

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 at 7.15pm in Eastham Memorial Hall

### In attendance

Cllr Paul Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Adams, Cllr Ward, Cllr Worsley, Cllr Matravers,  
Clerk to Eastham Parish Council, County Cllr David Chambers

**Present** - No Members of the Public

1. **Apologies** – One resident.
2. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
3. **Adoption of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st May 2019**  
Minutes were circulated and all agreed for them to be signed by Chairman.
4. **Police Report** – Full report at end of minutes.
5. **County Councillors Report** – Newly appointed so no report to give but he was welcomed to the Meeting.
6. **District Councillors Report** – Apologies received, report circulated and will be added to end of Parish Council minutes.
7. **Chairman's Report 2019-2021** – circulated at meeting and is below.
8. **Welfare Trust Report** – Report circulated at meeting, copy in files.
9. **Memorial Hall Report** – Report published on Hall website following their AGM last week, see link below.  
<https://easthammemorialhall.org.uk/events.html>
10. **Matters raised tonight** – No matters raised.
11. **Meeting Closed at 7.20pm - Chairman thanked everyone for attending.**

Paul Arnold \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman of Eastham Parish Council

Date 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Chairman's Report 25th May 2021

This is a summary of the matters addressed over the past two years.

**Joyce Horsfall** – Joyce passed away in December 2019, Joyce supported many local events as well as being a Cllr and the PC have missed her input especially as the Hall project has progressed.

**Clerks note** - The Clerk would like to add that Paul lost Rachel in March 2020. Rachel helped instigate the new Hall and we cannot write this report without mentioning her name.

I am sure Rachel and Joyce would be pleased to see the finished Hall and feel proud that they had a part in its build. RIP both the Parish is grateful for your work.

**Eastham Memorial Hall** - The PC are pleased to be meeting in the new Memorial Hall at last. We thank the Trustees for all their work in getting the Hall to completion during the pandemic. EMH are continuing to work to obtain bookings for the Hall for the near future.

**Funding for Hall** - The PC are buying items for the Hall to ensure best use of the PC grant of £7000.00 that was agreed in August 2019.

The PC can gift the items to EMH to ensure the PC can reclaim VAT paid. Up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 a total of £3026.10 (exc. VAT of £605.21) has been spent. The Clerk is working with Trustees to order items as required.

**Vacancies for Cllrs** – There are two vacancies that can be filled by co-option; if you are interested please contact the Clerk.

**Grit bin** – A green grit bin was purchased in 2019 by the PC for residents of Highwood. A resident has sited the bin, it will be refilled by the PC, this is for use on the Highway only, not on private land.

**Defibrillator** – the Defib box was replaced and is sited on the outside of the hall.

**Noticeboard** – A new metal noticeboard is on order for fence by Hall, we are awaiting delivery.

**Oaktrees, Highwood** – Plans for an agricultural building were approved in 2019. The PC have had this site on the agenda since 2014 for various applications, it is pleasing to see it revert to its intended use at last.

**Eastham Bridge** – WCC have advised the damage to Eastham Bridge is to be repaired but it may be the subject of an insurance claim, a lorry was seen damaging the bridge. Thanks to the resident who witnessed the event and informed the Clerk.

The dead trees we have been told will be replaced, we are still waiting.

**Lengthsman (LM)** - We thank Ian Mapp for his work in the Parish as Lengthsman over many years. The contract for 2021-2022 was advertised to ensure the PC obtain value for money and transparency. After interviewing two candidates the PC agreed to offer the contract to Chris Bunn who already works in surrounding parishes as LM.

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**Drains** – Blocked drains have been reported to WCC to be included in their jetting programme.

**Footpaths** – WCC elect the Parish Path Warden (PPW) for the Parish. Concerns can be passed to the Clerk who will then contact the PPW. Please note stiles are the responsibility of the landowner, not WCC. The PPW is responsible for marking the paths and keeping paths passable.

**Finance** - An internal audit is undertaken by an independent person who checks to ensure correct financial procedures are followed. Full details will be published on the website in June. The PC will be agreeing the accounts at the May meeting, a balance of £16562.35 is being carried forward to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The Precept for 2021-2022 is £8400.00, an increase of £100.00.

**Representatives** - We have a newly elected Worcestershire County Councillor David Chambers. David lives locally and has been leader of MHDC. We look forward to working with him.

Ken Pollock did not stand for election, we would like to thank Ken for his support in this parish over his time in office, we wish him well for the future.

Malvern Hills District Councillor Caroline Palethorpe must also be thanked for her support for the Parish on District matters.

**Acknowledgements** - I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk for their hard work and support.

Paul Arnold  
Chairman

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## Eastham Parish Council Police Report May 2021

It has been without doubt the strangest time for everyone in 2020 to 2021, including Policing.

We have seen many people ill with Covid symptoms, and thankfully recover, and sadly those who have passed from this dreadful disease. We have survived lockdowns, and tiers and are now free to begin to start returning to some sort of normality.

As far as Safer Neighbourhood Policing goes it has had its peaks and troughs of workflow last year and this, with a different type of work to actually police that being Covid concerns and enforcement. Many times it has been a case of explaining the Government Guidelines, sometimes sterner words of advice have been issued to those who have breached guidelines, and last case resort to issue fines. We have worked with our community partners to provide reassurance and signpost people to services such as food banks, or food deliveries; dropping in on those who are isolated, and need more robust support.

As a result of the first lockdown, many of our highways were virtually empty, and Parishes eerily quiet. The criminal fraternity were scarce, never venturing out it seemed. When life resumed we did see a take up of crime, with criminal damage, and thefts. Also criminal types who tried to scam the elderly into paying for Covid tests.

Due to the lockdown and time spent at home many people have bought puppies/ dogs /cats / kittens into their homes. The cost of purchasing dogs has rocketed. As a result of the uptake, the criminal fraternity, never one to miss an opportunity, have taken to stealing dogs. This may be from gardens, outside shops, or actually snatching the dog leads from the owner. This is a very distressing type of Crime. People have reported wire wrapped around bars or iron work on their gates, or marks left to identify their address. We all need to be vigilant, and remove these items. Let your community know what is going on and tell the Police, otherwise we are unaware.

Crime in general has been low in our area, but we have seen a surge in catalytic convertor thefts recently. This is due to the Palladium metals inside the convertor. There is information on West Mercia Police Website on best practice on how to keep your vehicles safer from this type of theft.

There are also many more items of interest on the site in connection with security, internet safety, and lots more.

In Eastham there have been reports of suspicious vehicles possibly in connection with poaching, lose sheep on the highway and a theft of a grain trailer and roller seems. A much quieter year than others, but we must remain vigilant and not become complacent.

Lastly the team here is PC Jack Sykes & PCSO Ness Snape. We cover approx. 200 plus square miles, and more than 27 Parish's. With that in mind if you need to contact us, many calls can now be made by online reporting on the West Mercia Website. If you want to contact us directly, you can call, text, email, the details are below.

If you do need an officer to attend however you do need to call 101.

[mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mt.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)

### **Ness Snape 07814040307**

Lastly here is a list of the scam calls, emails, cards etc. going around at the moment:

There have been many online telephone and email scams, all of which have looked very authentic doing the rounds too:-

**Hermes email scam** - Email stating that you have a missed delivery and in order for Hermes to deliver again, you are asked to provide bank details to pay for the £1.45 fees.

**Royal Mail email scam** - Email stating that Royal Mail has tried to deliver 3 times and ask you to pay £2.50 to arrange another delivery.

**D P D Couriers email scam** - Email stating that you have missed 2 attempted deliveries and you must pay £2.75 to arrange another delivery.

**None of the delivery services would ask you to pay for arranging a delivery under normal circumstances. In the case where excess postage is required, the official Post Office Staff in his/her uniforms with Identifications would advise you what to do. If in doubt, please check with the company yourself before handing over any cash or personal and financial information.**

**National Insurance Telephone Scam** - An automated voice states that your National Insurance number has been compromised to carry out criminal activities. You are asked to provide personal details to avoid arrests and prosecution.

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**HMRC Telephone Scam** - An automated voice states that you have underpaid generally quite a large amount of tax like £2,000 and that you will be prosecuted if you do not pay the outstanding amount immediately.

**Amazon Telephone Scam** - An automated voice states that your Amazon account has been debited £349.95 incorrectly and if you provide the bank details, they will refund it to your account.

**BT Telephone Scam** - An automated voice says that if you do not provide the personal details, your line will be cut off.

*All government agencies do not use automated voice services to inform you of a problem. They generally would write to you. If a person actually calls you in an unlikely event, you should always check carefully before divulging any personal information. These scams calls are usually from a mobile number.*

**Scammers are getting more sophisticated and professional looking and sounding. Please be very careful when providing any information to anyone you are not sure of.**