

Eastham Parish Council

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

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

In Attendance - Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies** – Cllr B Lewis received and accepted 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:

The time allocated is at the discretion of the Chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council Meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoir.

Noted no members of the Public present

4. **Reports from County Councillor D Chambers, District Councillors L Bruton and A Willmott** were received
5. **Minutes** – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 September 2023, were agreed by all, Resolved and signed by the Chair Cllr Arnold.
6. **Co-option of Cllr** – No applications have been received. Agreed Notice of Co-option to be published again on Notice Board, Website and in Parish Magazine.
7. **Finance**
 - a. **Clerk Salary** - increase back dated for 01/04/2023 noted and agreed by all
 - b. **Payments to be made**, – C Bunn (LM) Oct 23 £196.87 and Nov 23 £189; L Jenkins (salary) £1115.14; MTM Contracting £1296; Agreed by all, resolved.
 - c. **Receipts received** - WCC LM Scheme £189.00 and Balance of Precept £4352.50
 - d. **Bank Reconciliation** - 5 November 2023, Balance of £20,997.42; All Agreed, Resolved - documents signed.
Finance report - budget as expected as at November 2023
 - e. **Clerks & Councillors Training requested** – Clerk training request for qualification £120 + VAT. All agreed, Resolved – Clerk to arrange
 - f. **Laptop cleanup quotations** – Received one at £75 another awaited. Agreed by all; resolved. Clerk to Arrange
 - g. **Budget/Precept for financial year 2024-2025:** presented to Councillors for discussion. Precept agreed at £8,870 for the next financial year. All Agreed, Resolved.
8. **Donation Request** – Eastham Riverside Fete. Grant request form received for £500 agreed by all, Resolved.
9. **Clerks report on any Urgent Decisions since last meeting** – Payments £50 to MHDC for Election costs; Planning applications as per point 10.
10. **Planning** -
 - a. Plans received since last meeting M/23/01199/OUT – land at (Os 6745 6818), Eastham – Outline application for a permanent rural workers dwelling.
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting - M/23/01110/HP The Old Flatts – approved
 - c. Plans for consideration at the meeting – M/23/01511/FUL – Eastham Memorial Hall. All supported
11. **Road Report** Lengthman – arranged to meet up with Highways inspector over a number of issues.
12. **Progress Reports/ updates**
 - a. **Notice Board** – further quotations awaited, future agenda item
 - b. **Pipers Brook Road update** – escalated to liaison officer. Noted that there is gravel on the road.
 - c. **Eastham Memorial Hall** Green area – Clerk investigate

Eastham Parish Council

13. **Reports on any Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors** - Clerk has attended two Worcestershire CALC Clerk Gatherings
14. **Correspondence for Information** – as circulated to Councillors. Received from WCC Planning consultation; Christmas Collection Dates; Road closure notice; SWDP Review; CALC Newsletter; RSN Weekly Newsletters, WM Police Survey Results.
15. **Correspondence for Discussion**
 - a. CALC email – D Day 2024, agreed to pass onto the Memorial Hall Committee
 - b. MHDC register requests – agreed only Clerk to register
 - c. Biodiversity Policy – considered by Councillors and agreed to be placed on future Agenda
16. **Councillors reports and items for the next Agenda**

Report of Gravel on roads as noted since storms
Future Agenda items as noted in minutes
17. **Confirm date of next meeting** – 23 January 2024 at 7.30pm
18. **Meeting Closure** at 8.40 pm

Signed-----

Date

Chairman

Public Question Time – No questions were raised

Worcestershire County Councillor's Updated Report to Town & Parish Councils November 2023

1. Following recent reports of identifying RAAF concrete in buildings, the County Council has conducted and continues to conduct further investigations and studies. As Chairman of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee I called for a report on RAAF in Worcestershire schools. I can report that no RAAF has been identified in any of the schools operated by the local authority including Community, Voluntary Controlled and Foundation schools. Academies, Voluntary Aided and Independent schools are reporting directly to the Department for Education (DfE) and the DfE is not sharing this information with the Council.
County Hall has a number of RAAF related issues and as a result parts of the building are not open to staff or visitors. This has not affected any of the services provided by the County Council.
2. As previously reported, I have expressed concern regarding vaping by children aged 11 to 18 years. It has now been agreed that the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be the lead Scrutiny Panel. Vaping is a good thing if used by adults who are trying to give up smoking, it is not however, something we should be encouraging for general use by adults let alone children.
Sadly, many people do not realise that vapes contain nicotine and in some cases more nicotine than in cigarettes. They are also available in a variety of coloured tanks and fun flavourings, which are particularly attractive to young children. I have received reports that many of these products are being supplied to children in school by other school children. To date, over 12,000 non compliant vapes have been removed from the market place in Worcestershire, by Trading Standards.

The Panel will seek evidence from officers within Education, Public Health and Trading Standards, in order to make recommendations going forward
3. I have made a formal request to Worcestershire County Council to procure the building of a new pedestrian bridge over the river Teme at Tenbury. The current bridge is no longer fit for purpose due the continued risk to pedestrians safety, from vehicles mounting the footpath on both sides, whilst being used by pedestrians.
I am suggesting that the new pedestrian bridge be build alongside or near to the existing bridge, with interim measures to be taken in the short term.
The boundary between Worcestershire and Shropshire is along the centre of the river Teme and as such I am suggesting that funding is provided by both Worcestershire County Council and Shropshire Council, with additional funds if necessary, coming from central government.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division

Malvern Hills District Council Report (November 2023)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Storm Babet Flooding

Unfortunately, several residential and business premises across the district were affected by flooding following the recent storm.

Eastham Parish Council

The Government has announced that funding support will be made available to help communities recover from the impact. This support will be available through the District Council, who will process the funds. The Council is awaiting guidance and confirmation of the eligible criteria and will update their webpage as soon as information is received.

My sincere thanks go to the District Council's Emergency Planning Officer for his support. The officer was in Tenbury until 2am on the Saturday morning. Thank you to the Town Councillors who collected and delivered sandbags to residents and businesses in town, your support was invaluable and greatly appreciated. Following the incident, the District Council has provided five pallets of sandbags, which are located by the overflow car park.

Remembrance 2023

It was an honour to lay a wreath on Sunday to remember all our brave servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice. Despite the weather, the parade was extremely well supported by the town's groups, schools and organisations coming together to pay their respect. It is wonderful to see all ages marching together to remember those who fought and continue to fight for our freedom.

Postal Vote Changes

You can now apply online to vote by post at www.gov.uk/apply-postal-vote

If you work at a polling station or postal vote opening, make sure you have a postal vote as you may not be able to visit your own polling station to vote.

Malvern Hills Rural Fund

Rural businesses and communities can apply for up to £25,000 worth of funding with the return of the Malvern Hills Rural Fund. Round two of the fund is now available to support new small or micro businesses in rural areas, including helping farmers to diversify into other sectors and growing tourism.

The money can be used to fund physical projects such as new buildings or renovations but not for staff or day-to-day running costs. Individual grants between £2,500 and £25,000 are on offer, but businesses will be expected to match 50% of the total cost of the project.

The funding comes from the Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Halloween Trail

A successful spooky trail took place as part of the half-term Halloween celebrations. The free activity trail, hosted by Tenbury Tourist Information Centre took place from Saturday 28 October to Friday 4 November.

Spooky Halloween pictures were hidden around shop windows in the town, where children were able to find them by following their trail sheets and completing them to win a free prize.

StreetLink

StreetLink, the digital rough sleeping platform, has officially relaunched with a new website that is now live to make alerts.

StreetLink is still a vital service in helping end rough sleeping and its purpose remains the same – to enable members of the public to connect people sleeping rough in England and Wales to local support that meets their needs.

You can access the platform from the following link: www.thestreetlink.org.uk

If you are worried about someone sleeping rough, you can help connect them to local support services by making an alert. Your alert can make a difference, by helping local authorities and outreach teams locate a person sleeping rough quickly and provide them with the support they need.

Shop Local Campaign for Town Centres

The District Council have launched a new 'Shop Local' campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the fantastic shops we have available and to encourage residents to support their local traders.

The Visit the Malverns website has an individual shopping section for each of the town centres, which showcases what is on offer across the five town centres. Visitors can search and view the many options available to purchase a wide range of items.

The campaign includes news shop local branding, new image and video content in collaboration with traders and social media marketing. It has been created in response to traders' comments following regular meetings across the district.

Visit the following link for information on Tenbury: www.visitthemaalverns.org/shoptenbury

Town Centre Support Scheme Grant

It is pleasing to hear that several businesses, including The Regal have been awarded grant funding through the Town Centre Support Scheme.

Eligible businesses can apply for a 50% match-funded grant of up to £2,500 towards one, or a combination, of the following:

Shop front improvements – undertaking works to improve or refurbish the shop front or internal structural improvements.

Empty Shop Support – support to bring an empty shop back into commercial use including support for equipment, anything external or internal premises related.

Town Centre Boost – an additional £1,000 grant is available to traders or community groups to deliver town centre wide projects and promotions to drive new footfall, investments, or sustainability (There is no match funding requirement associated with this grant). <https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/town-centres>

Business Advice

A wide range of advice and support to help business can be found on the District Council's website by visiting the following link:

Eastham Parish Council

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/business-advice>

If you require any further information or help with signposting to appropriate advice and support, please call the Economic Development Team on 01684 862351 or email: ecodev@malvern hills.gov.uk

Festival Funding

Funding has been provided to the following events:

- The Regal Comedy Festival – 9 to 23 September
- Applefest – 7 October
- Mistletoe Festival – 1 December

Free Domestic Abuse Awareness Training for Hair, Beauty and Tattoo Industries

South Worcestershire Safety Partnership has been working with several partners to deliver Cut It Out, free training for professionals to learn what domestic abuse is and how to recognise the signs. Training sessions were held in October

Report on Items of Interest November 2023

Cllr A Willmott (Tenbury Ward)

Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells

The Environment agency (EA) Have completed the Workshop on the St Mary's Church section of the Defences; the remaining Workshops are due for completion before the end of the year. The EA are still unwilling to speculate on a completion date, a cost or the built height of the defences relative to historical floods. The flooding near-miss we had recently highlights the urgency felt by the Town.

Planning. MHDC

MHDC's performance reporting highlights problems in Planning. Starting in May, I asked for data on the Department's productivity, some months later this was confirmed as unavailable. I have asked for a summary of what Planning considers are the problems, I await a reply.

Severn Trent (STW) Mains Leakage

The Eastham / Lower Rochford lane STW water main burst no less than 24 times in 5 years. We await evidence that STW's subsequent strategy of a pressure reducing valve pending a later mains replacement is successful.

Speeding

West Mercia Police have agreed to Operation Snap and the signs are now up in the Rochford area. Other local areas have contacted me, investigations ongoing.

parkrun

parkrun is a regular, free community event that is becoming very popular in the UK with almost 3 million having tried it already. The Town Council has agreed to the proposal to use Palmers Meadow for the regular Sunday junior event. We now move on to sponsorship for the one-off cost - already, we have a large part pledged. Any advice or offers gratefully received! Any pledges to andrew@awaltd.com please.

Teme Bridge

Acceptance, now, that the Bridge is no longer fit for purpose, Worcestershire County Council has corrective alternatives, such as a footbridge, "under active review". Since my last report, four pedestrians have come forward to report that they have been hit by vehicles on the Bridge. Something more serious appears to be a statistical inevitability.

Road Works

I continue to investigate the methodology and timing of road works and whether the current balance of disruption and contractor convenience is correct.

Tenbury Pharmacy

I find that some individuals and groups are taking their trade to other towns. The Tenbury pharmacy is part of the Phoenix Healthcare group, the largest private healthcare group in Europe. I await information on the reason for the monopoly.

Natural Hydrogen

Discussion with a geophysics company suggests that natural (white) hydrogen, a net-zero component, may occur beneath our area. This has been reported to MHDC.

One-Stop-Shop

Cleobury Mortimer provide their full range of community services on set days each month so that people seeking help on multiple issues can get help "in the round"; they did a pop-up in Burford using the same format, just across the river. Worth us considering?

Electric Tenbury?

Electric vehicles (EVs), we are told, are the future. Currently, they are relatively expensive so are driven by the relatively wealthy - just the sort of visitors we want in Tenbury! However, the trickle chargers we have in the Town are of no use to day EV visitors - and EV owners can see this on various apps - we need some fast chargers. National grid have confirmed we have grid capacity for this. Following a meeting at MHDC, the matter is now with Tenbury Town Council.