

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council
held in Eastham Village Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25 July 2023

Present: Cllr Adams, Cllr Matravers, Cllr Ward, Cllr Worsley

In Attendance: Clerk and District Councillor A Willmott.

Cllr A Worsley took the Chair for the evening.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Arnold and Cllr B Lewis were accepted and agreed by all.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers updated at all times
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – none
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – none
Councillors are reminded to declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Councillors who have declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, or an Other Disclosable Interest which falls within the terms of paragraph 12(4) (b) of the Code of Conduct, must leave the room for the relevant items.
Failure to register or declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest may result in the commission of a criminal offence.
3. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
Dispensations received - none

The Meeting adjourned for Public Question Time

The time allocated is at the discretion of the Chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself. This period is not part of the formal meeting; brief notes will be appended to the minutes as an aide memoir.

Meeting resumed

4. **Reports from County Councillor D Chambers and District Councillors L Bruton and A Willmott**

County Councillor will not be attending meetings for the foreseeable future, report at end of the minutes
District Councillor L Bruton apologies received, report at the end of the minutes
District Councillor A Willmott attended the meeting, highlighting parts of his report. Flooding scheme, Cllr Worsley raised that flooding occurs at Eastham Bridge, the A443 road also area around and the effect this has on the area.
DC Willmott mention the Severn Trent Water Main line and closures of the road.
DC Willmott was thanked for his reporting.
5. **Minutes** : Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 May 2023 . The Minutes were then agreed by all, Resolved and signed by the Vice Chair Cllr A Worsley.
6. **Co-option of Cllr** – No applications have been received. Agreed Notice of Co-option to be published again.
7. **Finance**
 - a. **Payments to be made and Review Subscription Worcestershire CALC**, –
C Bunn (LM) June £189 & July 23 £189; L Jenkins (expenses incl.microsoft 365 renewal) £110.44; Agreed by all , resolved.
 - b. **Receipts received** - WCC LM Scheme £180.00
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** - 30 June 2023, Balance of £17849.00; All Agreed, Resolved - documents signed.
 - d. **Training for Clerk / Councillors**
8. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** – LM £189 May 2023 invoice and EMVH planning Fee £117
9. **Grants to consider: Eastham Riverside Fete for Toilets** £70 – All agreed Payment, Resolved
10. **Planning**
 - a. Plans received since last meeting – M23/00402/FUL Eastham Memorial Hall, M23/00636/HP Robins End

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- b. Decisions received since last meeting – none received
- c. Plans for consideration at this meeting – none received

11. Lengthsman

- a. **Update** – any problems found with drains are reported and record of the job number kept for chasing up.

12. Road Report

- a. **Notice Board** – This has rotten elements quote can be given and also look into cost of new
- b. **Bollards Piper Brook** – LM awaiting a meeting with the Inspector from Highways.
- c. **EMVH**- planning update, some issues have been raised and are being looked into.
- d. **Village Green** - inquiries to WCC highways suggested continuing posts and back filling on the erosion area. Clerk will investigate cost of posts. The parking on the green – this is an overspill area for any events occurring at the hall, unless the ground is wet as it would be inappropriate.
- e. **Village Map** – agreed by all no further action.

13. West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner Survey – this was completed at the meeting

14. Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk and/or Councillors – non attended since previous meeting

15. Correspondence for Information: as circulated to Councillors

Worcestershire CALC, , RSN Weekly newsletter, SNT Rural Beat Newsletter; Herefordshire Sandblasting Telephone Box refurbishments; WM Police; PKF Littlejohn LLP

The Local Government Boundary Commission review Worcestershire extended date for comments to 19 September 2023

16. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda – Road Signs

17. Confirm dates of meetings until 31 March 2024 – agreed by all to Tuesday 26 September at 7.30pm Eastham Village Memorial Hall.

18. Meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed-----

Date

Chairman

Public Question Time – No questions were raised

Worcestershire County Councillor Report for Town and Parish Councils in the Tenbury Division

June/July 2023

1. The County Council has recently undergone a three week OFSTED inspection. Findings should be announced late June or July.
2. Following the recent murder trial of a young child in Coventry, the mother has been found guilty of manslaughter and her partner of murder. The murder itself took place in Worcestershire. Now the trial is over there will be a process of investigation, which West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council will both undergo.
3. The Boundary Review for Divisions within Worcestershire is underway. Once the Boundary Commission have concluded their work and following public consultation, the new Divisions will come into effect at the elections in May 2025.
4. The County Council is undertaking a number of "Road Shows" across the county over the summer. Details can be found on the council's website.
5. Following early success derived through the Bromsgrove on Demand (BoD) Service, WCC has launched a second Pilot in South Malvern for increased provision of sustainable and efficient Demand Response Transport (DRT) in a rural location. The service will initially focus on Upton and Kempsey.
6. There is to be an increase in the cost of Home to School Transport rates for Vacant Seats. The increase will only effect those not eligible for free Home to School Transport, where vacant seats are available. The increase will only partly offset the increased cost incurred by WCC. WCC has not raised prices for several years and prices remain below those of our neighbouring counties who offer similar schemes.
7. Grass cutting is currently underway across the county, in partnership with the District Councils. A depth of approximately one metre is cut to allow for biodiversity.
8. At a recent Full Meeting of the County Council, Councillors unanimously agreed a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors following work done by the Local Government Association and a consultation process by WCC's Standards and Ethics Committee.

David Chambers

County Councillor, Tenbury Division

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District Councillor Reports

Andrew Willmott District Councillor Tenbury Ward Report on Items of Interest 23 July 2023 **Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells**

Following the 17 April 2023 Environment Agency (EA) meeting at Tenbury Wells, with the EA unable to answer my questions, I emailed the EA. My questions are of a factual nature, a number of which used the EA Teme Measuring Station as a datum point for historical flood, predicted flood and proposed build levels. The EA replied on 7 July 2023. Although they agree that absolute levels would indeed be useful in communication, they have not provided any but may do so in the future. The EA had said that the present Church protection had been a cost/benefit decision; asked about the cost, I have no answer. Given an engineering solution that would not disturb graves, the EA still predicates its response on grave movements.

Severn Trent (STW) Mains Leakage

The Eastham / Lower Rochford lane contains a STW water main that has burst no less than 24 times in 5 years. I did a video of the problem illustrating the disruption and waste involved and sent the video to STW. With no reply or action I did a follow up piece under the STW strapline "Your Water Safe in Our Hands". No reply. I emailed STW's Planning Lead on the matter, no reply. I have asked the Water Regulator for action and they have agreed to ask STW to review the matter.

Speeding

My latest approach has been to West Mercia Police to see if their Operation Snap can be adapted for speeding. The Senior Traffic Management Advisor is to get back to me.

Parkrun

parkrun is a regular, free community event that is becoming very popular in the UK with almost 3 million having tried it already. People and children run or walk a course and receive a time so there are people trying for a best time and families walking round with the children. Such a regular event for Tenbury could boost the Town, trade, public health and social cohesion. Following an outline assessment by parkrun for a junior Tenbury event, I have put a submission to the Town Council. The proposal is being considered.

Farming

Our beautiful local area and society is, in many ways, shaped by farming but farming is becoming increasingly difficult with incentives and disincentives working against farming and the common good. I presented a paper to the Policy Development Panel - Economy, at MHDC, on this topic recently. A subcommittee is to investigate my proposals.

Teme Bridge

A concerned member of the public approached me with photographs of school children sharing the Bridge pavement with a car and an articulated lorry, both, it appeared, avoiding an oncoming coach. My perception is that the situation has become more difficult following the 2011/12 renovation.

I have recently posed questions to VolkerLaser, the contractor used in the 2011/12 renovation, as part of my investigation into the matter.

Tenbury Wells Town Centre Plan

The MHDC Policy Development Panel - Economy held a meeting and walkabout on 20 July 2023 with the intention of building on the Plan's findings to benefit Tenbury Wells.

Eastham Memorial Hall

I have been asked to look at the planning application to build storage behind the Hall, I have visited the site and await copies of the documentation so far.

Lesley Bruton District Councillor Tenbury Ward July 23 report

Public Conveniences

The renovation of the Teme Street public conveniences has been completed with the facilities reopening on 26th June.

The eco-friendly project, which totalled £25,000 included the installation of LED lights and integrated solar panels that are linked to a hybrid battery system. The facilities will run off this rather than the mains electricity.

In addition, low flush toilets have been installed which will result in less water usage.

Further improvements include:

- New windows and doors
- Low water usage taps
- Complete re-tile
- Re-decoration
- New cubicles and baby changing facilities.
- Above and below ground drainage. ● New bins.

The works are part of the Council's Five-year Plan to invest in the refurbishment of the five town centre toilets by 2025 as well as reducing the Council's use of electricity and water.

Greener Tracker

The District Council has launched a new innovative online system that encourages tourism and hospitality businesses to reduce carbon emissions by adopting greener business practices. It is the first of its kind in the United Kingdom and is a free system for local tourism and hospitality businesses.

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The online toolkit has an area to monitor and benchmark energy, water and waste. As well as this, it includes a section that provides a step-by-step guide for attractions, hotels, B&B's, self-catering accommodation, campsites, retail and eateries to adopt greener practices. Visit www.visithomalverns.org/sustainability for more information about how to sign up and receive free business support.

Active Workforce Week

Freedom Leisure have teamed up with local partners to deliver Active Workforce Week from Monday 3rd July to Sunday 9th July.

The campaign is to provide workplace health support, giving employers the chance to care for their staff/volunteer's wellbeing through physical activity, wellbeing opportunities and access to local (non-clinical) health services.

Active Workforce Week is in partnership with: Public Health, Worcester City PCN, Citizens Advice, Active Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Tenbury Community Pool.

Visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/healthy-communities/worcester/news/activeworkforce-week/ for more information.

Town Centre Traders Meeting

Supporting businesses and the wider economy is one of the Council's top priorities. The Economic Development team works to support businesses and growth of the Malvern Hills district economy.

During June the team have been working on:

- Delivering summer marking campaign for Visit The Malverns
- Holding a successful Town Centre Traders meeting in Tenbury
- Appraising first applications for the new Tourism and Town Centre grant schemes.

Visit www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business for more information.

Speeding — Kyrewood Road

I have received several reports of speeding along Kyrewood Road, most significantly past the swimming pool into town. This has been reported to the police road safety team, with a request for spot checks to be carried out.

Rough Sleepers

If you are aware of a rough sleeper, please report to Streetlink via www.streetlink.org.uk outreach teams will go out and locate the person to provide assistance directly.

Please encourage any rough sleeper you may encounter to engage with the outreach teams.

Greenhill Close

I have received several complaints regarding the overgrown trees near the footbridge between Greenhill Close and Pembroke Avenue. Following a request, the District Council will carry out an inspection and undertake necessary works in the autumn.

Report June 23

Elections

Following the Local Government Boundary Review there were 31 seats up for election to represent 18 district wards. The Tenbury Ward was enlarged and now covers Tenbury, St. Michaels, Stoke Bliss, Kyre, Bockleton, Rochford, Eastham, Hanley and Stanford with Orleton. Thank you to everyone who voted in the elections held on 4th May. I am extremely honoured to be re-elected. It is a privilege to serve the residents of our town and surrounding villages.

No overall party or group is currently in control of Malvern Hills District Council. The political balance now stands as:

- Liberal Democrats: 3
- Conservatives: 7
- Independents: 14
- Green: 7

At the Annual Council meeting, held on 23rd May, Cllr Tom Wells was re-elected as Leader of the Council with Cllr Natalie McVey as Deputy Leader. Following the successful 'Talk to Tom' session held at The Pumps Rooms I hope to arrange another session with Tom and Natalie.

I was very pleased to be asked and elected as Chair of the Communities Panel, which is an area I am passionate about.

Tourism Grant

A new grant has been launched to help tourism businesses in the district grow and increase visitor numbers.

The Malvern Hills Tourism Grant Scheme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The scheme is to support the tourism industry in the district to grow over a two-year period, with the opportunity to:

- Encourage businesses to adopt greener practices.
- Help with upkeep of local attractions.
- Improve visitor experience.
- Improve accessibility at attractions.
- Encourage festival and event development in town centres.

Eligible businesses can apply for a 50% match-funded grant. Grants include:

- Cultural/Heritage Attractions- up to £5,000

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- Attractions — up to E2,500
- Sustainable Tourism — up to E2,500
- Festivals and Events — up to E1,000

Visit <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/business-support-and-jobs/grants-and-funding> for more information about the grant and criteria for eligibility.

Town Centre Guides Launched

A new town centre guide has been designed and distributed. The colourful guide includes a map of the town centre with landmarks, as well as giving directions and an overview of what to visit in the town.

District Discount Book

A new discount book containing offers and vouchers for businesses across the Malvern Hills district is now on sale. The book costs just E1 and with discounts from electrical goods to confectionary - the books quickly pay for themselves. The discount books are available to purchase at the Tourist Information Centre and several shops in Tenbury.

Town Centre Support Scheme 2023

Funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, this scheme aims to support investment by independent traders within the five-town centre of the Malvern Hills district.

Priority will be given to projects that enhance the area, are likely to attract business and where the improvement will be long lasting (e.g., 5-years plus). Eligible businesses can apply for a 50% match-funded grant up to E2,500 towards on, or a combination, of the following grants:

- Shop Front Improvements — undertaking works to improve or refurbish the shop front or internal structural improvements.
- Empty Shop Support — support to bring an empty shop back into commercial use including for equipment, anything external or internal premises related.
- Town Centre Boost — an additional E1,000 is available to traders or community groups to deliver town centre wide projects and promotions to drive new footfall, investment or sustainability (there is no match funding requirement associated with this grant).

I have delivered a flyer around the town, which gave further information about the scheme. I received a very positive response regarding the scheme, and I hope traders will take up the opportunity to apply for funding.

Upskilling Grants

Local business could receive up to E1,500 towards the cost of taking on a new apprentice through the Upskilling Grant scheme.

Businesses in any sector could apply for up to two upskilling grants from the District Council if the trainee started after 1 October 2022. The grant can be used to support the training of any apprentice or trainee carrying out an accredited qualification.

To qualify, businesses need to be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area and employ fewer than 250 people.

Litterpick Equipment

Residents can sign up for free litter picking equipment through the District Council's Adopt-a-Street scheme.

To date we have reached 1,000 volunteers, which is equal to 1 in every 33 residents volunteering to commit to a minimum of three litter picks a year. Visit Malvern Hills adopt a street pledge ([smartsurvey.co.uk](https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/adopt-a-street)) to sign up.

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