

ESCLUSHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes: Council Meeting Monday 13th March 2026

Present: Cllrs M. Pickering, M. Pritchard, J. Kelly, S. Love, G. Richards, J. Perkins, P Searle, C. Luckock, C. Badwick, N. Cargius, V. Morgan and the Clerk M. Andrew

AGENDA

PRELIMINARIES

FINANCE COMMITTEE (Agenda items)

1. Apologies - **N. Davies-Williams, D. Davies-Williams, G. Bellamy, S. Love, G. Blackmore**
2. Chair's announcements - **None**
3. Declarations of interest - **None**
4. Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 9th February 2026 - **Proposed P.S. Seconded J.K. Ratified unanimously**
5. Members' Items
 - a) Budget 2026-27 - to be circulated at the meeting - **Broad agreement just adjustments with play provision costings to be presented at next meeting. Action Clerk**
 - b) Audit Wales -

Audit opinion: Qualified

Except for the matters reported below in my Basis for Qualification, on the basis of my audit, in my opinion no matters have come to my attention to give cause for concern that, in any material respect, the information reported in this Annual Return:

- *has not been prepared in accordance with proper practices;*
- *that relevant legislative and regulatory requirements have not been met;*
- *is not consistent with the Council's governance arrangements; and*
- *that the Council does not have proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. **For information along with Audit Wales response and noted***

6. Bank Transactions

Premier A/C	Date	Exp	Inc	Balance
Transfer to c/a (online)	6-Jan-26	3,500.00		93,697.59
WCBC Hall hire	9-Jan-26		40.00	93,737.59
Interest	9-Jan-26		42.06	93,779.65
Transfer to c/a (online)	13-Jan-26	5,000.00		88,779.65
Transfer to c/a (online)	26-Jan-26	2,500.00		86,279.65
HMRC VAT	27-Jan-26		621.96	86,901.61
Transfer to c/a (online)	29-Jan-26	3,000.00		83,901.61
Transfer to c/a (online)	4-Feb-26	2,500.00		81,401.61
Interest	9-Feb-26		39.29	81,440.90
Transfer to c/a (online)	18-Feb-26	1,440.90		80,000.00
Transfer to c/a (online)	27-Feb-26	3,000.00		77,000.00

7. Cash Transactions

Petty Cash A/C	Date	Rec No	Exp	Inc	Balance	Bank
Opening Balance 1st April 2025					start 54.43	
Voucher for departing clerk	27-May-25		50.00		4.43	
Transfer from Imprest	27-May-25			130.00	134.43	
Purchase bouquet	10-Jun-25		15.00		119.43	
Chain of Office	19-Jun-25		60.00		59.43	
Katy Thomas (Bugler)	9-Nov-25		40.00		19.43	

8. Invoices/Quotations -

- a) Dog Bags - £149.76
- b) Cantab Electrical - £162.00 Xmas lights, £144.00 Emergency lights
- c) Pest Control - £90.00
- d) WCBC Play Services 2025-26 - £ 5,852.16
- e) WCBC School Crossing 2025-26 - £1,601.22 x 3 Q1,2,3 = £4,803.66
- f) Viking (Cleaning sundries) - £200.92
- g) Replacement security alarm - £900.00 (inc VAT)

All invoices were ratified unanimously by full council

9. Statement of Accounts

	Date of Statement	Current Balance/Cashbook
	05/02/2026	
Business Instant Account		£77,000.00
Current Account		£2,695.62
Imprest Account		£3,000.00
Petty Cash Account		<u>£19.43</u>
		£82,715.05

FYI: Online banking now in place for real time accounting reconciliation.

The situation regarding the **Trust fund** has been discussed at the RHPT meeting.

9. Budget Position: 05/03/2026

RCPTS & PYMNTS BUDGET ANALYSIS - ACT PAYMENTS Y/E 31 March 2026									BUDGET ANALYSIS	
			P Cash	Current	Imprest	Bus Sav	IR&NI	Total to Date	BUDGET	Variance
Expenditure										
VH Maintena nce	1.1	Employee Costs			25,945.83		239.83	26,185.66	26,500.00	314.34
	1.2	Power		9,530.17				9,530.17	12,000.00	2,469.83
	1.3	Repairs		1,083.85	0.00			1,083.85	1,500.00	416.15
	1.4	Waste		1,800.54				1,800.54	1,700.00	-100.54
VH Capital	2.1	Plans/Equipme nt	0.00	2,059.78				2,059.78	1,500.00	-559.78
	2.2	New Build/ Improvements		752.73				752.73	1,500.00	747.27
Street Lights	3.1	Maintenance		8,152.77				8,152.77	4,500.00	-3,652.77
	3.2	Power		3,988.89				3,988.89	14,000.00	10,011.11
Lights/ Signs Capital	4.1	New lights/fittings		482.75				482.75	2,000.00	1,517.25
Sch Crossing/ P'schem e	5.1	School Crossing		1,485.00				1,485.00	5,800.00	4,315.00
	5.2	Playscheme		0.00				0.00	5,900.00	5,900.00
Admin	6.1	Employee Costs		24,465.14			11,811.73	36,276.87	30,000.00	-6,276.87
	6.2	Stationery	0.00	1,446.93				1,446.93	1,000.00	-446.93
	6.3	Telephones Subs & Insurance		1,001.41				1,001.41	1,000.00	-1.41
	6.4	Expenses		5,003.74				5,003.74	4,500.00	-503.74
	6.5	Expenses	0.00	231.00				231.00	250.00	19.00
Comms	7.1	Website/Press	0.00	133.00				133.00	500.00	367.00
Admin Capital	8.1	Office Equipment		103.17				103.17	200.00	96.83
Sec 137	9.1	Donations		1,575.00	0.00			1,575.00	1,500.00	-75.00
	9.2	Gifts & parties Chair Allowance	0.00	260.66	0.00			260.66	2,500.00	2,239.34
	9.3	Cutting		500.00	0.00			500.00	1,200.00	700.00
	9.4			0.00	3,030.00			3,030.00	3,500.00	470.00
Misc.	10.1	PWLB (loan repayment)		0.00				0.00	0.00	0.00
	10.2	Facilities		3,863.50				3,863.50	6,000.00	2,136.50
	10.3	Pension set-up costs etc		0.00				0.00	200.00	200.00
	10.4	General (inc Yth Service)	165.00	9,540.64	67.78			9,773.42	3,000.00	-6,773.42
Totals			165.00	77,460.67	29,043.61	0.00	12,051.56	118,720.84	132,250.00	13,529.16
									Check	13,529.16

Chair N. Cargius Date 13/04/2026

FULL COUNCIL (Agenda Items)

1. Apologies - **N. Davies-Williams, D. Davies-Williams, G. Bellamy, S. Love, G. Blackmore**
2. Chair's announcements - **None**
3. County Councillor's Report

Cllr. Pritchard updated the council on the following. The crossing for the railway line on the national trust land has been approved and work will progress. S&G Estates are aware that there have been a number of instances of mud on the road where development work is taking place. They have changed cleaning contractors to improve the situation. Motorbikes are still causing a nuisance on the old railway line.

4. Declarations of interest - **None**
5. Ratification of minutes from the meeting of Monday 9th February 2026 - **Proposed N.C. Seconded J.K. Ratified unanimously**
6. Members' Items/Action List
 - a) NWP/ECC Police liaison meeting > March 2026 - **PCSO's Gethin and Meg attended**
 - b) Biodiversity and environmental sub-committee - **Cllr V.M updated the council on the proposal for additional bird and bat boxes to be installed in the area in cooperation with the wildlife trust. Hedgerows will be improved adjacent to the football pitch and Station Road.**
 - c) Parish Hall Roof Front Section - **Council discussed the roof costings and further information is being sought from Thomas Roofing Ltd.**

ACTION PLAN:

ITEM	Resp	Status
Sep-23		
Suitable signage for car park: Hall/environs users only > re-invigorate in summer 2026	Clerk	Ongoing
Apr-24		
Liaise WCBC > 'speed bands' > Croesfoel to Packsaddle - re-visit with WCBC: look at after Bersham Rd	Clerk	Ongoing
May-24		
Finial' on P Hall roof. Cllr MP taken the 'old' one away to see what can be done: ask MP for update in Q2 2026	Cllr MP	Ongoing
Sep-24 (RPHT)		
Obtain Q for a full re-decoration of the Bersham Room > look to get Quote asap (above is to follow)	Clerk	Ongoing
Obtain Q to 'freshen-up' the two gables along the P Hall frontage - look to get quotes in late HY1 2025	Clerk	Ongoing
Sep-24		
Gateway signage to Rhostyllen and Bersham - Cllrs SL and MP liaise with the Clerk in HY1 2025	Clerk	Ongoing
Bicycle Pump track - Cllr GB to make further investigations: by end HY1 2025	Cllr GB	Ongoing
Nov-24		
Obtain quotes for finalising work along fence line from existing wall to Bowling Club: by end summer 2025	Cllr MP	Ongoing
Jan-25		
Liaise with Ysgol Rhostyllen re poss 'Esclusham'-specific posters re dog fouling: Cllr GR conf > in hand	Cllr GR	Ongoing
May-25 AGM		
Chairs allowance (to be discussed at next budget meeting Nov 2025) Moved to S137 Meeting April 2026	Clerk	Apr 2026

7. **Planning Items & Reports**

a) **Reference:** P/2026/0083

Proposal :NEWID DEFNYDD TIR A LLEOLI 5 CHALET/CHANGE OF USE OF LAND AND SITING OF 5 CHALETS

Location: LAND ADJACENT TO 1 WAYSIDE COTTAGES, ABEROER, WREXHAM, LL14 4LG

Councillors commented that there was no mention of services and issues with bio-diversity, highways and visibility and did not support the application

b) **Reference:** P/2026/0058

Proposal :ESTYNIAD UNLLAWR I GEFN YR EIDDO/SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

Location: MILL FARM HOUSE, BERSHAM, WREXHAM, LL14 4LL

Council agreed that as long as all conditions were met that the application could go ahead.

Withdrawals

Reports/Appeals

Decisions

a) Battery Farm - Formulate PEDW action plan for 19/03/2026

8. **Correspondence** - for attention of the Council

b) Service Level Agreement Play areas

10. **Items for the Clerk**

- Martyn's Law

The Clerk updated the council on his recent attendance at an update meeting regarding Martyn's Law. From the Community Council perspective, it does not fall under any activities.

Chair G.Richards

Date 13/04/2026