

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk, two Members of Public.

1. **Apologies:** Received and noted from Cllr Worsley.
2. **Co-option of Cllr** – Application presented to meeting by Stuart Ward. It was agreed by all to co-opt Mr Ward onto the PC, he signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllr Ward given a form to complete. 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** – Apologies received, 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 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
8. **Progress reports for information:**
  - a. **Vacancy on Eastham Parish Council** – Due to the death of Cllr Horsfall a vacancy must be advertised. Clerk has informed MHDC Returning Officer. See also item 14.
  - b. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – Cllr reported good progress is being made.
9. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: - None.**
10. **Finances** –
  - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM December 2019) = £234.00,
  - b. **Payments received** – None.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – November/December 2019 signed, Balance in cash book agreed as £18421.25
  - d. **Budget 2020-2021** (circulated) – It was agreed to approve the budget as drafted. A precept figure of £8300.00 was agreed for 2020-2021.
11. **Planning:**
  - a. **Plans received since last meeting** – None.
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – None.
  - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** – None.
  - d. **Outstanding issues** -  
**19/00190/FUL – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood WR15 8PB** – Update on compliance with conditions of Planning Approval dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019. Enforcement Officer has advised a site visit is being arranged for week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the conditions with the applicant.
12. **Road Report:**
  - a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.
  - b. **Problems to report** – All drains need jetting, LM has done his best, they have been reported to WCC. Rhyse Lane Clerk reported water leak but STW say it is land drain, Clerk to take photos. New Road, dangerous trees still not been attended to, Clerk to contact WCC.
  - c. **Outstanding queries** -
    - **Eastham Bridge damage/dead trees** – WCC still not repaired damage, County Cllr is as concerned as residents with this issue. WCC confirmed dead trees will be replaced.

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- **Orleton Road blocked drains** – They have been reported, not sure if WCC have been out.
- **Orleton Road** – collapse of road verge opposite Nashfield – WCC are aware of the issue, no update.
- **Astley Orchard slippery pavement** – Clerk has taken photos and will see why nothing has been done by WCC.

## 13. Correspondence for Information:

**Worcestershire Wildlife Trust** – Natural Networks Workshop – 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**EnviroSort Recycling visit** – dates circulated

**Community First AGM/What does a Healthy Rural Community Look Like** – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 10.15am – Bishops Frome

**WCC Budget Meeting** – 29<sup>th</sup> January – 6.30pm County Hall

**WCC Conference** – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 6.30pm

**MHDC Statement of Licensing Review 2020** – comments by 6<sup>th</sup> April

**MHDC Ticket to Ride Event** – 22<sup>nd</sup> January – 9.30am – 1pm

**MHDC Pride of Malvern Hills Community Award** – nominations by 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

## 14. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

**Payment made 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019** – Mr I Mapp LM November 2019 = £234.00.

**Cllr Horsfall** - Clerk had sent a letter of condolence to Cllr Horsfall's partner from the PC. It was agreed to note in the minutes the Cllrs appreciation and grateful thanks for the time Joyce served the Parish of Eastham and the help she gave to the Community as a whole. Her input will be greatly missed by the community.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Mowing Contract, Lenghtsman Contract.

## 16. Date of next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020 at 7.30pm – EASTHAM MEMORIAL HALL

## 17. Meeting closed 7.47pm.

Signed----- Date 24<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Chairman

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### Public Question Time –

**Damage to property** - Resident reported damage to two lights outside his gates, he will report the matter to Police.

**New Road** – Trees overhanging highway still not cut back. Clerk will ask WCC for an update.

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### District Councillors Report

**Severn Trent Community Fund:** Severn Trent has launched a new Community Fund with more than £10million to give away to charities and community groups over the next five years. The Fund will be looking to support projects that can demonstrate a clear link to one or more of our three elements of community wellbeing:

**People:** Projects that help people to lead a healthier life and gain new skills

**Place:** Ideas that help create better places to live in and use

**Environment:** Schemes that will help look after the natural environment, give people greater access to that environment or help look after water. There will also be encouraging projects that have a link to water in some way, such as river restoration, flood alleviation or sustainable drainage. The independent Community Fund Customer Panel, which is made up of Severn Trent customers, will review applications on a quarterly basis and then decide where the money goes. The Panel will meet for the first time in March with the first grants expected to be issued in April 2020. Applications are welcomed all-year round and capital and revenue projects will be considered, as long as the application shows how the project will be sustained beyond the investment. To apply and to find out more, visit [www.stwater.co.uk/communityfund](http://www.stwater.co.uk/communityfund) or email [communityfund@severntrent.co.uk](mailto:communityfund@severntrent.co.uk)

**Waste and recycling campaign:** Our residents are generally pretty good at recycling and contamination rates are amongst the lowest in the county. However, we still have particular problem areas where too many items ending up in green bins/cherry sacks are not suitable for recycling. Over the next few weeks and months we will be supporting Worcestershire County Council in running a campaign to highlight the main items which are incorrectly put into bins and help residents to get their recycling right. Recent sampling has revealed the following items are most commonly put into the green bin when they belong elsewhere:

Clothes/shoes, Food waste, Household items (cheese grater, toilet brush, photo frame), Nappies, Metals.

**Youth Volunteering:** We have updated the youth volunteering leaflet for January. This is updated every six months and shared with our local high schools and on our website [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/youth](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/youth) You will also find the latest 'things to do' guide for young people and apprenticeship opportunities on the website. Please promote.

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**Nominations for The Pride of Malvern Hills Community Awards** are now open, with two new award categories; Dementia Friendly Award and Local Charity Award. The awards scheme aims to recognise individuals, projects, groups and organisations whose dedication and commitment has improved the lives and wellbeing of residents. Shortlisted nominees will be celebrated at a ceremony on 26 March at Malvern Town Football Club. The awards form part of our Five Year Plan commitment to building stronger and healthier communities. Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community-awards](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community-awards) for more information and to download a nomination form.

**Councillor Caroline Palethorpe, Teme Valley Ward, Malvern Hills District Council, Tel: 07974 966412**  
[caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net](mailto:caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net)

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## COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

**The New Year** - A lot has happened since I last reported to your Parish Council back in November. The General election result should mean a stable government for around five years, during which time we will leave the European Union, and institute a new relationship with them, covering a variety of matters that affect us all. We are expecting a new Budget from the Chancellor, Sajid Javid, the MP for Bromsgrove, on March 11th and the signs are that there will be more money for a variety of causes. We hope to see Adult Social Care properly financed, rather than on an *ad hoc* basis year by year. We would like to think rural authorities would receive a better settlement, relative to our urban/metropolitan cousins, to ease funding pressures for County Councils that are reflected in council tax settlements.

Agriculture will be watching closely to see how it might be supported when the CAP is no longer relevant. I hope the farmers' representatives will do a good job in ensuring the sort of support that has effectively funded our cheap food policy since WWII. While this may move to an environmentally beneficial system, it will need to be feasible, capable of repetition year on year, and to command general support.

We know that the government has pledged to bring forward ultrafast broadband coverage, especially in rural areas, with a view to helping social workers monitor their charges remotely, as well as helping farmers and school children use the internet for their needs.

Needless to say, we will be monitoring these matters closely at County Hall, and we are very keen to hear of any concerns by other councils that might reflect problems that are being overlooked or ignored.

So with that cautious assessment of where we are at present, may I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

**Local matters** - I am acutely aware that the damage to Eastham bridge has not yet been repaired, and that even once it is restored, it will remain vulnerable to lorry and tractor drivers. I have advised our officers that a more permanent solution should be tried, even if it means erecting plastic bollards to protect the brickwork.

I also note that you are concerned about a number of drainage issues in the parish. As you are well aware, the heavy rainfall in recent months has put a huge strain on our drainage assets and on those who are seeking to keep them clear and functioning.

I am sure your liaison officer, Hannah Davies, will pursue solutions as effectively as possible, but I am aware of the number of such problems throughout the county and that in consequence the remedy may not be available quickly.

All parish communities are very dependent on the time and effort put in by volunteers in keeping civic affairs in order, and parish halls in good repair. Eastham knows this well and has benefited from such selfless actions over the years. I am aware that you are without good friends now, through death or illness.

While we feel for them and their relatives, it is appropriate to offer thanks for all those who labour tirelessly and without obvious reward for the benefit of their communities.

**County Matters** - The first full council of the New Year was held on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January. A number of decisions already made were reported on by the leader, Simon Geraghty, including the Passenger Transport Strategy, the Keepax Bridge, various aspects of the education system and childcare, as well as preparation for Brexit. In addition, the leader summarised the year in his annual report, covering all aspects of the Council's work.

Of particular relevance to your parish council was a Notice of Motion drawing attention to the significance of roadside hedges, especially where they may overhang footways and obstruct progress by walkers and those using mobility scooters and buggies.

Often the hedges are owned by the adjacent landowner and they can sometimes be slow or reluctant to trim back the hedges. Procedures for county officers to affect such trimming and receive reimbursement are slow and can be ineffective. The motion called for a better scheme, maybe involving parish councils, to ensure the footways are kept open properly to the benefit of all.

## **EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

You may be aware that the new Worcestershire Parkway station did not open in December, as originally planned. We anticipate that it will open early next month, once approved by the Office of Road and Rail, and will then prove a useful access point to the rail network, particularly for residents in rural Worcestershire, who would prefer not to have to drive into the city to catch a train.

**Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, GL50 2BZ**

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**