

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025**  
**AT CHURCH EATON VILLAGE INSTITUTE**

**PRESENT:** Parish Councillors, Mrs S. Dodd, Messrs A. Brown, J. Gibbs (Vice Chairman), A. Lloyd, S. Moore (Chairman), D. Massie, B Sharratt and five members of the public.

**APOLOGIES:** These were received from the Clerk, Mrs D.M.Key and Borough and County Councillor Jack Rose

The Chairman, Councillor S. Moore opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed those present and explained what form the meeting would take and when there would be opportunity for public participation.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from the previous meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 were proposed for approval by Councillor A.Lloyd, seconded by Councillor B.Sharratt. All were in favour.

**MATTERS ARISING :** There were no matters arising.

**LATE ITEMS AGREED BY THE CHAIR:** There were no late items.

**OPEN FORUM:** Representation from the Church (Jacqui Hodgkinson, Church Warden), discussed the challenges the Church were facing with the grass cutting especially in light of a large bill to deal with the removal of a large diseased tree which had stretched their finances. The mix of parishioners meant they were either typically working full time or retired and increasingly more elderly. They also highlighted the Church grounds were an asset to the community and often used, including as a rest stop for passing cyclists and somewhere for private contemplation. They requested help from the Parish Council noting that other churches nearby often had such help from their respective Parish Councils. The matter was discussed and a number of ideas came to light including the CEPC making a donation in the spring of 2026 to help get the grounds into shape. The Chair highlighted that given the size of the Church Eaton precept, it was unlikely the Parish Council could take on the financial commitment on a permanent basis, but was willing to explore creative ideas such as finding out the incremental costs from the people cutting the playpark grass as this may be more cost effective. CEPC will reflect on the discussion and examine any surplus at the end of the financial year.

The Chair also thanked the Church from appearing as personal representation and the ability to discuss is preferable on more complex issues within the Parish, to simply writing.

**C.E.V. PLAYGROUND:** Due to the two months since the last Parish Council meeting, Councillors Brown, Gibbs and Lloyd had all undertaken regular inspections and a number of items were raised.

The bearings on one item had continued to get worse and the supplier had initially sent the wrong sized replacement buffer stops. The Chair arranged for replacement of the parts and fitted them addressing the situation.

The grass in general had needed little cutting, but was in otherwise good condition. It was noticed that the strimming/brushcutting around equipment had started to cause some minor damage, but not the extent it was a significant concern at this time.

One swing seat was showing signs of degradation and whilst still useable, it was decided the cost to replace should be established.

The new cradle seat appears to be collecting water. Whilst not a problem in itself, it was suggested that as part of inspections, any water should be poured away.

There was some animal waste in the park although it's uncertain if this is from wildlife or domestic animals. Some people had been seen taking their dogs into the playpark despite it being a no dogs area. A reminder is to be included in the next Parish Magazine.

There were some small signs of graffiti and messing around with the coned off area. The concrete posts will hopefully be removed soon and as the schools return these issues will resolve themselves.

There is still one handle grip missing from a piece of equipment.

The wooden posts between the playpark and road have previously had reflective elements. It was discussed about the replacement of these. Councillor Brown is to provide the chair with a contact for a company who may be able to provide suitable replacements, either for the posts, as one is damaged, or just the reflective element.

Councillor Massie is to carry out the inspections in September.

**HIGHWAYS:** Councillor Rose had been in contact with the Chair regarding potential costs for extending the 30mph limit to before the Playpark. The costs look to be in the region £4k-£8k, primarily legal fees. One suggestion Councillor Rose made was to look to introduce other limit changes at the same time, such as potentially a 20mph limit outside the school, as this would make each change more cost effective. At this time, it was felt the cost were too prohibitive given the Parish funds.

In general, there has been quite extensive road repairs undertaken which was welcomed by the CEPC. The Chair, who had been looking at community emergency pot hole repairs using a model in use in Devon, has decided to put the idea on hold as the Highways team addressing issues in a timely manner is both preferred and seems to currently be the case.

**PLANNING:** There was one application for Parlour Barn 24/39591/HOU. The Vice Chair declared an interest but provided a brief history to the application as it had been previously presented to the CEPC last year before leaving the meeting. The Chair also declared an interest as it was a neighbouring property and left. Councillor Lloyd temporarily chaired the meeting to discuss. It was proposed by Councillor Lloyd that the CEPC had no objections, seconded by Councillor Mrs S. Dodd, and all remaining Councillors eligible to vote, voted in favour.

**FLOODING:** The FAIR team have been active over the summer months.

A company has been engaged to clear various water courses including the route from the Old Post Office, under the road to Smithy Croft and on to the floodplain. This was significantly blocked/restricted.

They also visited Apeton to look at the drains and ditches that flow towards the ford. Many of these were missing from official documents, which will be corrected, and hopefully remedial work will soon commence.

The FAIR team have further work planned including assessing the flow of water across the floodplain to the brook.

The Chair has also completed the resilience questionnaire from the FAIR team.

CEPC have received thanks from a number of people regarding the improvements, and these have been shared with the FAIR team. One resident has raised the concern about the large expanse of water disappearing over the summer and the impact this may have had on wildlife. The work undertaken has been coordinated by the FAIR team in consultation with various other public bodies. The pool of water is also not a historic feature and, in the past, has frequently disappeared over the summer.

**PHONE MAST:** We are happy to report the phone mast is now operational serving O2 and Vodafone networks and any company that uses their systems. Many report a strong and healthy signal within Church Eaton and nearby. We have heard mixed responses on the impact on other networks including EE, some reporting no change whilst others have seen an improvement.

Whilst the Parish Council started to campaign for the mast over 4 years ago, and achieved much of the early work, for the last year the mast had not been commissioned into service. Our MP, Leigh Ingham, became involved and actively helped in getting it turned on. CEPC have provided her office with details on the types of issues people were experiencing and some contacts so she can understand and influence policy on the matter.

**FINANCE:** The Parish Council insurance has been renewed with Zurich. This is the last year of a fixed-price deal we agreed. As a consequence, options for 2026-2027 will be looked at in good time.

The defib in Marston was called into action and as a result required replacement pads. These have been purchased and installed.

Other amounts due were for the regular invoices for grass cutting and the hire of the Institute.

Approval for payment/reimbursement of the above was proposed by Councillor Mrs Dodd, seconded by Councillor Lloyd and all were in favour.

**HANGING BASKET COMPETITION:** This was won by Church Farm, the Brambles in St Editha's Court came second and the Royal Oak came 3<sup>rd</sup>. We send our congratulations to them all.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The discussion on archiving will be carried over to next month when the Clerk is present.

We have received an invite from Bradford Estates to attend the opening of the Bradford Walk.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the 7th October 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Institute. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.