



EGGLESCLIFFE & EAGLESCLIFFE COUNCIL

Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Parish Council (EEC) is a non-political local authority at “grass roots” level. The Council has no party line to adhere to, nor is it connected with any Christian church. The full council consists of 13 members between Eaglescliffe East and Eaglescliffe West, however we are currently short of members.

Councillors:

- Are purely volunteers and receive no payment or attendance allowances for attending meetings, or for carrying out any other Parish Council duties.
- Are normally elected for four years at a time in the same way as district councils, or they may be co-opted to the council.
- Must complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office thereby providing a written undertaking to accept the Code of Conduct adopted by the council which requires them to behave in an ethical way, to declare an interest when necessary on any item of business to be discussedⁱ and register any gift or hospitality received which is worth more than £50
- Are summoned to attend meetings and need to give apologies if they are unable to attend for any reason.
- Contribute to the work of the council by voting to enable the council to make decisions.

Council meetings are usually held on the 1st Thursday of the month, except in August – the summer recess. Meeting dates are subject to change to allow for holidays, quorum problems etc. Meetings are open to the press and public and start at 7pm prompt in the meeting room at All Saints Church, Dunnotar Avenue, Eaglescliffe. Occasionally there are pre-meetings/ discussions with local authority officers, local police etc.

Agendas & papers for council meetings are prepared and emailed by the Clerk to members on the Thursday or Friday before the meeting. The first May meeting, except in an election year, is the Annual Meeting of the Council when election of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and committees etc. takes place. Traditionally the Chairman and Vice Chairman preside for two years and the outgoing Vice-Chairman is usually appointed as the next Chairman.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Assembly (APM), followed by the Chairman’s Social Evening, is usually held at Egglecliffe Community Centre in late April. Councillors report on the work of the council during the past year; residents have the opportunity to put questions to the Councillors and air their views on any topic which concerns them. Egglecliffe Village and Eliff’s Mill allotment awards and the Parish Council Community Awards are presented at the meeting. Guest speakers are invited to the meeting to update residents on local issues. The Chairman’s Social Evening afterwards gives residents the opportunity to join councillors for light refreshments and a chance to chat informally with Councillors.

The council runs a committee system, sharing the workload between individual committees thus reducing pressure on the council. The length of council meetings is reduced as the council as a whole does not need to focus on multiple issues.

Committee meetings are arranged as and when required, between full Council meetings.

Occasionally, Committees meet immediately prior to the start of Council meetings.

Members of Committees are elected annually at the first meeting in May (Annual Meeting) meeting, a maximum of five Councillors on each Committee. Committee meetings are usually

held in the council office at The Old Offices, Urray Nook Road, Egglecliffe TS16 0LA, although during covid, they were held remotely. Introducing remote meetings is an option the government are continuing to explore allowing those with last minute issues with family/childcare or other commitments to at least log in and be involved in meetings.

Committees include:

Allotment Management Committee: manages the council's two allotment sites, Egglecliffe Village and Eliff's Mill at Urray Nook. The committee has, for several now years run the allotments on a self funding basis and required no additional funding from the council. The committee usually meets twice a year and endeavours to inspect both sites on a monthly basis

Finance Committee: takes a major role in managing the council's expenditure, finance policies and regulations meeting two or three times a year. In October the Committee goes through routine expenditure and makes budget recommendations for approval by full Council. In February the Committee: looks at the insurance renewal and premium to ensure everything is in order and the Council has adequate cover in place: reviews the council's Risk Management, Financial Regulations and internal audit procedures.

Public Relations Committee: usually meets twice a year to decide on content of the *Newsletter* for circulation throughout the Parish in spring and autumn. Members of the committee also write the articles for publication although the Clerk has editorial rights to ensure everything fits in the limited space. The PR Committee is also currently working with partners on the SDR200 celebrations to leave some permanent markers in the parish. The parish website and IT system is currently being updated 2025 too.

Recreation Committee: probably the busiest of the Committees and meets fairly frequently
Looks after:

- The four play areas – St Margaret's, Amberley Way, Leven Close & Kingsmead E&EC supplies and maintains all play equipment and safety surfacing. Most of the land is owned by Stockton Council and leased to E&EC. However, E&EC does own two small areas of land on which play equipment stands at Kingsmead.
- Memorial Garden, Egglecliffe) and Memorial Park, known as Tittybottle Park, Victoria Road (jointly owned with Preston Parish Council)
- QEII Garden, land at Urray Nook Road is leased from Network Rail.
- Recreation field, Durham Lane. Negotiations for a 25 year lease agreement were finalised in 2005 for junior club, Leven AFC, to take over complete management of this. The council has more recently been approached by Taylor Wimpey to lease part of the land to meet the off-site planning requirements for recreational facilities on the Allens West development.

The council also has several working parties including;

- The summer fete (Events) group which works with Egglecliffe Area Residents Association to plan the annual summer fete on Egglecliffe Village Green, this year being a special fete in September to celebrate the SDR200.
 - The Neighbourhood Plan group which is currently working to produce a plan for the parish, this is in its final stage of consultation ready for finalising the draft plan to submit to the Local Authority.
 - Road Safety Working Group set up to look at a 20mph proposal, speeding and road safety issues.
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