EDMONDSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Edmondsley Parish Council held on

3 September 2026 at 6:30pm

Present: G Wheatley (Chairman), A Bell, J Curry, and A Hodgson

Also in attendance – Sarah Gemmell (Parish Clerk), Cllr Tim Robson (DCC) and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence:

All members present. Cllrs Armstrong and MacAlister have submitted their resignations – Clerk to inform electoral services.

2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interest:

Cllr Wheatley has dispensation in place to speak during items involving the allotments.

3. Questions from members of the public:

- A resident mentioned a recent incident where fire engines had difficulty turning in Jubilee Close due to parking issues.
- A resident mentioned that they had difficulty in sending an email to the Council, and that a Councillor's address was out of date on the Council's website. The Clerk confirmed that the email account is working, and that the website would be updated in due course.

4. Police Report:

No police report was received.

5. Minutes of Council Meeting:

Resolved: The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 July 2026 were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that:

- Fibre broadband has now been installed at the Parish Hall.
- CiLCA – the Clerk has now completed her CiLCA course and is now qualified.
- Smart Meter installation – this has been scheduled for 4th September.
- Allotment wall – work scheduled to begin 12th October.
- Fire servicing – the annual fire equipment servicing has taken place.
- No smoking/vaping signs for the hall have been ordered.
- A database of resident queries has been created to help with progress tracking.

7. Parish Matters and on-going items

a) Planning applications

- No applications to consider.

b) To consider any planning applications received after the agenda was published.

- No applications to consider.

c) Allotments / Leisure Gardens

Cllr Wheatley gave an update:

- A plot holder asked if the Council would pay for pest control on his plot. Cllr Robson stated that DCC are currently tackling rats in the area and may be able to help. Cllr Robson to send a form.

d) County Councillors update

Cllr Robson gave an update:

- New fencing has been installed on Daisy Hill.
- There was an enquiry about public footpaths where new houses are being built at Heugh Edge. It has been confirmed that there is no public right of way.
- The old Fyndoune school will become a new SEND school.
- Cllr Wheatley enquired about the plot of land at the bottom of Braeside where building work has been taking place. Cllr Robson to enquire.

- Requested that any drug related incidents be reported to Cllr Robson anonymously.

e) Quarterly Accounts

The Council reviewed the quarterly accounts for the period April – June.

Resolved: The quarterly accounts for the period April – June were approved.

f) General Power of Competence

Following the recent obtaining of the CiLCA qualification by the Clerk, the Council considered its eligibility to exercise the General Power of Competence.

Resolved: The Council resolved to adopt the General Power of Competence.

g) Youth Club

The Council discussed a proposal by Sacriston Youth Project to start a weekly Youth Club at the Parish Hall.

Resolved: It was agreed that Sacriston Youth Project can run a weekly Youth Club from the Parish Hall, and the room hire charges will be waived. It was confirmed that Sacriston Youth Project will be solely responsible for the organisation and running of the Youth Club, including insurance and DBS requirements.

h) Room Hire Charges

The Council reviewed the room hire charges for the Parish Hall.

Resolved: It was agreed that the hire charge for the Parish Hall should be amended to £25 for the first hour, then £5 for each subsequent hour. A deposit of £25 will be taken.

i) Grass Cutting

The Council discussed whether changes to the grass cutting arrangements at the Parish Hall should be made.

Resolved: It was agreed that going forward, instead of an annual contract, the Council will arrange grass cutting as and when required. Estimates to be obtained for a price per cut.

j) Chairs for Parish Hall

The Council discussed the possibility of purchasing additional chairs for the Parish Hall.

Resolved: It was agreed that 40 additional chairs are required. Clerk to obtain costs.

k) New Gate

The Council discussed whether a new gate should be purchased for the Parish Hall.

Resolved: It was agreed that a new gate should be purchased.

l) Tommy & Poppies

The Council discussed whether a 'Tommy' silhouette should be purchased and installed in the Parish, and whether lamppost poppies should be purchased.

Resolved: It was agreed that a 'Tommy' silhouette should be purchased and installed, and potential locations were identified. It was agreed that lamppost poppies should be purchased. The Clerk advised that due to the high costs involved, the Council would not be able to afford to do this in the current financial year, but that there may be funding available. It was agreed that the Clerk should apply for funding for the project.

m) Big Autumn Clean

The Council discussed whether it should take part in the Big Autumn Clean.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Council would take part, and a date and time of 13th September at 11am was set.

n) Laptop

The Council discussed whether a new laptop should be purchased, as the current one is broken.

Resolved: It was agreed that a new laptop should be purchased, and a budget of £600 was set.

o) Policies

- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Press & Media Policy
- Public Filming Policy

Resolved: The above polices were reviewed and adopted.

p) Events

The Council discussed final plans for the Halloween events, and draft plans for the Christmas events.

Resolved: The plans for the Halloween Craft Session and Halloween Children's Party were finalised. Clerk to book disco and order party bags. Draft plans for the Senior's Christmas Lunch and Children's Christmas Disco were created. Singer to be arranged, and Clerk to book disco and buffet.

q) Correspondence

- Email from a former resident regarding the history of Edmondsley.

Resolved: The correspondence was noted.

r) Correspondence since agenda was published (for information only):

- None received

s) Urgent issues for noting (the Clerk to use delegated powers) and any items Councillors wish to agenda for next meeting.

- No issues to note

8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Payments - The following amounts were noted and approved:

- That the sum of £831.70 be paid for staffing costs
- That the sum of £6.49 be paid to HP instant Ink – monthly print plan July
- That the sum of £5.00 be paid to Lebara – mobile phone plan July
- That the sum of £135.00 be paid to Good Time Inflatables – bouncy castle hire
- That the sum of £174.14 be paid to E.On – monthly gas direct debit July
- That the sum of £97.86 be paid to E.On – monthly electricity direct debit July
- That the sum of £17.00 be paid to Anglian Water – monthly water direct debit July
- That the sum of £150.00 be paid to Samuel Falkous – newsletter printing
- That the sum of £13.59 be paid to Amazon – laminator
- That the sum of £6.49 be paid to HP instant Ink – monthly print plan August
- That the sum of £5.00 be paid to Lebara – mobile phone plan August
- That the sum of £120.00 be paid to Rachael Mangles – face painting
- That the sum of £89.59 be paid to Churches Fire & Security – fire equipment servicing
- That the sum of £174.14 be paid to E.On – monthly gas direct debit August
- That the sum of £97.86 be paid to E.On – monthly electricity direct debit August
- That the sum of £17.00 be paid to Anglian Water – monthly water direct debit August
- That the sum of £48.90 be paid to G Wheatley – parish hall supplies

Receipts – that the following amounts were noted:

- That the sum of £25.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £30.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £65.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £20.00 was received from G Wheatley – room hire
- That the sum of £250.00 was received from Haven Insurance – return of insurance excess

9. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 5 November 2026 at 6:30pm

Meeting terminated at 20:09pm

Chairman

Date