

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held by VIDEO at 7.30pm on Tuesday 30th March 2021

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Matravets,
Cllr Adams, Cllr Ward, Cllr Worsley

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock, Dist Cllr Caroline Palethorpe

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 12 Eastham Memorial Hall. Cllr Ward Item 11(c) Planning 21/00262/CLE - Eastham Grange
 - 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 12 Eastham Memorial Hall. Dispensation granted at previous meeting for this item until May 2023. Cllr Ward requested and was granted a Dispensation to speak and vote on Item 11(c) Planning 21/00262/CLE - Eastham Grange
5. **Public Question Time** – No matters raised.
6. **County Cllr Report** – Report at end of minutes. County Cllr left meeting.
C/Cllr said verges can be planted, let WCC know and put up markers.
District Cllrs Reports – Report at end of minutes. Dist Cllr left meeting after item 15.
7. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of Parish Council VIDEO meeting held on 26th January 2021 were agreed by all and will be signed by Chairman.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs:** -
Clerk – Zoom Natural Networks Event – 17th March – interesting, notes to be circulated.
9. **Updates** -
 - a. **Defibrillator Box** – Contractors have installed new Box on outside of Hall.
10. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – See items 12 and 17.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM December = £180.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** (circulated) – January/February 2021 figures were agreed. Balance in cash book £20485.85 on 28th February.
 - d. **Clerks Salary increase from 1st April 2021** (circulated) – To note increase to £10.41ph as per National increase. Clerk could backdate increase to April 2020 but she declined to do so. Standing Order for bank agreed as £208.20. letter for Bank to be signed by two Cllrs.
11. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans received since last meeting** – None.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
20/01613/HP – The Stone Barn, Highwood, Eastham Tenbury Wells WR15 8PB – Erection of a small oak frame link extension between existing barn conversion and garage block. **Refused by MHDC.**
20/01045/FUL – Hill Top, Rochford, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RS – Erection of an agricultural workers dwelling. **Withdrawn by Applicant.**
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** –
21/00262/CLE - Eastham Grange, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8NP – Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the established use of the former Pool House building at Eastham Grange as a single residence. After much discussion it was agreed by all to Object to this application. The Pool Houses original intention was to house a Swimming Pool, it is felt inappropriate to change the use to residential due to concerns regarding over development of the site, other buildings have already been converted, concerns were raised about drainage issues due to increase in grey water. Cllr Ward wished it to be noted in minutes

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he is concerned about the drainage issues due to the runoff going onto his land. Clerk to draft comments for circulation and approval.

12. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – No urgent matters to discuss.
 - a. **Purchases of items for Hall from £7000.00 held in budget by PC for EMH.**
Information circulated to Cllrs prior to confirming order and payment -
Stephen J Weavers Wofferton (stone for Hall) = £854.85 – **payment made 02/03/2021**
NBB Recycled Furniture (Garden furniture) at cost of £1554.00 – **payment made 23/03/2021**
XL Displays Ltd (Interior Noticeboard) = £136.80 – **payment made 23/03/2021**
Lansford Access Ltd (Interior Ladder ordered online Clerk paid) – To agree to pay Clerk £417.60 – **payment made 23/03/2021**
Coler Supply Solutions Intl Ltd (Fogging Machine and liquid cleaner) – Invoice not yet received.
Signtech, Stourport (Sign outside of Hall) – Provisional order costs are £408, Clerk awaiting confirmation of order and will update Cllrs in due course.
Speedy Shelving (shelves for storeroom ordered online Clerk paid) – To agree to pay Clerk £126.00 – **payment made 26/03/2021.**
 - b. **Insurance of Hall from 1st June 2021** – It was agreed PC will not ask EMH to make any payment for insurance of Hall for 2021-2022.
 - c. **Documents required on completion of Hall** – Clerk to ensure copy of all documents are retained in PC files for future reference.
 - d. **Eastham Community Garden Project** – Garden Club are working on this when weather permits.
 13. **War Memorial Board from Hall** (circulated) – Trustees have informed PC donations have funded this project.
 14. **Noticeboard for Parish** – Clerk has costings of £850.00 + VAT and delivery for aluminum board with header, posts and magnetic backing. It was agreed by all to order board to replace one outside Hall.
 15. **Road Report:**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – See item 21.
 - b. **Problems to report** – None.
 - c. **Outstanding queries -**
 - **Eastham Bridge damage/dead trees** – County Cllr and Clerk working on both these issues.
- At 8.07pm due to internet issues the Chairman agreed to close the meeting for Clerk to resolve issues.
Meeting continued at 8.10pm.
16. **Correspondence for Information:**
COVID 19 updates from CALC, NALC, WCC, MHDC, Police
South Worcestershire Development Plan - updates
Great British Spring Clean 2021
Natural Networks Online Event – 17th March
Eastham Residents Association AGM – 18th February 2021 – 7pm
 17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –**
Payments made – (see also item 12)
2nd March – Mr I Mapp (LM January 2021) = £216.00.
13th March – Mr I Mapp (LM February 2021) = £216.00.
13th March - Arthur J Gallagher (Insurance premium from 12th February 2021 to 31st May 2021 for new Hall) = £164.17
7th February - Footpath query from resident due to walkers on private land. Clerk reported matter to FP Officer and asked for markers to be checked.
 18. **Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.**
Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Accounts.
County Cllr Ken Pollock is not standing for re-election in May 2021. Cllrs asked for letter to be sent to thank Ken for his support to Eastham during his term of office.
 19. **Date of next meeting: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING TUESDAY 25th MAY 2021 AT 7.15PM to be followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting at close of Parish Meeting.**
 20. **Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**

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21. Lengthsman Contract 2021-2022 (circulated) – Two Cllrs held Zoom interviews on 18th Marc, there were two applicants. It was agreed to offer the Contact to Chris Bunn, notes in file. Hourly rate agreed as £14.00ph, Chris is trained in LM work to August 2021. Clerk to arrange training when WCC agree a date. Insurance provided. Letter of thanks to be sent to Ian Mapp who has been working as LM for many years.

21. Meeting closed 8.30pm.

Signed----- Date **25th May 2021**
Chairman

Public Question Time – No matters raised.

District Councillors Report

I have been enjoying the updates on Eastham Memorial Hall progress. It really is looking good. Well done to everyone involved. I cannot wait to meet you all inside soon. I include a short report for the meeting.

Council receives prestigious award for litter picking scheme: Malvern Hills District Council has been recognised for its litter-picking efforts and dedication to keeping the district clean. The council's Adopt a Street scheme received the prestigious 'Litter Initiative of the Year 2021' award by Keep Britain Tidy which recognises projects that have successfully reduced litter through sustained behaviour change.

Communications: The Council has developed a 'Let's get back to what we love safely' campaign to support the lockdown easing process including the reopening of non-essential retail on 12 April. This will encourage people, vaccinated or not, to only do as much as they are allowed at each stage of lockdown easing to make sure we keep this virus under control. The Economic Development Team is also working on a staycation breaks campaign to support local tourism businesses. These are just some of the channels we will use to promote The Malverns:

- Targeted Facebook sponsored advertising
- Targeted Google Display Advertising
- Digital display at service stations
- Direct to the media via the TravMedia travel journalist portal
- The printed guide for The Malverns
- Full-page editorial feature in National Geographic Traveller magazine

www.visitthemaalverns.org/staycations for more information.

Reopening of outdoor hospitality from 12 April: The Covid-19 Roadmap allows many businesses to reopen for outdoor hospitality from 12 April. Please see the list of pubs, restaurants and cafes along with the dates of reopening on our Visit the Malverns website.

<https://www.visitthemaalverns.org/blog/outdoor-hospitality-reopening-from-12-april-2021/>

If any Councillors are aware of a business that will reopen in April and is not on the list, please email the TIC team at info@visitthemaalverns.org so their details can be added.

Spacehive – Crowdfund Worcestershire: <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs> The next round of applications will be open in March. Spacehive will be delivering Project Creator workshops to help organisations through the application process. Anyone thinking of setting up a project on the platform can register for one of these workshops at <https://www.spacehive.com/movement/worcs/news#507/Events> Please share this with your community groups. I know you all will be able to promote this platform after being successful!

Age UK: I am a member of a task and finish group considering the causes of poverty. This is a huge piece of work and as we know there are many factors to poverty. Apologies if you already have details of Age UK Worcester & Malvern Hills but after a presentation at our meeting on Thursday 25th March, I wanted to circulate the details for further promotion. The plethora of services and activities the organisation provides for our community is incredible. <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/worcester-malvern-hills/>

Councillor Caroline Palethorpe, Teme Valley Ward, Malvern Hills District Council, Tel: 07974 966412
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COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

National lockdown - Everyone will be aware of the tensions resulting from the continued national lockdown, maintained at a time when, fortunately, the numbers of Covid cases, people going into hospital and deaths are all falling. While we can be very thankful for that, vigilance must be maintained, while vigorous discussion continues at the national level on how the rules might be changed. In Worcestershire, our rates of cases are falling, with Redditch still the highest. There the high rate is among the under 65 year old population, probably connected with the level of industrial locations in the borough. Recently the Prime Minister has announced a substantial investment in improving bus services throughout the country. This is partly to seek to reduce car travel and thence air pollution, as well as encouraging more healthy modes of transport like walking and cycling. The problems of sparsity are recognised in the plans, so that more rural bus services may be supported, as well as helping community transport schemes. All these matters are well known to those in the Tenbury area, where we have the benefit of the Tenbury Transport Trust, and now the new scheme run by John Driver named Teme

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Wheels. Yesterday, I took part in a zoom conference organised by the Rural Services Network that spent a lot of time discussing rural bus services and community transport. I entirely sympathise with the motives but am sceptical about the possibility of widespread provision, sufficient to meet the demands of a rural population.

County Matters - On the 18th March, the last Cabinet meeting of the session was held, with purdah starting the following Monday, 22nd, in the run up to the county elections on May 6th. Marcus Hart presented a report on the first year of Worcestershire Children First, the independent company running children's services in the county as a wholly owned subsidiary of the County Council. It would be fair to say that it has gone quite well, and we are hopeful of being upgraded at the next inspection later this year.

I present three reports, two connected with new walking and cycling bridges, seeking to encourage more active travel at least for short journeys. One is the Hampton Bridge over the Avon in Evesham and the other is the Kepax bridge over the Severn, to the north of the city of Worcester. It will enable people to walk and cycle between the area of Gheluvelt Park on the east side and the Hallow road on the west.

In addition, I presented a report on the development around the rail station in Redditch, designed to make that a transport hub for bus and rail users among others, encouraging the retail trade as well as commuting to and from Birmingham.

In all one might hope that these developments will put an end to the belief of some people that the County Council is only interested in catering for car users, and not alternative modes of travel.

Not that the provision of the Kepax bridge is without comment. Some feel there should be more cycle paths to gain access to the bridge, while a letter in the Worcester News that Tuesday objected to another "cycling" bridge at all. Such is the nature of local politics.

Similarly, the Worcester News has given a lot of publicity to people objecting to the quality of our carriageways and footways (pavements). Worcestershire has a proud record in this area and we are spending a lot of money on repairing and improving both carriageways and pavements, so that they are among the best in the country. I hope that will be appreciated by Eastham parishioners.

Local matters - It is regrettable that the repairs to Eastham Bridge have not yet been carried out. I have reminded our officers about this on a number of occasions and your Clerk has been assiduous in reminding me of the need for these repairs. Although it is another matter entirely, it was good to notice that most of the fly-tipped rubbish has been removed from the anglers' car park adjacent to the bridge.

Bearing in mind the impact of the lockdown on the retail trade, may I repeat my request that we all seek to shop locally as much as possible to maintain our local retailers, on whom we depend so much over the full year.

I am pleased also to read of government encouragement for the use of pavements for outside tables and chairs, to encourage eating and drinking in the fresh air. Not likely to directly affect many in Eastham, but this has been a bone of contention for some concerned with Teme Street in Tenbury, but I hope the national support will allay the reasonable fears that have been expressed.

We have moved this week to the next stage of loosening the lockdown. I trust some have been able to enjoy the relative freedom and would urge all to respect this slow removal of the restriction of our freedoms, all in a good cause. **Cllr Ken Pollock**