



# EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Parish Meeting held at  
Eynsham Village Hall, 19:30pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026

## MINUTES

This meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Cllr Ross Macken, Chair of Eynsham Parish Council and attended by approximately sixty-five members of the community including representatives from twenty-eight local organisations, businesses and parish councillors and officers

The formal meeting started at 19:40 and closed at 20:00

**1 Welcome from the Chairman** – Cllr Macken welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2 To approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 4th March 2025** – The minutes were approved and signed by Cllr Macken.

**3 To receive an update from the Chairman** – Cllr Macken gave a summary of key topics:

- a) Highlights – new kitchen installed in Village Hall and welcomed attendees to take a look; the council briefly reached its capacity of fifteen councillors in December 2025. Sarah Brown replaced Rachel Brown as the Responsible Finance Officer, the council undertook health and safety and fire risk assessments and continue to progress remedial work to ensure compliance with legislation. The council adopted a new Strategic Plan.
- b) New Councillors – The council welcomed Charles Amos, Jon Crowe, Lucy Dickinson, Jovan Lee-Roles and Annika Ramen. There remain three vacancies and anyone who is interested were invited to speak to any councillor or officer to find out more.
- c) Challenges in 2025-26 – the council had struggled with unexpected spending and have used reserves to manage this. The council had funded additional work during the Village Hall kitchen upgrade, LED lighting. Unexpected repairs and replacement equipment in Dovehouse Play Area has resulted in a partial closure whilst external funding is found. The dipping platform in the Fishponds needed to be replaced. The heating system and showers in the Sports Pavilion had to be replaced and fire doors, emergency lighting and new alarms were all required.

A replacement Sports Pavilion has been in the pipeline for many years, but is currently not achievable, so the council have reviewed its position and are looking at a refurbishment.

Some of this work has resulted in delays to other projects, which are now being progressed, this includes the Art Trail and Neighbourhood Plan.

- d) Budget – The council has had to review its VAT position and has sought independent advice. The council will not need to become VAT registered but are exceeding the VAT reclaim thresholds, which will have an impact on how much VAT it can reclaim in the future, which will have an impact on the budget. Alongside this the council, is experiencing increased costs for products and services, but it is trying to avoid cutting services and have delayed some project work. Further details of the budget, income and expenditure was available on the council display boards and website.
- e) 2026-27 – The council aims to deliver a new Art Trail, Pavilion upgrades, progress the burial ground and support the community in writing an Emergency Plan.
- f) Developments – Eynsham is facing a period of change and housing development. Cllr Macken gave a brief summary of the following:

-Salt Cross Garden Village, despite a legal challenge the Area Action Plan has been approved, and the development will aim to deliver high quality, low carbon homes. It is

expected that a planning application will be made shortly by the developers.

-West Eynsham Strategic Development Area – the site will benefit from improved access via the A40 improvements, with access to this and Salt Cross via new junctions further west, off the A40.

-A40 Improvements. OCC are awaiting approval for the project that will link the Eynsham Park and Ride to the Wolvercote Roundabout with new bus lanes and improved walking and cycling provision. The project has been scaled back and will utilise the existing spaces, with a reduced impact on flora and fauna. Contractors will be based out of the Park & Ride site. The project team are engaging with the parish council on a monthly basis and will expand their engagement with the community, once approval has been granted.

-Botley West Solar Farm – awaiting decisions from Westminster

-Neighbourhood Plan Update. The council are finalising the draft for initial consultation later this year. We do expect there to be a referendum.

**4 Q & A** – No questions were raised

**5 Closing remarks and thanks** – Cllr Macken thanked everyone for attending and invited attendees to chat with councillors and officers, to visit each of the stands and to enjoy some free refreshments.

The evening continued with opportunities to browse the stands and displays from local organisations and businesses, and refreshments supplied by Eynsham Parish Council.