

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th September 2019

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

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock, two Members of Public.

1. **Apologies:** Received and noted from Cllr Worsley.
2. **Co-option of Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – All Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated.
 - 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 at end of minutes.
6. **County Cllr Report** – See report at end of minutes.
District Cllrs Reports – Apologies received, see report at end of minutes.
7. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 23rd July 2019 and minutes of Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 19th August 2019 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Resiting of Defibrillator** – Housing Association have advised they do not wish to have the Defib on one of their houses. Clerk has advised them it would be short-term while Hall is being rebuilt, Clerk will make further enquiries if the need arises.
 - b. **Defibrillator Training Wednesday 23rd October 7pm to 9pm** – Seven residents have booked a place. Further training on a Saturday to be arranged as requested by residents.
 - c. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – Cllr gave a brief update on progress of EMH Charity (1177355). EMH Charity (502640) to arrange for Audit of their Accounts so agreement to transfer assets can be signed by both parties. BLF are being updated on all matters.
9. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -**
24th September CALC training – Computerised VAT and Cybersecurity – Clerk gave a brief report on the meeting and will obtain further details to discuss at a future meeting.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM July/August 2019) = £468.00, Eastham Riverside Fete Committee (see item 13) = £120.00, Eastham Riverside Fete Committee (see item 14) = £500.00, Mrs S Burrows (see item 10e) = £316.69, Mrs S Burrows (Microsoft Office) = £59.99, Mrs S Burrows (photocopying May 2019 elections/APM) = £45.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM April 2019 = £195.00, WCC LM May 2019 = £195.00, HMRC (VAT repayment 2017-2019) = £2158.46.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – July/August 2019 signed, Balance in cash book agreed as £18697.87.
 - d. **Information Commissioners Office** - to report DD payment of £35.00 due for collection in September.
 - e. **Clerks Expenses 2018-19** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to pay expenses of £316.69 as circulated. Clerk wished to note she has not claimed for any extra hours worked due to Hall issues.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans received since last meeting** – None.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – None.
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** – None.
12. **Road Report:**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.

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- b. **Problems to report** – Road up to Highwood potholes.
- c. **Outstanding queries** -
- **New Road subsidence** – County Cllr to ask WCC for firm date.
 - **Eastham Bridge damage/dead trees** – Damaged metal has been repaired but brickwork has not been repaired. County Cllr to get update. Dead trees not yet replaced possibly due to weather.
 - **Orleton Road blocked drains** – WCC to jet.
 - **Orleton Road** – collapse of road verge opposite Nashfield – WCC are aware of the issue, County Cllr to get update.
 - **Memorial Hall corner drain** – WCC have advised they will improve drain so no further damage occurs.
 - **Astley Orchard curb stones** – Resident was concerned lorry was causing damage to the kerbstone. This matter has now been resolved with input from Dist Cllr.
 - **Astley Orchard pavement** – WCC to resurface when they do drain work by Hall.
5. **Eastham Riverside Fete Committee** – It was agreed by all to pay £120.00 for hire of toilets for Fete 2019.
6. **Eastham Riverside Fete Committee** – It was agreed to donate £500.00 to Committee to distribute to worthy causes within the Parish of Eastham over the next 12 months.
13. **Mowing of Millennium Green** – Contractor felt more cuts may be needed this year. It was agreed by all to pay for two extra cuts this year making total of 18 cuts if required.
14. **Winter 2019** – It was agreed to order rock salt if required. It was also agreed to purchase grit bin for Highwood to be placed on residents land. Clerk to obtain costs to be agreed by email.
15. **Correspondence for Information:**
WCC Conference 17th October Market Place 5pm to 6pm, Conference 6pm to MHDC Conference - 21st October 5.30pm
WCC - Snow Contractors wanted for Winter 2019
WCC - Superfast Broadband Engagement Event - 26th September 4-6pm
SWDP Review - Briefing for Town/Parish Councils – 6th November 2pm to 4pm or 6pm to 8pm – Guild Hall, Worcester
MHDC 'Ticket to Ride' event - Transport for the Community – 11th October 10am to 1pm at Malvern.
Worcestershire Passenger Transport Strategy Consultation – comments by 13th September
MHDC 'Have your Say' Consultation – comments by 6th October
WCC Minerals Local Plan Consultation – comments by 30th September
MHDC Neighbourhood Watch Together Event – 25th September 5pm to 8pm
Eastham Residents Association – Consent to receive information for Cllrs
MHDC Pollinator Sites - information
16. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** –
Payments made on 7th August 2019 – MHDC Election fees (May 2019) = £36.00.
17. **Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Budget
18. **Date of next meeting: 26th NOVEMBER 2019 at 7.30pm – EASTHAM MEMORIAL HALL**
19. **Meeting closed 8.57pm.**

Signed----- Date 26th November 2019
Chairman

Public Question Time –

Eastham Bridge repairs – It was noted the metal has been repaired but damaged brickwork needs attention. County Cllr to query this with WCC.

New Road repairs – WCC have stated the work will be undertaken this autumn, October being mentioned. County Cllr to query firm date with WCC.

Eastham Residents Association – residents stated there are many ideas for small events to be held in Hall.

District Councillors Report

Councillor Ward Budget Scheme – allocations for 2019/20 are now available. Please contact me if you have a small project that needs support. I have already funded two initiatives in the Clifton upon Teme parish so I would like to support my other parishes. Any allocation could be used alongside other funding opportunities such as the

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County Councillor Divisional Fund, is available via Councillor Ken Pollock.

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20013/councillors_and_committees/113/councillors_divisional_fund_scheme

Youth Champion: Although there is now a new Administration in charge at Malvern Hills District Council, it has been approved at Full Council that I am to continue in the role as the Youth Champion. This is something I am passionate about and will ensure our children and young people have a loud voice in shaping services across the district. There are a number of exciting activities planned for the next four years including a "Talk to me" event where professionals and agencies will be invited to attend to raise awareness of the services available to young people. I will provide more information as plans develop. The "Inbox" newsletter will be circulated shortly. The latest edition has been written and edited by young people from across the District. I am keen to ensure young people within Teme Valley Ward feed into this publication.

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/ or contact Joel Keller in the Economic Development Team via email joel.keller@malvernhillscouncil.gov.uk.

District Councillor Caroline Palethorpe, Teme Valley Ward, Malvern Hills District Council

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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Council Affairs - At Council two weeks ago, we considered two matters of countywide importance. The first established how Worcestershire Children First (WCF) will be brought into being on October 1st. This is the wholly owned company of the county council that will look after all our children's services and education matters that are determined by the council. Full details can be found on the council's website, but suffice to say at this stage that our most recent Ofsted inspection has demonstrated that our children's safeguarding activities have continued to improve. So they are not rated "requires improvement to be good". While WCF will continue in existence for probably 5 years, we anticipate that the service may come out of intervention in the near future. The company will have a budget in excess of £110 million a year, and will carry our vital work with the 800 or so children taken into council care. It will remain under the supervision and scrutiny of the County Council officers and Cabinet

The other matter that was adopted was an organisational redesign of the top three tiers of management of the County. These will consist of the Chief Executive at tier 1, four strategic directors at tier 2, and thirteen assistant directors at tier 3. This will mean a saving of two posts and should make the policy forming area of the county council structure more effective and efficient. There will then be further reorganisation at the lower tiers of management and activity, resulting in further savings and greater effectiveness. In these circumstances, I would be very pleased to hear of any experiences of residents who have dealings with the council, so that I can know of both good and bad outcomes. The intention would be to seek ways of improving the good and eliminating the bad. Your cooperation would be welcomed.

Local matters - I am acutely aware of the poor broadband speeds suffered by some members in our rural areas. Our officers are working hard with BT Openreach to ensure good coverage for the whole county and progress is being made. I am sure we all realise that there are competing claims across the country for the limited resources available to install the necessary infrastructure. Nevertheless, I think that our performance so far has been among the best in the country. The Prime Minister's announcement of an accelerated timetable for the provision of fibre to the premises is welcome, but will require much greater resources being made available. In these circumstances, I am very keen that Worcestershire should be near the front of the queue for the extra effort, to satisfy, especially, people like some Eastham residents who have been "neglected" so far. You might want to bear in mind that the Prime Minister has expressed dissatisfaction with the 2033 deadline for everyone in the country to receive fibre to their premises, and has said he will bring that forward to 2023. That would mean a huge amount of work between now and then, but once achieved, it would mean the much easier deployment of assistive technology with remote monitoring for Adult Social Care. We have to hope he will achieve his stated intention.

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Rural Services Network conference - I was able to attend some of the above conference in Cheltenham three weeks ago. There was attention given to the need for a rural strategy that makes appropriate provision for the problems of sparsity in rural areas. This means seeking to ensure a balanced population of people in rural villages, to keep village schools open and appropriate services for local people. It should be recognised that in my Tenbury division, there are 17 parish councils, as well as Tenbury Town Council. In those 17, there are only three that have shops - Great Witley, Abberley and Clifton Upon Teme. This means that many people will need to use some form of transport to get to the sort of facilities that we all regard as essential. In consequence, I was dismayed at the conclusions of the Select Committee of the House of Commons for Science and Technology. They recently decided, for all sorts of reasons, connected with climate change and advanced technology, that personal transport would have to be banned or restricted. I wrote to the Conservative members of the committee to indicate that this would be impractical for many of those living in the 14 villages without a shop like Eastham, not to mention their needs to get to towns and railways stations and the like. I have not had a single reply. Indeed, Sam Gyimah has now decided to become a Liberal Democrat! I am very keen to see that rural areas are helped to thrive by sensible expansion of housing and support for rural schools and services. I hope that that policy will be endorsed by our national government, and recognised in the future funding proposals by the Chancellor.

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

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