

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council
held by VIDEO (due to Covid 19 restrictions) at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29th September 2020

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

In Attendance: Clerk, Chairman of Eastham Memorial Hall Committee

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Co-option of Cllr** – No applications received.
3. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Item 11 Eastham Memorial Hall
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – As above.
4. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations received – All Cllrs Item 11 Eastham Memorial Hall. Dispensation granted at previous meeting for this item until May 2023.
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 VIDEO meeting held on 8th June 2020 were agreed by all and will be signed by Chairman.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: - None**
9. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM July/August 2020) = £432.00, Eastham Riverside Fete Committee (see item 12) = £500.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM February 2020 = £195.00, VAT repayment = £778.11, Repayment of insurance premium due to Hall being taken off policy = £91.36.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) – May/June/July/August 2020 figures were agreed. Balance in cash book £20853.77 on 31st August.
 - d. **Information Commissioners Office** – Payment of £35.00 to be taken by DD in September 2020.
 - e. **Budget review** (circulated) – Budget was agreed as circulated.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans received since last meeting** – See item 16.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – None.
20/00702/HP – 1 Astley Orchard, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8NR – Demolition of single storey side extension and porch and erection of larger extension and porch. **Approved by MHDC.**
 - 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 15th July 2019. Clerk awaiting update from MHDC.
ENF 20/0213 – Eastham Grange, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8NP – awaiting update from MHDC.
11. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – to consider urgent matters that may need to be discussed at this meeting. Chairman of Trustees updated Cllrs, there were no matters to discuss that involved the PC.
 - a. **Donation to rebuild costs** – It was agreed by all to pay £7000.00 at PC Meeting to be held on 24th November 2020. Cllrs wished it to be noted in minutes how grateful the PC are for the work put in by Trustees to ensure the project will be completed this year within budget.
12. **Donation to Eastham Riverside Fete** – It was agreed by all to donate £500.00 to the Committee to be given to worthy causes within the Parish of Eastham.

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13. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – working to clear drains/grips.
- b. **Problems to report** – Trees near Fisherman's carpark need felling, Clerk to contact Birmingham Anglers Association who manage the land.
- c. **Outstanding queries** -
 - **Eastham Bridge damage/dead trees** – Dead trees to be replaced, damage to be repaired. WCC have confirmed they will do the work but no date given. County Cllr refers to the damage in his report below.
 - **Orleton Road** – collapse of roadside – no progress.
 - **Astley Orchard slippery pavement issue** – no progress.

14. **Website Accessibility Regulations from 23rd September 2020** – Clerk informed Cllrs about this new law. The WCC website used by PC is compliant. Clerk to ensure documents loaded onto the website can be read by disabled. PC to note on website documents can be requested in a different format if requested.

15. Correspondence for Information:

COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police
South Worcestershire Development Plan - updates
MHDC - Walk/run routes in Parishes
Police and Crime Commissioners Survey 2020 – circulated and returned

16. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payments made – 7th July 2020 – Mrs S Burrows (McAfee for computer) = £119.99, Mr I Mapp (LM June 2020) = £216.00

Plans circulated by email 10th July 2020 –

20/00785/FUL – Land At (Os 6543 6686) Eastham – Change of use of agricultural land to site one holiday 'glamping' cabin. It was agreed by all to send in objections. Land in open countryside, size of cabin, narrow lanes, drainage concerns, inappropriate for area, no public transport etc. Clerk drafted comments which were circulated and agreed by Cllrs. Objections were received from many residents.

Cllr Matravers declared an interest in this application and did not make any comments.

20/00878/AGR – Eastham Court, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8NW – Replacement of former silage storage with new agricultural building. Cllrs agreed not to object to this application.

Cllr Adams declared an interest in this application and did not make any comments.

20/00839/CLPU - 8 Astley Orchard Eastham Tenbury Wells WR15 8NR - Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed development - Removal of existing conservatory, and construction of single-storey extension. Internal alterations to knock through from existing Ground Floor accommodation into proposed extension. Width 5.6m, depth 2.9m, height to eaves 2.5m. This was circulated for information only.

Plans circulated by email on 9th August 2020

20/01045/FUL – Hill Top, Rochford, Tenbury Wells WR15 8SR – Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling. It was agreed by all not to make any comment as the site is not within the Parish of Eastham.

24th September – Report of missed bin collections due to road closure signs being left in place – Dist Cllr was made aware of this issue, following her input bins were collected and message put on MHDC website.

27th September – Report from residents of car parked on Millennium Green for several days – Clerk asked resident to remove car which was done. The resident raised concerns regarding other cars parking on the Green. Clerk to inform residents in next village email that cars should not park on the Green unless they are going to use Memorial Hall.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Risk Assessment, Budget and Precept 2021-2022.

Cllr queried FP signs, where is map of local paths, can PC have a copy. Clerk to contact FP Officer.

18. **Date of next VIDEO meeting: TUESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM.**

19. **Meeting closed 7.58 pm.**

Signed----- Date **24th November 2020**
Chairman

Public Question Time – Chairman of Eastham Memorial Hall Trustees joined the meeting and updated Cllrs on progress of the build. The steel frame was delayed by two weeks so project is anticipated to finish 14th December 2020. Cost for foundations increased but the project remains within budget. Solar panels – it has been agreed not to install these, not much benefit if heating not on all the time, can be added at later date. Electric supply to be increased due to updated kitchen equipment. Trustees and Contractor are working well together and both wish to keep the project within budget. **Cllrs thanked Trustees see note in minutes item 11.**

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District Councillors Report

I do hope everyone is keeping safe and well? Congratulations on the Eastham Village Hall work to date. I took a drive down to see how things are progressing, and while I know you are still waiting for the steel to arrive it is wonderful to see that work has commenced at last! I look forward to the grand opening.

I have included a short report for the meeting.

Spacehive Crowdfunding Update (both councils) - Over the past few months, Wychavon and Malvern Hills District Councils have supported a range of community projects recovering from the Covid-19 crisis. Working with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, both councils provided funding of £25,000 each to support local organisations and encourage pledges from the community. Up to £5,000 was pledged towards an individual project. A number of projects are still in need of pledges, click on the link <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs/projects> for more information. The next round of funding, which is called Crowdfund WYCHAVON: Ticket to Ride Fund and **People Make Places: Ticket to Ride Fund**, will support transport projects that are sustainable, innovative, citizen-led and community based. The aim is to increase resilience and boost connectivity of communities in the Wychavon and Malvern Hills Districts by improving local people's ability to travel to services and opportunities for social interaction. Wychavon has made a pot of £140,000 available over the next three years (across six rounds of funding) to support community transport initiatives, with MHDC having £150,000. The maximum amount pledged to a project will be £50,000 or 50% of the total project costs. Donations from communities, local businesses and foundations will make up the rest. The deadline for organisations to pitch their project idea is 30 September. One day left!

Ward Budget - Available for any small local community projects. Please get in touch directly if you would like to discuss a project in more detail.

Sunday 4th October is "Silver Sunday", a day to celebrate older people. As we live through these strange days of Covid-19 it seems a particularly good time for us all to celebrate the huge contribution older people have made to the community response to the crisis and also to bring together all those older people who have had to remain isolated and perhaps have had a tough time this year. If you know of any local groups interested in hosting a Silver Sunday event, MHDC will help promote plans. For further details please click on the link I have included which has lots of ideas and resources to help set up an event, being mindful of Covid restrictions. <https://silversunday.org.uk/>

Take care all.

Councillor Caroline Palethorpe, Teme Valley Ward, Malvern Hills District Council, Tel: 07974 966412
caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillscdc.net

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Flooding - I trust that you will all have heard about the award of £4.895 million towards the construction of a flood barrier scheme in Tenbury Wells. This is part of the massive amount of money allocated to seek to solve flooding problems across the country, including an additional amount of up to £30 million in the Severn Valley, to overcome the periodic flooding in the river basin. The official announcement contains the following comments on our local area:

In Tenbury Wells and the Severn Valley, two flood schemes will protect nearly 3,000 homes in areas which were badly affected by last winter's floods, and protecting and creating more than 22,000 jobs along the Severn Valley. This will be supplemented by an additional scheme combining natural flood risk management, tree planting and habitat creation to reduce flood risk and capture carbon throughout the Severn Valley.

There is a requirement for some local funding, and the Worcestershire LEP has been able to allocate £0.5 million to fill the gap, this being the maximum the EA will allow, amounting to 10% of their commitment. In addition, the projects must be regarded as "shovel ready" meaning they must be able to start soon, and in consequence that the work must be completed by the end of the next financial year. Those of you who have studied the plans will know that there may need to be some revision or improvement to make them satisfactory, but in general, this is a very welcome announcement. You may know that Harriett Baldwin, our local MP, has played a major part in persuading Defra to fund this need, and her adjournment debate clearly helped to ensure Tenbury was included in the list of approved schemes. As a result of the promise of a large grant from central government, a number of people met on the 4th September to discuss the needs of a flood barrier with EA in Tenbury. A photograph of the assembled company was published in the Tenbury Advertiser the following week. It became clear that the EA has not done any detailed design work on the tricky areas of the barrier, for instance crossing Teme Street by the bridge. The EA will be working on these designs in the near future and there will be a consultation period for people to express their views. All those involved need to seek to ensure the EA keeps to a tight timetable as the money may not be forthcoming if the work is not completed quickly.

County Matters - Schools returned earlier this month, and we have to hope that all the dire predictions of problems prove unduly pessimistic. The news media are concerned to tell us the figures for positive test results,

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but rarely put that in context of the numbers of tests carried out. They also more or less ignore the small number of people needing to go to hospital and the even smaller number of people succumbing to the disease. From the latter two figures, one would draw some hope that the whole pandemic is under control or coming to a close. That said, the Government has decided on further restrictions on meetings from Monday of last week, with a limit of just 6 people being together in one household, and we have to hope these will not be in place for very long. Despite the stringent conditions applied to social gatherings, meetings in a workplace are acceptable and last week I completed three full days of discussions at the County Council between the Cabinet and the senior leadership team, planning the future of the council. That is acceptable, as long as we remain 2 metres apart... A number of important matters have been discussed, many looking at the impact of the coronavirus pandemic as well as the financial state of the council. While a lot of matters are still to be decided, we are preparing contingency plans to seek to ensure that we stay within budget while providing the sort of services our residents expect.

Local Matters - I am pleased to read that the rebuilding of the Memorial Hall continues apace, and I trust it will be ready for opening later this year. No doubt, everyone will enjoy using the new facilities and will be keen to put the turmoil associated with its construction behind them.

It is a matter of regret that the repairs to the new Eastham Bridge have not been completed. I have made repeated requests for plastic bollards to be erected inside the walls, to protect the latter. Given the nature of the mortar that must be used in the walls' construction, it seems sensible to provide some less expensive bollards so any mistakes by drivers are less long lasting.

We are well served by our local highways' liaison officer, Hannah Davies, but I would urge all councillors to get in touch with her, maybe via your clerk, if any problems arise in the highway. As a long stop, I am keen to offer assistance, if the conventional and online methods do not seem to be working.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, GL50 2BZ