

LITTLE EATON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at Little Eaton Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors D Howard (Chair), S Caines,
J Reid, P Rowlinson & K Shankland

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk

26/078 Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors R Brown and J Bush.

26/079 No Members declared an Interest in any of the agenda items.

26/080 Public Speaking – (15 Minutes)

A period of not more than fifteen minutes will be made available for members of the public and Members of the Council to comment on any matter.

If the Police Liaison Officer, a County Council or Borough Council Member is in attendance they will be given the opportunity to raise any relevant matter.

Two members of the public were present. One attended as a new resident wishing to observe the meeting with a view to becoming involved in the community in future. The other was a representative of the Bowling Club, invited to update Councillors on the Club's proposed plans for an irrigation system.

County Councillor C Hart was also present and gave apologies for Borough Councillor B Eddy who was unable to attend due to illness.

Councillor Hart also provided the following update.

- Overnight road closure between 8pm and 6am on Alfreton Road, Little Eaton at the junction with the A38.
- Iron-rich mine water discharge is entering Bottle Brook at Kilburn causing the water to turn bright orange. The environment Agency are aware.
- Planning legislation changes: The Government is requiring more officer-level decisions and it is likely that councillor call-ins may be removed.
- Following years of issues, DCC has cancelled the Sinfin waste treatment plant.
- Erewash Borough Council's Village Investment Fund Special Projects was vastly oversubscribed. The Council were looking at providing some addition funding, however this has been paused due to uncertainty regarding the Local Government Reorganisation.

26/081 There were no variations to the Order of Business required.

26/082 There were no agenda items that required a resolution to close the meeting for public participation under the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960.

26/083 To receive a briefing from a representative of the Bowling Club regarding their fundraising plans and proposals for a new irrigation system, and to discuss any implications for Parish Council land, required permissions, or future responsibilities

A representative of the Bowls Club attended the meeting to outline a proposal for installing an irrigation system due to counteract the deterioration of the green during the prolonged dry weather, which has been experienced over the last 2 summers. This has resulted in multiple complaints about the condition of the

green and lost revenue from competitions which can't be played in Little Eaton due to the poor pitch condition.

The proposal includes a 5,000-litre plastic tank, mains-fed, four pop-up sprinklers, automatic timer (15 minutes per night) which will use approximately 3,000 litres per week in dry periods.

Severn Trent must be notified and will inspect the backflow-prevention valve.

The Chair asked whether rainwater harvesting may be possible and it was agreed that it may be, but would be unreliable in long dry spells.

The Chair stated that as tenants, the Bowls Club must keep the Council informed of plans, to ensure no conflict with park management and that a water meter will be required to monitor water usage as the costs are likely to be significant.

The Bowls Club will keep the Council updated on funding progress and installation timeline.

It was agreed that the Clerk will write to the Bowls Club confirming discussion and raising points regarding metering and any additional surface water drainage charges that may be incurred due to the irrigation system.

26/084 To confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 22nd July 2026. All agreed that the Chair be authorised to sign the minutes of the monthly council meeting held on 22nd July 2026 as being a true and correct record.

26/085 Chair's Report – A planning application has been submitted to reduce the lower limbs of the Copper Beech, as they are resting on the Parish Rooms and there is a concern they will damage the roof. The Council will need to consider whether to appoint a contractor or whether it is safe for the works to be undertaken by Councillors.

The Chair stated that he had had 2 meetings with the Rotary Club and has put together a schedule outlining roles, expectations, and Council responsibilities for agreement.

A meeting with East Midlands in Bloom (EMIB) also took place regarding the seed mix required to create the wildflower meadow in the churchyard. EMIB feel that the quantity of seeds purchased is not sufficient, however the Parish Council wants to see how the seeds take before committing more money to the project.

Discussions on dog/litter bins with Little Eaton Greenway Volunteers also took place.

It was also noted that the Chair and Councillor Shankland had completed the Clerk's annual review and that the Clerk wished to trial dedicated working hours of 3pm - 5pm each day. Urgent matters can still be posted on WhatsApp and the Clerk will respond.

It was also agreed that a village walk-round will be arranged to help familiarise the Clerk with local site names.

To receive updates on actions from the Minutes

25/176 The refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion - No update.

26/042 to consider the feasibility of adding the old Village Green at the junction of Station Road and Duffield Road to the Parish Council's maintenance schedule – It was **agreed** to see if the grass gets cut next spring before deciding any further action.

26/073 It was **agreed** to adopt the Churchyard Risk Assessment with the following amendment.

That trees and vegetation will be informally inspected annually or following a storm by a suitably trained Councillor. Formal arboricultural inspection will take place every five years by a qualified professional.

It was also **agreed** that Councillor Reid will attend the next available DALC training on tree inspections.

26/086 Report of the Parish Clerk – The External Auditors have now finished their review of the AGAR and have noted an exception on Section 3, that ‘The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The smaller authority has not restated the prior year’s figure when revaluing assets in Section 2, Box 9. Please note that the Practitioners’ Guide allows smaller authorities to use any reasonable valuation method, provided that the prior year figure is restated for consistency and comparability.’

The end of Audit documentation is now available to view on the website.

26/087 To receive Working Group Feedback (except if the issue is elsewhere on agenda):

- **Village Hall**
 - Disabled parking bays are being misused. The Clerk will write to the sports clubs using the park facilities reminding them that they must display their blue badges if using the disabled bays. The lines on the disabled bays are also worn, and quotes will be obtained for repainting them.
 - The committee are currently seeking quotes for repainting the lower hall.
- **Park Group**
 - Basket swing has been installed and is a welcome piece of additional equipment for the playground. The contractor has also improved the drainage in the tunnel, so hopefully it won’t be so muddy this winter.
 - The slide is still out of order whilst we await the availability of the blacksmith.
 - The new litter bins have been installed and are working well.
 - The holes in the Thomas Bates memorial have been filled with cement.
- **Churchyard Sub-Group**
 - The Chair has spoken with the Rotary Club, who have said that they want to concentrate on the lower section of the churchyard. They are happy to look at tidying around the graves and they have started clearing the ivy from around the wall. They also have 20,000 crocus bulbs to be planted.
 - It has been requested that the contractor mows more paths to the graves next year.
 - Currently looking at the possibility of a drainage channel to divert water from the steep part of the path.
 - Weeds on the path will be managed with an eco-weedkiller.
 - A 55m stretch of the wall on Vicarage Lane needs rebuilding and this will need to be built into the budget. The chair will arrange for a few stonewallers to provide quotes. The Chair has a contact who has recently attended a stonewalling course who has said that they will help, free of charge, with a small section of the wall.
- **Finance**
 - A meeting to review the first half year actual income and expenditure against budget will be held in October. This will include an element of budget preparation for 2027/28 budget.
- **Environmental Action Group**
 - Volunteers did an excellent job of keeping the trees on Millenium Way watered during the hot dry summer.
 - There were no members of the public at the last litter pick, which was disappointing.
- **Footpaths** – no progress

26/088 Finance –

(i) Payments for April totalling £10,343.35 were circulated to members for approval. All **agreed** that the payments be approved and the accounts to which they relate paid.

Name	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
LEVH	Youth Café - July	£69.00	£0.00	£69.00
LEVH	Parish Council Monthly meeting	£23.00	£0.00	£23.00
Waterplus	Water - July	£224.69	£27.56	£252.25
G Turner	Clerk's August Salary (Net of tax)	£625.38	£0.00	£625.38

Name	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
G Turner	Clerk's pay award backpay (Apr-Jul) net	£78.95	£0.00	£78.95
HMRC	Employee's Tax & NI	£176.20	£0.00	£176.20
HMRC	Employer's NIC	£69.53	£0.00	£69.53
HM Land Registry	Purchase of Title Deed Land to North of The Town	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00
J W Cleaning	Pavilion toilet cleaning August	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
Waterplus	Water - August	£224.69	£27.56	£252.25
B&Q	No Glyphosate weed killer	£53.32	£10.66	£63.98
Boston Seeds	Wildflower seeds for churchyard	£22.50	£4.49	£26.99
Playbuild Projects Ltd	Accessibility Swing	£4,550.00	£910.00	£5,460.00
Derby Garden Centre	Compost for planer outside Pharmacy	£50.00	£10.00	£60.00
Huws Gray	Cement for litter bins installation	£6.99	£1.40	£8.39
Toolstation	Screws for litter bins installation	£6.12	£1.23	£7.35
PKF Littlejohn	Annual External Audit	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
G Turner	Clerk's September Salary (Net of tax)	£625.53	£0.00	£625.53
HMRC	Employee's Tax & NI	£156.20	£0.00	£156.20
HMRC	Employer's NIC	£54.71	£0.00	£54.71
Toolstation	Padlocks for park x 2	£22.38	£4.48	£26.86
East Midlands Lawn Care Co	Churchyard Maintenance 31/07,28/08,11/09	£369.00	£73.80	£442.80
East Midlands Lawn Care Co	Millenium Way 31/07,28/08,11/09	£387.00	£77.40	£464.40
East Midlands Lawn Care Co	Park & Verge 31/07,28/08,11/09	£984.00	£196.80	£1,180.80
East Midlands Lawn Care Co	Car Park Maintenance	£61.50	£12.30	£73.80
		£9,362.69	£1,460.68	£10,823.37

26/089 Planning Applications dealt with during the summer break.

PA/2026/0474 – Land to the North of 41 to 45 Vicarage Lane, Little Eaton – Development of 1 to 2 dwellings. Objection to the grant of Permission in Principle (see Erewash Borough Council's planning portal for further details).

PA/2026/0472 - Eaton Bank, Little Eaton - Variation of Condition 3 (materials) of planning application

PA/2026/0088 to allow for a change of external materials. No objection as the new material suggestions are in keeping with recent developments.

CD8/0726/16 - Little Eaton Branch Line Greenway from the village of Little Eaton (south) to the village of Rawson Green (north). Part of the Key Cycle Network - Section 73 to vary Conditions 3 (Landscaping Details) and 17 (Landscape and Biodiversity Enhancement and Management Plan) of planning permission CD8/1123/37. No objection.

26/090 To discuss preliminary arrangements for Advent Windows– Councillors Rowlinson and Shankland stated that they are willing to co-ordinate the advent windows again this year, if sufficient people are interested. They will also do the advent window for the Village Hall.

26/091 To consider the replacement of the flag at St Peter's Park with a more durable option – The Chair proposed that the Council purchase two hand-sewn flags (Union Flag and Derbyshire Flag) at a cost of £112.50. All agreed.

26/078 To review the Churchyard Maintenance Schedule – see churchyard sub-group above.

26/079 To review the St Peter's Park's Byelaws – The current byelaws for St Peter's Park were circulated to members. It was agreed that, having been adopted in the 1980s, they were now outdated and should be updated to include e-scooters etc.

It was agreed that the Clerk will circulate an amended version of the byelaws to members for review and comments on by 19th October.

It was unclear whether the Council could apply to amend the byelaws under The Byelaws (Alternative Procedures (England) Regulations 2016 procedure and County Councillor Hart will seek clarification from DCC's Legal Department.

26/080 To consider 'no overnight parking' signage at St Peter's Park car park - It was agreed that this item will be deferred until the barrier is operating correctly. Councillor Ried will provide the barrier operation manual to the Village Hall Committee so that the Caretaker can familiarise himself with its use.

26/081 To review the grit, litter and dog waste bins audit conducted by Councillor Caines – Councillor Caines circulated a schedule of the different types of bins in the parish together with a map of their location.

It was noted that there are a couple of green grit bins that do not appear to belong to either the Parish or Council Councils.

It was felt that additional litter bins should be located close the Greenway as the County Council does not intend to provide any and would prefer to encourage users to take their litter home. Possibly sites for litter bins are; Duffield Road, Toad Lane, middle of Barley Close and the entrance via the flats. This will depend on whether Erewash Borough Council are able to add the locations to their bin emptying round.

The possibility of placing signs on the Greenway near the exists highlighting the location of the nearest bin was also discussed.

Resolved:

- (1) Clerk to confirm the type and cost of the litter bins that EBC are willing to empty.
- (2) Chair to circulate proposed locations for new litter bins
- (3) Clerk to request that the DCC grit bins are clearly labelled
- (4) The Council will use the same type of labelling to label its grit bins
- (5) To look into creating a QR code linked to the bins map

26/082 To consider Snow Warden scheme for 2026/27 – County Councillor Hart was asked whether the Snow Warden Scheme would continue for 2026/2027. Councillor Hart confirmed that it would be running and that she would find out when the emails inviting Councils to join would be circulated.

In the meantime, it was **resolved** to ask Elliott Poyser-Darby if he will be willing to continue to act as Snow Warden for 2026/27.

26/083 To consider applying for match funding from the National Lottery Awards for All grant scheme towards the St Peter's Park refurbishments – It was agreed to apply to the National Lottery Awards for All scheme for funding towards some playground improvements at the park and also to apply to EBC's Village Investment Fund for monies towards the accessible toilets.

26/084 Correspondence for Action

Flooding - email received from DCC offering 1,000 empty sandbags and 2 tonnes of sand – It was noted that the Council has sufficient empty sandbags but resolved to accept the offer of the 2 tonnes of sand.

Email from Jonathan Davies MP regarding noise and other antisocial behaviour being experienced by residents on Park Close, from St Peter's Park car park - It was agreed to work towards reinstating the barrier to reduce late-night vehicle access.

26/085 Correspondence for Information

Email from a resident concerned about reckless cycling on the Greenway. Response from DCC that they will monitor the activity on the trail and make adjustments if it is found to be necessary. They will also position some 'Share with care' messages on the signposts and at entrances.

It was noted that the government has announced a review of the national Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Programme. As part of this, plans to create 2 new unitary councils in Derbyshire have been paused.

There will be a temporary road closure on Alfreton Road, Little Eaton on 28th October 2026 to 29th October 2026 between 8pm and 6am, to facilitate cyclical maintenance of the A38 Little Eaton Roundabout. ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: A38 J A61/B6179 Roundabout, Alfreton Road, To B6179 Derby Road, B6179 Alfreton Road and vice versa.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.