats and Notice Boards should be transferred to the Reserves. **Resolved:** - Balance to be held in Reserves for 2026/7

Election Fees/Contingency

Cllr Fletcher suggested that the Reserves of £4000 may not be sufficient as in May 2027 will be an "all-up" election for the PC & will be contested in each of our 2 parish wards, if candidates exceed seats (6 or 7) for that ward. Cllr Collier said that the cost of a local election, would be split between Eaglescliffe East & West Wards. **Resolved:** - £4000 to be retained in Reserves with consideration to be given when setting the Precept for 2027/8.

Clerks' Pension

The Clerk advised that she had a Private Pension and would not be taking out a NEST Pension. **Resolved:** - £700 to be removed from the proposed budget workings.

Fetes/Events

Cllr Roebuck said that there was a balance of reserves of £2574, EARA had been allocated £6000 in 2025/6 as the event missed a year in 2024. EARA had only spent £3665. Cllr Collier said that EARA had paid for some of the event. Cllr Fletcher said that the balance in reserves to be retained with the budget for 2026/7 reduced from £3000 to £1500. **Resolved:** - £1500 allocated in the budget, giving the overall funds available of £4074 for this year's event.

Precept

The remainder of the proposed budget figures had been discussed in November and December 2025 at Committee Meetings and it is noted that the Allotments are self-funding. The Council Tax Base is 3598.91 making the Band D Charge £27.55 up from £23.93 in 2025/26, making an increase of £3.62 (15.12%)

Resolved: - Cllr Roebuck asked the Council if they agreed the Budget for 2026/7 will be £104,590 less a Council Grant of £5,446, making the Precept £99,144. A copy of the budget is below. Cllr Fletcher abstained. It was therefore *nemo contradicte* as the Council had not considered any surplus of funds in the current financial year to reduce the precept. An error was noted on the calculation of the Christmas Lighting Reserves and current budget which will be corrected in the next financial year, with any surplus used to reduce the precept. Furthermore, there was a typo in the IT Reserves which are £1600.44 not the £600.44 presented.

| PAYMENTS (excl VAT) | Proposed 2026/27 | Reserves as at 08.01.26 | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PLAY AREAS MAINT/INSP | £12,000 | | |
| PLAY AREAS IMPROVEMENTS | £20,000 | £28,227.98 | |
| WAR MEMORIALS (EXC. PARKS) | £5,000 | | |
| MEMORIAL GARDENS (X2) + QEII | £4,000 | | |
| SEATS & NTCE BD M'TCE | £1,000 | | |
| SEATS/NTCE BD/BINS REPLACEMENT | £0 | | £4500 to be added to reserves |
| TELEPHONE KIOSK | £0 | | |
| DEFIBRILLATOR MAINT. | £300 | £551.52 | |
| SUMMER PLANTING | £200 | | |
| OPEN SPACE/TREES MAINTENANCE | £10,000 | | |
| CLERK'S SALARY INC NI&TAX | £23,500 | | |
| EMPLOYER'S NIC | £3,500 | | |
| CLERK'S EXPENSES | £400 | | |
| COUNCILLOR'S EXPENSES | £200 | | |
| CHAIR'S ALLOWANCE | £200 | | |
| TRAINING BUDGET | £600 | | |
| INSURANCE | £2,000 | | |
| GENERAL MISC. | £250 | | |
| SUBS - CLCA/SLCC/LCR/DIS/FSDR | £1,100 | | |
| TELEPHONE /BROADBAND | £600 | | |
| PRINTER AND SUNDRIES | £600 | | |
| POSTAGE | £100 | | |
| STATIONERY | £250 | | |
| AUDIT FEES | £570 | | |
| BANK CHARGES | £120 | | |
| OFFICE RENT /MEETING ROOM HIRE | £4,000 | | |
| WEBSITE | £500 | | |
| IT UPGRADE | £500 | £1600.44 | |
| NEWSLETTERS | £2,000 | | |
| EVENTS (FETE) | £1,500 | £2,574.41 | |
| GRANT AID (S137) Incl RBL | £1,600 | | |
| CHRISTMAS EXPENDITURE | £3,000 | £1,500.00 | take out £1500 in reserves 01.04.26 |
| NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN | | £6,849.00 | |
| ELECTION FUND | £0 | £4,000.00 | |
| CONTINGENCY FUND | £0 | £1,640.00 | |
| LEGAL COSTS MEMORIAL GDNS | £2,000 | | |
| S&DR PLAQUES ETC. BI CENTENARY | £3,000 | | |
| ALLOTMENTS | | £9,207.08 | Self-Funding |
| ALLOTMENTS REFUNDABLE BOND | | £5,500.00 | Self-Funding |
| TOTAL | £104,590 | £60,650.43 | |

Signed..... *K. Roebuck* Date..... *12/2/26*

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| 147/25 | <p>POLICIES</p> <p>Cllr Roebuck advised that the review of policies would be moved to the February meeting. Resolved: - The Clerk to add to the February 2026 Agenda</p> |
| 148/25 | <p>ARRANGE COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> <p>Cllr Roebuck suggested that dates to be arranged via email on this occasion as the meeting had overrun. Resolved: - Committees to agree dates via the Clerk, PR Committee to meet in February to start Newsletter. Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23rd April, booking made at Community Centre.</p> |
| 149/25 | <p>TO CONFIRM DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the next meeting will be held Thursday 5th February in All Saints Church meeting room commencing at 7pm.</p> |
| 150/25 | <p>ACCOUNTS & FINANCE</p> <p>Cllr Roebuck to sign off the accounts and documents in the Council Office in January on a prearranged date with the Clerk Resolved: - Date to be agreed</p> |
| 151/25 | <p>ITEMS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>No items were received Resolved: - Noted</p> |
| 152/25 | <p>There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.43pm</p> |
| Page 65/25 | <p>Signed..... <i>H. Roebuck</i> Date..... <i>12/2/26</i></p> |