

East Keswick Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2026, 6.30pm at East Keswick Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Batty (Chair), Evans, Waterfield
Clerk: Cruse

Residents Forum: None

1. Public Forum

None.

2. Apologies

Received from Cllrs Bailey, Ballmann, Clarke and Cunliffe.

RESOLVED to approve reasons for Cllrs Bailey, Ballmann, Clarke and Cunliffe's absence.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2026-2027

RESOLVED to re-appoint Cllr Batty as Chair and Cllr Waterfield as Vice-Chair

4. Declarations of Interest

None

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2026.

6. Clerk Report

6.1 Policy Updates

Cllrs discussed the Social Media Policy. Two key areas raised were content moderation and official Cllr profiles.

On content moderation; the need to remove comments that insulted residents and showed political bias were discussed and it was agreed that, whilst engagement should be encouraged, the Parish Council's social media pages should be friendly and non-political, thus such posts should be removed.

The voluntary use of official profiles for Cllrs that wished to post was also agreed to be a useful tool to help distinguish between official announcements and personal opinions.

RESOLVED to approve the Social Media Policy.

6.2 Intimidation of Council Employees

Clerk reported that West Yorkshire Police (WYP) advised that the Parish Council should handle such issues as personnel matters in the first instance if not reporting as a crime (ref. 0426/5.3).

In order to resolve the underlying issue of obstructive parking WYP would put on extra patrols through the village and speak to offenders, as well as asking for instances to be reported when occurring.

Parking restrictions were also discussed as a potential requirement, given the dangers of stationary vehicles in the road on a blind corner, in line with the existing 1985 Leeds City Council (LCC) planning department ruling refusing parking at Orchard Cottage.

RESOLVED to speak to LCC about reviewing parking restrictions on the stretch of Main Street between Lumby Lane and Moor Lane.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would continue to report obstructive parking in the village as advised.

6.3 YLCA Branch Representation

Clerk reported that YLCA had requested 2 Cllrs be chosen as representatives for the Parish Council at YLCA Branch meetings, as part of the YLCA membership. The next Leeds Branch meeting is on Thursday 18th June.

RESOLVED that Cllr Batty and Cllr Waterfield would be representatives in the first instance.

6.4 Neighbourhood Plan

Awaiting feedback on the Consultation Statement from Leeds City Council (LCC).

Clerk noted that work on the Leeds Local Plan (LLP) was causing delays for Neighbourhood Plan projects and updates would be given at the upcoming June Outer North East Parish Council Forum.

6.5 Sports Field

Clerk reported that two football clubs were interested in using the Sports Field and exploratory meetings were to be set up with both of them.

Clerk informed that a surveyor had been contacted about potential fees and quotes were due.

Clerk reported that Leeds Super Kings (LSK) had successfully applied for grants to purchase new groundcare equipment and were in the process of securing grants for pavilion refurbishment.

It was agreed that the Parish Council cover the cost of outfield mowing for the season (£1500-£1700), as requested by LSK.

RESOLVED that Clerk would organise exploratory meetings with the interested clubs and Parish Cllrs.

RESOLVED that Parish Council would pay the outfield mowing invoices for the 2026 season.

6.6 The Sports Association

Awaiting update on the amended deeds from HartLaw.

6.7 Roads and Highways

Clerk reported that resident complaints about potholes on Lumby Lane had been received, noted and residents were requested to report the issue to LCC.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would add to Road Repair Register

Clerk reported that East Keswick Wildlife Trust (EKWT) had raised concerns about the overweighted, listing Scots Pine in the grounds of Linden House and how it posed a threat to life on the junction and for neighbouring properties if it came down. EKWT informed that such trees have shallow roots and a dry summer could lead to it coming down.

RESOLVED that Clerk would speak to the owners of Linden House in the first instance and check protocol with LCC for managing such an issue.

6.8 Playground Equipment

Clerk reported that the new equipment was installed and in use.

It was noted that residents had raised issues with the state of the picnic benches and it was agreed to look into refurbishment costs.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would speak to Matt Harrison about potential repair work.

6.9 Keswick Marsh Bridge

It was reported that the bridge replacement work had been successfully completed.

6.10 The Village Litter Pick

To be discussed further at a future meeting.

7. Members' Report

7.1 Stile Wear on footpath behind The Grove

Awaiting updates.

7.2 The Duke of Wellington English Heritage listing

Awaiting updates

8. Matters Requested by Councillors

8.2 Annual Parish Walk

Cllr Batty suggested Wednesday 22nd July as the date for the long walk. Cllr Bailey would be consulted on a suitable date for the short walk.

RESOLVED that Clerk would liaise with Cllr Bailey, confirm dates and share details for promoting to residents.

9. Planning Applications

9.1 For Consideration

None.

9.2 Decisions made by LCC

26/00620/FU	Barn West of Moor Lane	Refused
26/01650/CLP	11 The Paddock	Approved

10. Financial Matters

10.1 Bank Account Balances

Community Account	£186.74
Sports Association Account	£5.45
Savings Account	£55,289.84

9.2 Accounts for Payment

The lists of payments from 20th April to 18th May 2026 were presented.

RESOLVED to approve the lists of payments, see Appendix 1.

RESOLVED to transfer £7,500 from Savings to Community account and £450 from Savings to Sports Association account to cover monthly outgoings.

9.3 2025-26 AGAR

Clerk informed that the 2024-25 AGAR review had been completed and approved.

Clerk presented the completed 2025-26 AGAR for approval.

Cllrs approved the forms for submission and the Chair signed them off. Concerns were raised over VAT registration and Cllr Batty requested organising a meeting with the local VAT officer if correspondence and phone calls with HMRC were not yielding a result.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would submit the 2025-26 AGAR to the External Auditor and publish the notice for the exercise of public rights to run from 3rd June to 14th July.

RESOLVED that the Clerk would contact the local VAT office and organise a meeting.

11. Matters for Inclusion

Cllr Batty requested an item on the Christmas Lights Ceremony.

11. Next Meeting

RESOLVED that the next ordinary meeting would take place on Tuesday 16th June 2026 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

These minutes were recorded and prepared by O Cruse, Clerk.

Appendix 1

Payments Made: May 2026

To Whom	Amount	Invoice Number	Account	EKPC Code	Authorised By
EK Village Hall	£54	26044	Community	E	Cllr Waterfield
PKF Littlejohn	£252	20243348	Community	I	Cllr Waterfield
Parish Clerk	£459.60		Community	A	Cllr Waterfield
Kompan	£2,506.96	268837	Community	Q	Cllr Waterfield
Parker Hartley & Co	£300	48750	Community	H	Cllr Waterfield
Xero	£44.40		Community	K	Direct Debit
Bedford Mowing Services	£453.60	36071	Sports Assn	M	Cllr Waterfield

Account Transfers Made: May 2026

From	To	Amount	Transferred By
Savings	Community	£7,500	Clerk
Savings	Sports Association	£450	Clerk