

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th NOVEMBER 2014

Present: Cllr Inge (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Horsfall,
Cllrs Arnold, Cllr Moseley, Cllr Worsley

In Attendance: Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Conway.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. Register of Interests: No changes.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – All Cllrs see item 7 and 9(d) due to paying Council Tax/living in Parish.
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests – See item (b) above.
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** – All Cllrs had been given a Dispensation on 26th August 2014 until May 2015 for Defibrillator Machine (items 7). All Cllrs present has been given a Dispensation for Precept (item 9d) on 27th November 2013 until May 2015.
5. **Public Question Time** – Two Members of the Public attended the meeting see notes below.
4. **Public Question Time** – see note at end of minutes.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting** – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 26th August 2014 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman. Minutes of Special Parish Council Meetings held on 7th October and 6th November 2014 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – Apologies received.
County Cllrs report – Apologies received, written report at end of minutes.
7. **Progress Reports for information:**
Defibrillator Machine – Cllr to install Lifebox on outside of Memorial Hall this week. Clerk will then put Defibrillator inside ready for use. Training to be arranged.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
CALC – Elections May 2015 - 19th November, CALC AGM - 26th November. MHDC Conference – 23rd October, WCC Conference 29th October. Clerk attended all meetings.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – MTM Contracting Ltd (mowing of Millennium Green) = £374.40.
 - b. **Payments received –**
Current Account – MHDC Precept £3450.00, Transfer from Investment Account £2015.22.
Investment Account – 10p.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** - Current Account – August/September/October 2014 signed, balance agreed as £13397.16, Investment Account – balance of 10p to be transferred to Current Account.
 - d. **To discuss precept for 2015-16.** After discussion it was agreed by all not to increase precept. A request will be made for £6900.00 as last year.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting –
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
14/00787/HOU – 2 Old School House, Highwood, Eastham – Conservatory to side of property.
Approved by MHDC.

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c. Plans to comment on at this meeting –

AMENDED PLANS - 14/00943/FUL – Eastham Grange, Eastham, WR15 8NP – Proposed New Dwelling. After discussion it was agreed the amended plans addressed the concerns raised by this Parish Council in their initial comments sent to MHDC. A proposal to make no further comments on this application was put forward by Cllr Worsley and seconded by Cllr Arnold. All agreed to this proposal.

11. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – sides of roads need clearing of leaves, drains need clearing debris.
- b. **Any problems to report** – Highwood Lane – land under fence washed away, has been reported.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
 - Water on road at Robins End (Rhyse Lane) – One household has advised Clerk new system to be installed December. Reports of the water now creating ice on road and several vehicles have slid. It was agreed to write letter to Environmental Health, Highways and Residents stating matter to be resolved immediately.
 - Astley Orchard – repairs to road and pavement – Housing Association still to do some repairs.

12. Draft Financial Regulations/Standing Orders (circulated) – Clerk to review as part of training.

13. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.

14. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payments made – – 19th September - CE-TEK for Lifebox Defib Machine = £714.24, 7th October - Eastham PCC Mowing Grant £500.00, 26th October - LM payment August/September = £374.40.

15. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.

16. Date of next meeting: 31st March 2015

17. Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

18. Clerks annual review – Review was held before this meeting. No areas of concern, details in files.

19. Meeting closed 8.40pm.

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 31st March 2015

Planning – John Phillips explained the changes he has made to his application for a new dwelling at Eastham Grange. Mr Phillips felt the changes were more in keeping with the area and addressed comments made on MHDC website from other residents and the Parish Council.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. Rural Broadband

WCC is committed to improving rural broadband. The main BT contract is now over a year old and is moving through the various phases planned to be complete in 2016. Recently another £1.1 million has been made available from Whitehall for further expanding broadband coverage. The total of around £4.5 million now includes the money from the third avenue the Council explored, that through Defra. This now goes under the name BDUK+ and will be administered by BT. The County is in process of seeking tenders to extend superfast broadband coverage from 90% to 95% of all residences and businesses. St Michael's College in Tenbury now has their superfast broadband connected via Virgin, despite the delays and I am sure this will make a big difference to the study of their pupils. BT was reminded at my scrutiny panel meeting of the need to service all customers equally. The local manager Ian Binks, has indicated that BT Openreach has instituted a "recovery programme" with the intention of "more consistent provisioning".

The Defra Select Committee is investigating rural broadband coverage and is interested in hearing from those who are badly affected by poor coverage, in particular from farmers who have to report online for

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various CAP requirements and reporting. Evidence was only admissible up to 19th November but watch out for their report.

2. Tenbury Public Realm update

Work is scheduled to start on the 12th January 2015, working from the Market towards Crow Corner. Bollards will be erected around the Market itself, to prevent further damage to the overhanging roof. These will be placed behind white lines that will delineate a virtual footway around the Market itself, so that the bollards can be erected legally, without any change of level of the road surface. A leaflet describing what is going to happen and various movement restrictions is now available.

3. Amenity Site Removal

The Planning Committee passed the plans unanimously on November 4th to move the Household Recycling Centre from the town's car park to the Bromyard Road Business Park. The work should take place in the New Year and take about 6 months.

4. Parking and Palmer's Meadow

The plans for the overflow car park have been agreed between WCC, the Rugby Club and the Town Council and will provide for two rows of 25 cars each, some extra spaces on the access area and probably 20 more once the amenity site has been moved.

5. Parish Conference 29th October

A Parish Conference was held on Wednesday of last week at County Hall and a number of points from there may be worth passing on. Your clerk represented Eastham, one of 70 or so parish councillors and clerk present.

The County's priorities are dealing with Adult Social Care and vulnerable children as well as highways. Dealing with vulnerable adults and children takes up roughly half of the £330 million budget of WCC. The County is keen to move to a commissioning role, rather than being a provider, with provision for scrutiny of the conduct of such contracts as may go outside the council's direct labour. At present the level is about 65% of all contracts and we hope to move to 85%.

The County is aiming to move to a digital future, again looking to reach 85% of all transactions being online. Provision will be retained for those who do not have or do not want to use online access. A digital inclusion task group is about to report on the ways in which people will be affected by this switch to ensure that no-one is overlooked or neglected.

A series of roadshows, as well as the viewpoint survey, will be run again this autumn to make sure that all who want to can express their views to council officers and members. There will be one in Malvern on the 29th November, in Kidderminster on the 6th December and at Crowngate in Worcester on the 13th December.

The County is running a Project Optimise with councils at all levels to see if we can remove duplication and promote joint working across the spectrum. Three pilot areas have been selected to see how this may work before it is rolled out across the county as a whole.

The WCC website has been redesigned to make it more effective and easier to use, along the lines of the highways defects reporting system. One aspect of this would be to use the County website or link to the independent one run by the local parish and town councils. At present Eastham has an excellent entry on the WCC website, although no contact details are provided for individual councillors, so all contact would need to be through the clerk. Agendas and minutes of Parish Council meetings are available, as is the Chairman's annual report. It is also good to see various images of the parish in the gallery.

Worcestershire County Council came second in the competition for the accolade of "Most Sustainable Local Authority" in the Public Sector Sustainability Awards.

Those intending to prepare a neighbourhood plan can now access some of a new allocation of £23 million from central government, to encourage more plans to be written. Each one can cost about £20,000, which has deterred many from participating.

6. Road problems

I have not heard any definitive outcome of the drainage problems in Rhyse Lane, but I am led to believe the matters are being resolved satisfactorily. Please let me know of any other difficulties with road conditions. I trust the gritting necessary this winter will be satisfactory.

Cllr Ken Pollock