

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 8.03pm at close of Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2019

**Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Matravers,
Cllr Adams, Cllr Horsfall**

In Attendance: Clerk, 6 members of Public

All Cllrs signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office before the meeting.

1. **Election of Chairman** – It was agreed by all Cllr Arnold be elected.
2. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Worsley.
3. **Co-option of Cllr** – Application was completed at the meeting from Ian Matravers. It was agreed by all he be co-opted onto the PC. He signed his Declaration of Office and was welcomed back onto the PC.
4. **Election of Vice Chairman** – It was agreed by all not to appoint any Cllr to this position.
5. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – All Cllrs completed their new registers.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None.
6. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations received – None.
7. **Public Question Time** – See notes below of issues raised at Annual Parish Meeting
8. **County Cllr Report** – Attended Annual Parish Meeting, report at end of these minutes.
District Cllrs Reports – Apologies received, see report at end of minutes.
9. **Standing Orders** (circulated) – It was agreed by all no changes are required.
10. **Financial Regulations** (circulated) – It was agreed by all no changes required.
11. **Data Protection** – It was agreed by all to renew consent from residents every five years as per National guidelines.
12. **To consider Councils Scheme of Delegation as drafted** (circulated). It was agreed no changes are required.
13. To appoint Cllrs to the following:
 - a. Staff Working Party for Clerk and Lengthsman – details in files.
 - b. Planning Working Party – Details in files.
 - c. Clerks Finance Support Group – All Cllrs at PC meetings.
14. **Councils Risk Assessment** (circulated) – To be reviewed at July meeting.
 - a. **Asset Register** (circulated) – It was agreed all Assets are on register.
 - b. **To discuss Insurance renewal from 1st June 2019** (circulated) – It was agreed to renew at cost of £429.72 to include clearing of Eastham Memorial Hall site if needed.
15. **To appoint volunteers to the following roles:**
 - a. Footpath Officer/Tree Warden – Resident is willing to continue in this role.
16. **To consider appointment of representative to outside bodies:**
 - a. **Eastham Memorial Hall Committee** – Cllrs Adams agreed last year to be appointed to this role, this was agreed by all at this meeting.
 - b. **Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils Meeting Executive** (max 2 Cllrs). Any Cllrs to attend.
17. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of meetings held on 26th March 2019 were agreed and signed by Chairman.
18. **Progress reports for information:**

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

- a. **Resiting of Defibrillator** – Housing Association contacts have changed; Clerk is working on the issue.
 - b. **Defibrillator Training** – Residents Association had asked for training but not come back to Clerk with dates etc. Clerk will email out to residents to see if any interest, a trainer is willing to do free training.
- 19. Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -**
Eastham Memorial Hall CIO AGM 14th May - Assets not yet transferred from old Charity. Complications on opening new bank account for CIO due to changes at Bank. New Trustees to complete forms to be presented to CIO meeting on 11th June. Funding shortfall, BLF decision is expected soon.
Old Charity AGM 4th June.
- 20. Finances –**
- a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM March 2019) = £187.20, Worcestershire CALC (see item d) = £154.27, D M Payroll Services Ltd (see item g) = £70.00, Mr I Mapp (April 2019) = £234.00, Came & Company (see item 14b) = £429.72.
 - b. **Payments received** – March 2019 WCC LM December 2018 = £156.00, April 2019 MHDC Precept = £4050.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – March 2019 Balance in cash book agreed as £14390.34, April 2019 Balance in cash book agreed as = £18237.14, both documents were signed.
 - d. **Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils** – It was agreed to renew membership, total cost £154.27.
 - e. **Certificate of Exemption from External Audit** (circulated) – It was agreed by all PC income and expenditure for 2019-20 are both under £25000.00.
 - f. **Annual Governance Statement** (circulated) – It was agreed by all the Council are adhering to all the requirements.
 - g. **Internal Auditors Report** (circulated) – Minor matters raised to be addressed by Clerk. Accounting figures were all correct. It was agreed to pay fee of £70.00.
 - h. **Annual Return/End of Year Accounts 2019-20** (circulated) – It was agreed by all for Chairman to sign all relevant papers regarding end of year accounts. Balance carried forward to 1st April 2019 agreed as £14390.34
- 21. Planning:**
- a. **Plans received since last meeting – None.**
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting –**
18/01871/FUL – Hanley Mill, Hanley William, Tenbury Wells WR15 8QT – 3no timber holiday lodges for use as holiday accommodation. **Application withdrawn by applicant.**
19/00199/FUL and 19/00200/LB – Robins End, Eastham Tenbury Wells WR15 8NW – Change of use of The Granary from mixed use of ground floor agricultural with first floor domestic ancillary accommodation to No.2 holiday lets. **Approved by MHDC.**
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting –**
19/00190/FUL – Oaktrees Caravan, Eastham – Erection of Agricultural Building (part retrospective). It was agreed to support this application. Comments regarding part of the barn being described as ‘workshop’ on drawings to be queried, no change of use has been applied for. Comments to be circulated before sending to MHDC.
- 22. Road Report:**
- a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.
 - b. **Problems to report** – Graffiti on sign by Bridge.
 - c. **Outstanding queries -**
New Road subsidence – WCC have advised it is not subsidence but the road surface that is the problem, it is on worksheet for summer 2020. It was agreed to query as the road is becoming unsafe for cars to drive on. County Cllr is aware of PC concerns.
Eastham Bridge damage/dead trees – Clerk has sent WCC photographs of trees. Damage to be repaired in due course by contractor who built the bridge.
- 23. Eastham Memorial Hall**
- a. **Report from Subcommittee representatives** – no meetings held.
 - b. **Grant Application** – Work to electrics was done in January 2019. Clerk has sent grant application forms to EMH but not yet received them back.
- 24. Correspondence for Information:**
MHDC Planning Training Session – 4th July - 5.30 – 7.30pm at Malvern
Police Commissioners survey – to complete by 11th August 2019
Police Commissioner – ‘We Don’t Buy Crime’ Smartwater project.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

25. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

16th April - Broken highways pipe reported to WCC; Cllr confirmed it has now been repaired by landowner.

Orleton Road closure May 2019 – residents’ concerns regarding signage of road closure. BT did work on the road but signs left up, Clerk looking into issue as it has happened before.

Bollard by side of road (may be Orleton Parish) marking side of road collapsing, Clerk to report. County Cllr is aware of this issue.

26. Councillor’s reports and items for the next agenda.

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Risk Assessment

27. **Date of next meeting:** 23rd July 2019

28. **Meeting closed 8.40pm.**

Signed----- Date 23rd July 2019

Chairman

Public Question Time – Matters raised at Annual Parish Meeting will be noted here and actioned by Clerk.

Eastham Bridge – graffiti on junction sign

New Road – concerns regarding WCC delay in repairing highway

District Councillors Report

It has been another crucial year for MHDC, with further cuts from central government funding. We are pleased to report however, that unlike many councils across the country, MHDC has been able to continue to make savings, increase its services to residents, build on its reserves, work to a balanced budget and, at the same time, maintain one of the lowest Council

Tax rates in the country - The following is a summary of the last year at Malvern Hills District Council

1. Our financial position is strong and stable. Despite having to make savings of £1.45 million between 2017/22, due to central government cuts, we are building our reserves, investing in land and property, which will not only deliver us appreciating assets but also an annual income return.

2. Council tax is increasing by just £5.00 on a band D property again this year (that’s £5.00 for the whole year). Less than 10% of the amount you pay for your overall council tax stays with MHDC – the remaining 90%+ goes to the County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire Authority and to Parish or Town Councils.

3. The new extension to the Council House will open in May this year. We will be bringing all our telephony back in house and for the first time in over 10 years the Council House will have a reception to welcome residents and visitors to the Council. This will save the Council in excess of £100,000 each year.

4. Led by MHDC, the six District Councils in Worcestershire have secured a government Business Rates Retention pilot for one year. This will generate an estimated £4.9 million pounds which we are allocating to help the County Council’s budget deficit. The money will be ring fenced for specific projects to help with Adult Social Care and Children’s Services

5. Our 5 Year Strategic Plan and 5 Year Business Plans are now well established and enable Councillors, officers, residents, businesses and partner organisations to have a clear understanding of the Council’s priorities for the five years ahead, at any one time.

6. We implemented the “Alternative Weekly Waste Collections” in April last year which seems to have been a huge success. With general waste being collected one week and recycling waste the following week, we have seen the amount of general waste reduce and a substantial increase in recycling waste.

7. We all know that changes to our town centres and high streets are inevitable, with more and more people buying goods and services online. The Council has just placed a multi-million pound bid into central government and are commissioning future prospectuses for all of our town centres in the District to ensure we are at the very forefront of any developmental changes.

8. This year we have engaged with more residents, business, partners and schools than ever before, to help us ensure our priorities are the same priorities of the people we serve.

9. Planning is always a contentious subject and we all understand why. With the SWDP Review now happening, this will take us to 2041. We your local Councillors will do everything we can to protect the towns, villages and hamlets we serve whilst appreciating that new homes are needed, not least for the young residents in our community.

10. And there is so much more: We are delivering affordable homes, bringing empty homes back into use, working with partners to help those with mental health issues, loneliness and rough sleeping; provide £50,000 each year to help with Community Transport. We have set up a £30,000 fund to help with food banks; and are working closely with our schools, colleges and business to provide skills training, apprenticeships and creating job opportunities; promoting healthier communities for the young and not so young alike.

On May 2nd MHDC had “all out” elections. However, there was no election for MHDC as Teme Valley Ward was not contested. Thank you everyone for the support over the past three years and I look forward to continuing to be very visible on local issues, which includes planning, enforcement and retention or development of essential services for residents & businesses.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor Caroline Palethorpe - Teme Valley Ward - Tel: 07974 96641 caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillscd.net

County Councillors Report

County Council Affairs - personnel - At this time last year, we were about to welcome our new team of senior officers, comprising the Chief Executive, Paul Robinson, the Chief Finance Officer, Michael Hudson, the Chief Commissioning Officer, Andrew Spice, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services, Avril Wilson. In addition we have since confirmed Richard Taylor as Head of Human Resources. They joined John Hobbs, director of Economy and Infrastructure, Francis Howie in charge of Public Health, and Catherine Driscoll, the director of Children's Services. I can report that the new senior management have settled in well, working with the Cabinet to produce a viable range of services appropriate to the County's needs, and consistent with our income of around £330 million a year. That is not to say that we have not faced substantial difficulties in balancing the budget, and Eastham residents will be aware of some of the stress points that have been encountered during the year. Despite the controversy, I think we can be assured that the necessary range and depth of services will continue to be delivered as required.

County Council Affairs – council tax - Once again we find it necessary to increase Council Tax, this time by 3.99% overall. Within that sum, there is a 1% rise dedicated to Adult Social Care, as the government recognises the increasing burden of an ageing population, some of whom require council support. This overall increase is equivalent to £0.93p per week for a Band D property.

Council County Affairs – expenditure - Many people will be aware that our Children's Services have been judged as requiring improvement and as a result we have found it necessary to place the department into a wholly owned company, named Worcestershire Children First. This will formally come into operation in October, although it now exists in shadow form. This new venture has to be seen in the context of two years of continuous improvement in Children's Services, as a result of concerted effort of all staff, under the leadership of Catherine Driscoll and her colleague Tina Russell. We are hopeful that the new company will assist in this continuous improvement, so that the whole department may be returned to the County Council in a short while. The Government has promised a Green Paper on adult social care for some time, but its publication is still imminent. This is an area of increasing need, but there is the crucial matter of the boundary between County Council funded care and the National Health Service. Clearly both organisations should be working towards the same goal, but there are occasional conflicts about responsibilities and allocation of expenditure between the two organisations. All other services are paid from the residue of income after these two departments are financed. This has resulted in difficult decisions on funding for libraries, archives and the possible need to charge for parking. It should be emphasised that there are no plans to close any libraries, and the archive service is adequately funded to carry out its essential and valuable work. That said, we are very keen to run an efficient and effective council, and this is resulting in a detailed examination of our ways of working, aimed at maintaining or improving the service with fewer personnel and resources. We naturally hope that this endeavour will be supported by all residents, and I would encourage everyone to let me and the officers know of any deficiencies in our performance over the year.

Infrastructure - One of my Cabinet responsibilities concerns infrastructure, and, unlike my colleagues who are concerned with children and vulnerable adults, it means that I get to work on some exciting big physical projects. In the last year we have doubled the width of the railway bridge on the Southern Link Road between Whittington and Norton. This manoeuvre has been recognised as a difficult project well executed by the receipt of two awards for excellence already. We have also had confirmation of the Government's financial support for the 4th phase of the link road, so that is now steaming ahead, aiming for opening in 2021. This will involve dualling the road between the Ketch and the Powick roundabouts, including a second Carrington Bridge and the flood overflow viaduct, as well as the widened causeway for some 1.2 miles.

By the end of this calendar year, Worcestershire Parkway Rail Station should be opened and fully operational. This will mean many trains to and from London stopping there, and some initial services on the Cross Country line also stopping. We are hopeful that more of the latter will join them, giving residents of the County the chance of joining trains to and from the south west and north east without leaving Worcestershire.

In addition, we are in process of a complete renewal of Kidderminster Station, as well as starting on the improvement of the A38 through Bromsgrove.

Meanwhile, there are exciting developments at our Game Changer sites at W6, Redditch Gateway and the Malvern Hills Science Park, all related to improving the economy of the County and increasing our business rate income and the number of good jobs available for our residents.

Cllr Ken Pollock, 49 Gratton Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2BZ