

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock, no Members of Public.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Co-option of Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – All Cllrs completed their new registers.
  - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – None.
  - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None.
4. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –  
**Dispensations received** – None.
5. **Public Question Time** – See notes below of issues raised at Annual Parish Meeting
6. **County Cllr Report** – See report at end of minutes.  
**Eastham Bridge** – Cllr Pollock has asked WCC to get damage repaired quickly but no times yet given.  
**New Road** – WCC have indicated to Clerk this will be done in October 2019.  
Cllr Pollock thanked Cllrs for their work as volunteers.  
**District Cllrs Reports** – Apologies received, see report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of Annual Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 were agreed and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
  - a. **Resiting of Defibrillator** – Housing Association contact is on sick leave, Clerk will continue with enquiries.
  - b. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – Cllr Adams gave a brief update on progress of EMH Charity (1177355).  
Electric meter to be read by Clerk and reading sent to EMH Charity (502640).
9. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -**  
**MHDC Planning Training Session – 4<sup>th</sup> July** – Clerk attended; details circulated.
10. **Finances** –
  - a. **Payments made** – Worcestershire CALC (previous cheque cancelled) = £154.27, Eastham Memorial Hall (1177355-rent 2018-19) = £126.00, Mrs S Burrows (Defib pads) = £37.14, Mr I Mapp (May/June 2019) = £234.00.
  - b. **Payments received** – May WCC LM January 2019 = £156.00, WCC LM February/March 2019 = £312.00.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – May/June 2019 signed, Balance in cash book agreed as £17377.82.
  - d. **Budget (circulated)** – Budget to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 was reviewed and agreed, no changes made.
11. **Planning:**
  - a. **Plans received since last meeting** – None.
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
    - b. **19/00190/FUL** – Oaktrees Caravan, Eastham – **Erection of Agricultural Building (part retrospective).**  
**Approved by MHDC.**
  - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** – None.
12. **Road Report:**
  - a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.
  - b. **Problems to report** – Road up to Highwood – damage to stones by Temevale to be reported.
  - c. **Outstanding queries** -  
**New Road subsidence** – WCC have advised work is planned for October 2019.  
**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.

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**Orleton Road blocked drains** – WCC have advised they will be cleared when jetting lorry comes out.  
**Orleton Road** – collapse of road verge opposite Nashfield – WCC are aware of the issue.

13. **Councils Risk Assessment** (circulated) – It was agreed all risks are covered; Chairman signed the document.

14. **Correspondence for Information:**

**Police Commissioners survey** – to complete by 11<sup>th</sup> August 2019 – Chairman to complete online.

**Police Commissioner** – ‘We Don’t Buy Crime’ Smartwater project – Residents Association have had Police out regarding safety issues so PC will not be taking further action.

**CALC** - Survey for Cllrs to complete online (circulated by email)

**Eastham Residents Association invite 5<sup>th</sup> July** – 7pm.

**WCC Passenger Transport consultation** – comments by 13<sup>th</sup> September – to be circulated to residents.

15. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**

16. **Councillor’s reports and items for the next agenda.**

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall

17. **Date of next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm – VENUE TO BE CONFIRMED**

18. **Meeting closed 7.57pm.**

Signed-----  
Chairman

Date 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

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Public Question Time – No issues raised.

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## District Councillors Report

**WCC Community Solutions Fund:** Councillor Hodgson, Cabinet Member for Communities helped launch the Community Solutions Fund at the Celebrating Volunteering Event on the 3rd of June 2019. This fund, which totals £145,000, can support parish & town councils, voluntary and community sector organisations, schools and community groups to address local issues and increase community capacity through projects and initiatives that reflect the priorities of the Corporate Plan and help reduce future demand and costs for the County Council. The Council has received some applications but I would encourage you to promote this within your parish and visit the Act Local Website <http://www.actlocalworcestershire.org/CommunitySolutionsFund> where you will find details of the fund, the criteria and the application form. All applications to be sent to [communitysolutionsfund@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:communitysolutionsfund@worcestershire.gov.uk) - closing date 5pm on 8th September 2019.

**More funding... Councillor Ward Budget Scheme** – allocations for 2019/20 will be available from 1 July. Please contact me if you have a small project that needs support. I have previously funded local good initiatives such as Clifton Rovers FC and Teme Triangle. Any allocation could be used alongside other funding opportunities such as the Councillor Divisional Fund, available via Councillor Ken Pollock.  
[http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors\\_and\\_committees/113/councillors\\_divisional\\_fund\\_sc\\_heme](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees/113/councillors_divisional_fund_sc_heme)

**Latest consultations: Passenger transport:** Worcestershire County Council is consulting with residents and stakeholders on the draft Passenger Transport Strategy in order to fully understand the contribution that these services make to the local economy and their value in terms of community, health and wellbeing. Please click on the link to take part – <http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/passengertransportstrategy> Please also copy and share this link. The closing date is 13 September 2019.

**Broadband for Rural Communities** – Gigabit Voucher Scheme: As part of the Government’s Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme, businesses and residents in rural parts of the UK (most of the Malvern Hills district is classed as rural – other than the Malvern town area) can claim additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project. Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps can use vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and up to £1,500 per residential premises to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. Group projects are eligible for this funding – this is when two or more residents and/or SMEs get together to combine their vouchers towards the shared cost of installation. Single connections are not eligible for this additional funding. For more information visit [gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/](http://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/rural/) or contact Joel Keller in the Economic Development Team via email [joel.keller@malvernhillsgov.uk](mailto:joel.keller@malvernhillsgov.uk).

**Councillor Caroline Palethorpe - Teme Valley Ward - Tel: 07974 96641 [caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillsgov.uk](mailto:caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillsgov.uk)**

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## County Councillors Report

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Council Members** - As I said to the new Tenbury Town Council meeting two weeks ago, it was good to see so many new faces on the Council. I wished them, as I wish all of you, a very enjoyable and productive period representing the views of your local residents. As I wrote in a recent column in the Tenbury Advertiser, the community is very dependent on people coming forward to offer their time and expertise on civic matters. The contribution of councillors like ourselves is vital to see that the very best decisions are made concerning the provision of services in the area.

It is not widely acknowledged that people such as yourselves do not receive any remuneration, but you can be the subject of complaint when matters don't turn out the way some people might like. I am very aware of the selfless devotion to duty expressed by the service of councillors in all the 18 town and parish councils in my division, and I trust the service you all give is recognised by your communities.

**County Council Affairs** - There was a full Council meeting last Thursday, and there were six notices of motion, only three of which were debated, but one paid tribute to the efforts of people like yourselves, working in Parish Councils for the benefit of the community. There were many supportive comments from across the chamber and the political spectrum, in response to some unwise words of a Labour councillor, who appeared to discount your worth. He was not present, but his group leader, Cllr Robin Lunn, spoke warmly of the contribution made by volunteers, such as yourselves. I presented a report on our minerals policy. There are many mineral deposits in the County, of various types, and these are grouped into corridors. We have had four calls for sites for development, as the intention is that this county, like all others, should seek to provide essential minerals from their own resources. These corridors are all published, so anyone can see where they occur, and where, at some time in the future, they may be exploited.

At last week's full Council, we had a delegation of residents from the Lea Castle area, concerned about the possibility of a new quarry being excavated near them. This will need to go through the full planning process, and I sought to reassure them that the County would be vigorous in ensuring any conditions applied were fully observed. One overriding principle is that we will not allow District Council to permit building over areas where valuable minerals are to be found, even if there is no demand for them at present. Germany has fallen foul of this principle, and various villages and old churches are in the process of being demolished to liberate lignite found beneath them. This should never happen in this county. In Cabinet the previous week, we approved the development of Adult Social Care, a burgeoning area of concern and expenditure, and one where we are all keenly awaiting the much delayed publication of a new adult social care policy from central government. In recent years we have been dependent on one-off grants to cover the increases in costs and we would all appreciate a long term solution to the problem. We will also heard the report on the results of the extensive consultation on the future of our libraries. For reasons that are not worth rehearsing, there was a prevailing feeling that some libraries were in danger of closing. This report to cabinet demonstrated that the required savings have been achieved without any such closures, as had always been the policy.

**South Worcestershire Development Plan revisions** - The SWDP covers the three southerly districts of the county and is undergoing a thorough revision to reflect expected increases in population numbers in the light of the National Planning Policy Framework, the NPPF. This will require the provision of more houses in the county and the plan is intended to indicate the preferred areas for such new housing. Villages in the Tenbury division have seen a lot of new building in the last few years and there are plans for more such estates. Eastham residents may be aware of the controversy that surrounds such developments, when they appear to change the character of the village. A common complaint is that there are no jobs for new people in this rural area, but I have been keen to see the plan is not predicated on the minimising of distances to travel to work. Pursuing such principles, for whatever reasons, would lead to the impoverishment of rural areas.

At present, some 26% of county residents live in "rural areas", while only 13% of new building takes place in rural areas. Current plans seem to indicate that the latter balance of only 13% of build being in rural areas should continue to 2040. I am not sure that is sensible.

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