



ECCLESFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Ecclesfield Parish Council

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Public Participation Session

Prior to the formal commencement of the meetings two Chair's awards were made. These were to Alan Turner (Ecclesfield Bowling Club) and Robert Birch (Friends of Ecclesfield Park) for their tremendous dedication and support with the highly successful events that took place on the Thursday May 8 May 2025 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day. They were presented by the Chair of Ecclesfield Parish Council, Councillor Susan Davidson.

This was followed by an opportunity for any members of the public to ask any questions of the Council. A resident asked and expressed concern about the proposed development of a field in the Green Belt as an allotment site by 'Roots Allotments' in the Parish. He said that there should be proper scrutiny of the impact of this and other similar development through the planning process, especially as there were some grey areas in respect of whether allotment sites require planning approval, grey areas which were causing uncertainty and in some cases tensions for residents. He also suggested that Sheffield City Council should issue an Article 4 Direction (which would require that any proposal for new or expanded allotments sites obtain planning permission first). It was noted that this issue was to be formally discussed at item 41.

Minutes of Meeting of Ecclesfield Parish Council held on Thursday 3rd July 2025 at the Council Offices, High Green

The meeting commenced: 7.15 pm - concluded: 8.20 pm

Councillors Present. Susan Davidson (Chair), Victoria Bowden, (Vice-Chair) Andy Bainbridge, Denise Fearnley, Kate Guest, John Housley, Adam Hurst, Alan Hooper, Carol Levery, Mike Levery, Michael Morrissey, Rob Riess, Thomas Sturgess and Alan Woodcock.

Absent Councillors. Dr. John Bowden

Officers. Andrew Towlerton – Parish Clerk/RFO and Laura Tickle – Administration and Financial Officer

Members of the Public. One

Chair's Announcement

The Chair, Councillor Susan Davidson, opened the meeting. She outlined the procedures to ensure that they was effective and lawful.

<u>2025/32 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 32: Apologies and Reasons for Absence</u> It was reported that one had been received from Councillor Dr John Bowden. Proposed by Councillor Thomas Sturgess, seconded by Councillor Denise Fearnley and RESOLVED: That the apology and reason given for absence by Councillor Dr. John Bowden be approved. <i>(14 in favour)</i>
<u>2025/33 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 33: Declarations of Interests</u> Councillor Susan Davison declared an interest in item 41 'Proposed allotment site by Roots Allotments at Loicher Lane'. She stated that she would not partake in discussions and would leave the room when this item was being discussed.
<u>2025/34 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 34: Exclusion of Press and Public</u> It was considered that there were no items on the agenda that required the exclusion of the press and public.
	Proposed by Councillor Alan Hooper, seconded by Councillor Adam Hurst and RESOLVED: That item 41 Proposed allotment site by Roots Allotments at Loicher Lane should be moved further up the agenda for consideration and discussed after Item 34. <i>(14 in favour)</i>
<u>2025/35 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 35: Council Minutes</u> These were considered. a) Proposed by Councillor Thomas Sturgess, seconded by Councillor Alan Woodcock and RESOLVED: That the minutes of the special Full Council meeting held on 5th June 2025 be approved. <i>(14 in favour)</i> b) Proposed by Councillor Denise Fearnley, seconded by Councillor Carol Levery and RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 5th June 2025 be approved. <i>(14 in favour)</i>
<u>2025/36 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 36: Environmental Planning Committee Minutes</u> These were considered. Proposed by Councillor Thomas Sturgess, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge and RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Environmental Planning Committee meeting held on the 19th June 2025 be approved. <i>(14 in favour)</i> A verbal report was then provided by Councillor Thomas Sturgess (Vice-Chair) of the Environmental Planning Committee meeting that had taken place immediately before this meeting, which he had chaired. He noted that four planning applications had been considered. Also, that it had been noted of several recent planning decisions made by Sheffield City Council, including two refusals. Responses to complaints made by the Council to Network Rail and McDonald's had also been considered.

<u>2025/37 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 37: Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee Minutes</u> These were considered. Proposed by Councillor Kate Guest, seconded by Councillor Rob Reiss and RESOLVED: That a) The underspend from the 2024/2025 budget should be transferred to the 2025/2026 budget headings as follows: • Participatory Budgeting - £20,000 • Financial support/grants for specified community galas and fairs in the Parish - £5,000 (new budget heading) • Technical and other help in support of the Council's response to the Additional Sites Consultation - £10,000 (see also minute 2025/19b) • Staffing - £5,000 • Chapeltown Toilets (including a small unspecified amount for defibrillator maintenance) – £10,000 • New flagpole outside Council Offices - £1,000 (new budget heading) • Environmental projects (including new benches) - £5,000 • Town Crier Honorarium - £250 (new budget heading) • Chapeltown Toilet's earmarked reserves - £10,000. b) The Council opens a bank account with the Hinckley and Rugby Building Society and invests £85,000 in its Local Council 90 Day Notice Deposit Account. c) The Council invests a further £25,000 of its reserves with the CCLA Investment Management Limited Public Sector Deposit Fund. d) The Annual Schedule of Payments to be paid via Direct Debit or Bacs for 2025/2026 be approved. e) The Financial Regulations (2025) be approved. f) A grant of £819.98 be awarded to the High Green Scout Group towards the costs of 3 igloo cool boxes and Beefeater Clubman Catering Hot Plate. g) A grant of £925 be awarded to High Green in Bloom towards the "Party in the Park" to take place 30th August 2025 and this be funded from the proposed financial support/grants for specified community galas and fairs in the Parish budget. h) A grant of £420 be awarded to Grenoside PTA for inflatable hire (x2); generator hire and staff member to work the inflatable in respect of their Summer Fun Day on 11 July 2025. i) A grant of £930 be awarded to Chap Community Market CIC towards the specified activities in relation to 'Chapeltown by The Sea' to be held on the 23rd, 24th, 30th and 31st August 2025. j) The other minutes of the Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee held on 19th June 2025 be approved. <i>(14 in favour)</i> Councillor John Housley reported on the arrangements for dementia friendly training which was to take place remotely at 6.00 pm on Thursday 10th July 2025 (in furtherance of minute (2025/12 FP &S))
<u>2025/38 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 38: To consider and approve the relevant sections of the Annual Governance and Accountancy Return (AGAR) for 2024/2025</u> This was considered.

	a) Proposed by Councillor John Housley, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge and RESOLVED: That the Annual Internal Auditor report on page 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 be noted. (14 in favour) b) Proposed by Councillor John Housley, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge and RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement on page 4 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 be approved. (14 in favour) c) Proposed by Councillor John Housley, seconded by Councillor Andy Bainbridge and RESOLVED: That the Statement of Accounts on page 5 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025 be approved. (14 in favour)
<u>2024/39 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 39: To note the arrangements for the public inspection of accounts for the year ending 2025 under The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (as amended)</u> The Clerk reported that the Public Inspection of Accounts would commence on Monday 1st July 2024 and end on Monday 11th August 2025.
<u>2025/40 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 40: Payments for Approval</u> A verbal and written report was provided. It was noted that there were no payments that required formal approval, as all had been made under delegated powers. Proposed by Councillor Carol Levery, seconded by Councillor Alan Woodcock and RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments for approvals between 1st June 2025 and 30th June 2025 be approved. (14 in favour)
<u>2025/41 (FC)</u>	<u>2025/41 (FC). Proposed allotment site by Roots Allotments at Loicher Lane</u> The Clerk highlighted correspondence that the Council had received from a local resident concerning the above. A detailed discussion then took place on this. Councillor Thomas Sturgess agreed to contact North East Derbyshire District Council to seek their views as they are experiencing a similar issue with Roots Allotments. The general view was that the uncertainty in the planning rules about whether allotments and associated development required planning approval or not was an issue locally and nationally and any greyness and loopholes in the rules needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Proposed by Councillor Rob Reiss, seconded by Councillor Denise Fearnley and RESOLVED: That Ecclesfield Parish Council writes to Sheffield City Council formally requesting that they urgently implement a city-wide Article 4 Direction, which would require that planning permission is first obtained for the development of, or any expansion to, an allotment site within the City boundary. (13 in favour)
<u>2025/42 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 42: Sheffield Plan Additional Sites Consultation</u> The Clerk explained progress with formulating of the Council's response to this consultation. He explained that the consultation period at 6 weeks was very short especially in view of the complexity and importance of the consultation. He confirmed that all Councillors would be given the opportunity to contribute to the Council's response and

	would receive a copy of the final submission. As the deadline for submission (Friday 11 th July 2025) was before the next scheduled meeting of the Council, he and the Chair would be finalising the Council's final submission.
<u>2025/43 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 43: To receive an update on projects and activities</u> a) Ecclesfield Gardening Competition 2025 A verbal update was provided by Councillor John Housley. He explained that several applications had been received and set out the process for their judging. Adding that he and Councillor Michael Morrissey would be on the judging panel. b) Participatory Budgeting 2025 Councillor Susan Davidson provided a verbal report on progress with the arrangements for this. She reminded members that the deadline was the end of the month.
<u>2025/44(FC)</u>	<u>Item 44: To receive a verbal report from Councillor representatives (by exception) on outside bodies, as appropriate</u> • Ann Reresby Trust (Council representatives Councillors Andy Bainbridge and Denise Fearnley) • Ecclesfield Charities (Council representative Councillor Kate Guest) • Ecclesfield and District Archives project (Council representatives Councillors Andy Bainbridge, Dr. John Bowden, Victoria Bowden and Susan Davidson). • Grenoside Advisory Body (Council representatives Councillors Alan Hooper and Adam Hurst). • Grenoside Exhibition Foundation Charity (all Councillors). Councillor Susan Davidson reported that the application to the Land Registry to expedite the application had been successful. • Sheffield City Council's North Sheffield Local Area Committee (Council representative Councillor Adam Hurst). It was reported that the next meeting of the LAC was on the evening of the 15th July in Stocksbridge. • Sheffield City Council Standards Committee (Council representative Councillor Rob Reiss). • Steel Valley Project (Council representatives Councillor Rob Reiss and Councillor Michael Morrissey). It was reported that Councillor Michael Morrissey was stepping down as the Council's (joint) representative on this body. • Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (Council representative Councillor Thomas Sturges).
<u>2025/45 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 45: Correspondence</u> The various correspondence highlighted was noted and discussed.
<u>2025/46 (FC)</u>	<u>Item 46: Date and Time of Future Meetings</u> It was confirmed that the next: • Environmental Planning Committee Delegated Powers is scheduled for Thursday 24th July 2025 at 6.00 pm to be held remotely.

	• Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 24th July 2025 at 7.00 pm at the Council Offices. • Environmental Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4th September 2025 at 6.30 pm at the Council Offices. • Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 4th September 2025 at 7.15 pm at the Council Offices. • Finance, Premises and Staffing Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th September 2025 at 7.00 pm at the Council Offices.
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