

Eastham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council
held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28 March 2023

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr S Ward, Cllr A Worsley.

In attendance: Clerk, 2 members of public, District Councillor C Palethorpe.

1. **Apologies** - Cllr I Matravers – accepted and agreed by all.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded to keep their Register of Interests updated.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests: As received previously
3. **Dispensations:**
 - a. To consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
 - b. **Dispensations requested** – Dispensations as received.

The Meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time:

Hedge adjoining EMVH as part of Agenda point 14

4. **County Councillor Report:** Apologies received, report at end of the minutes
District Councillor Report: Cllr C Palethorpe gave report which is at the end of the minutes
5. **Minutes** of the 24 January 2023 were agreed by all, RESOLVED and signed by the Chairman
6. **Finance**
 - a. Payments – as presented L Jenkins (expenses) £172.89; LM Feb £180.00; LM Mar £215.00 - All agreed Resolved.
 - b. Receipts – Two receipts from WCC (LM) of £187.50 & £165.00 representing November and December
 - c. Bank Reconciliation & Finance Report – Bank reconciliation as at 21 March 2023 was presented, the bank balance stood at £16,016.49 - agreed by all, resolved, Chairman signed the Bank Reconciliation sheet.
Finance Report, budget to date was presented with variances.
 - d. Increase of 1 day (pro rata to part-time hours and part year) in Annual Leave entitlement for Clerk from 1.4.23 – Agreed/Resolved
7. **Planning**
 - a. Plans received since last meeting date – MH/23/00162/FUL - Hillwood Farm.
 - b. Decisions received from MHDC since last meeting date – none
 - c. Plans for consideration at this meeting – none
 - d. ENF/21/0255 – an update has been received from MHDC; it was agreed by all that no further action be taken by Parish Council
8. **Lengthsman Scheme** – WCC have confirmed LM Scheme will continue for the following financial year.
All agreed to renew Mr C Bunn contract for 2023-2024 – Resolved.
9. **Road Report:**
 - a. **update** - LM has reported gravel on road and drains.
 - b. **Bollards** – This is in hand with the County, however, nothing further has been reported at this time.
10. **Notice Board Highwood** – Agreed Clerk to ask LM if minor repairs required to ensure doors close.
11. **Policies Update/Review:**
Risk Assessment and Grants Policy – All Agreed Resolved.
12. **Grant Request**
Coronation Celebrations for Parish request for £300; Budget remaining for current year £230; Agreed by all Resolved and to consider/hold over remainder £70 to May Meeting
13. **Kings Coronation celebrations May 2023** – as Item 12
14. **EMVH storage** - Outside storage of Chairs and Tables to free up the side room, size internally 6m x 2.5m with entry door close to outside door, clad and with a sloping roof. Current shed will be moved, the hedge can then be lowered at this time with specialist equipment, Cllr will visit neighbour.
EMVH to put in for Planning permission abiding by the terms of the lease. The outside buildings change to be noted with the Insurers.
15. **Progress Reports** -
 - a. **Dog Fouling Update** – this is much improved
 - b. **Severn Trent** – a response received stating - that capital projects (based on burst/leak history) have advised there is

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a 2.5km project earmarked in the area enquired about. Anticipate that it will be delivered in our next investment wave in a few years time. Parishioner to be sent a letter noting the response

16. **Village Green** - enquiries have been made and the cost is high £26,000, the netting being the most expensive element. Consideration given to any interim measures. Difficulty due to being used for parking at events. The edge of the green is deteriorating.
Clerk to Contact County Councillor with any suggestions.
17. **Village Map** - confirm as wish to incorporate house names, Clerk to obtain a quote for next meeting
18. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** - Clerk attended Clerks Gathering Meetings (free) via zoom
19. **Correspondence as circulated** – CALC Newsletters, Road Closure 17/4; MHDC Election Nominations pack, Rural Service Network; MHAC Meeting; MHDC Planning application; Kings Garden Party Nominations, SNT Police Charter (as before).
20. **Clerks report on any urgent decisions since last meeting** – payment for LM Feb invoice £180.00; Calc training £30.00; L Jenkins Salary £907.14 All agreed resolved.
21. **Councillors report and items for the next agenda** - Insurance (change of outside buildings); Village Green update; OS Map at EMVH.
22. **Date of next meetings** – Monday 15 May 2023 at 7.30pm
23. **Meeting closed** at 8.35pm

Signed:

Date:

Eastham Parish Council (Chair)

Worcestershire County Council Report

Meeting of Eastham Parish Council 28 March 2023

New Special School for Children with Autism

A new special school that caters for the needs of pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is to be built in Malvern. The successful bid from Worcestershire County Council was announced this week by the Department for Education.

The new special free school will provide 120 full time places for pupils aged 5-19 with autism, who are able to engage with mainstream curriculum with extra support and who would also benefit from a specific environment and staff dedicated to a holistic approach. The capital funding for the new school will be provided from the Government's Free School Programme.

County Council Budget 2023/24

At the Budget meeting of the Council, Council approved the following recommendations:

- a. A budget of £400.813 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- b. A Capital programme of £432.720 million be set (as detailed in the report before Councillors).
- c. An increase in Council Tax Precept of 4.94%, broken into two parts:
 - i. 2.94% to provide financial support for the delivery of outcomes in line with the Corporate Plan.
 - ii. 2.00% Adult Social Care Precept, ring-fenced for Adult Social Care services, in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

At the Budget meeting there was a proposal by the Opposition to reduce the Highways Capital programme by £2million. I spoke against this amendment (which was similar to an amendment submitted one year ago), because it is my view that if you were to do this, then over a relatively short period of time, Worcestershire roads would become similar to those we experience in Herefordshire. Whilst Worcestershire roads are not perfect, they are considerably better than those in neighbouring counties. I am pleased that the amendment was defeated.

Herefordshire & Worcestershire Fire & Rescue Service

I attended a meeting of the Fire Authority (Monday 13th February). The Chief Fire Officer reported that a pay offer of 7% for this year and 5% for next year had been offered to the unions. He is hopeful that the pay offer will be accepted, following consultations ending in early March, which will hopefully mean that there will be no further strikes within our area.

District Councillor Report for Eastham Parish Council 28 March 2023

Firstly, thank you all for making me feel so welcome in the parish and I should like to wish you all very warm wishes for the future. It has been a pleasure and privilege working alongside with you for the past seven years.

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Malvern Hills District Council launches new £1,500 upskilling grants for businesses: Local businesses could receive up to £1,500 towards the cost of taking on a new apprentice or trainee thanks to a new Upskilling Grant. Businesses in any sector can apply for up to two upskilling grants from Malvern Hills District Council, as long as the trainees started after 1 October 2022. The grant can be used to support the training of any apprentice or trainee carrying out an accredited qualification.

To qualify, businesses need to be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area and employ fewer than 250 people. They must pay at least the minimum wage to the trainee for a post of at least 20 hours a week, including training, over a minimum of three months. They must also provide for the trainee to gain a recognised qualification.

The new grant has been launched because of the successful Malvern Hills and Wychavon Upskilling Project which was part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund, which has now ended. The £283,000 project involved a range of activities designed to boost skills, help businesses grow and support people into work.

The 2022 programme supported 39 businesses to which 56 grants were paid out, totalling £112,000. 41 apprentices were supported with training incentive payments totalling £20,500, of which 27 claimed further bursary support for equipment, work clothing and travel of £12,931.

Visit www.malvernhills.gov.uk/grants-and-funding to find out more about the grant, and how to apply.

Car parks within the Malvern Hills District have achieved a national award for their high safety standards. The 14 car parks have been awarded the coveted Park Mark, which forms part of the Safer Parking Scheme. The Safer Parking Scheme, a national standard for UK car parks, is aimed at reducing crime and the fear of crime in parking areas, to ensure the safety of people and vehicles.

All of our 14 car parks are located in Great Malvern, Barnards Green, Link Top, Upton upon Severn and Tenbury Wells.

Toilet closure Tenbury Wells: Please be aware that the public toilets on Teme Street in Tenbury Wells are currently closed for refurbishment until 30 June 2023. The next nearest toilets are on Market Street.

With very warm wishes and thank you again.

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