

Eastham Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council
held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26 March 2024

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Matravers, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr A Worsley, Cllr S Ward.

Clerk in attendance – L Jenkins

District Councillor Bruton

No members of the public present

1. **Apologies – County Councillor D Chambers**
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
 - a. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded to keep their Register of Interests updated.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: none
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests: none
3. **Dispensations:**
 - a. To consider written requests from Councillors for the Council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)
 - b. **Dispensations requested** – none received

The Meeting will be adjourned for Public Question Time:

no issues were raised

4. **Reports from County Councillor** – apologies received, report attached at the end of the minutes
District Councillor – report attached at the end of the minutes
5. **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 23 January 2024 and Extra-Ordinary Meeting 11 March 2024.** The minutes were agreed by all and signed by the Chair.
6. **Co-Option for Vacancy of Councillor** – no applications received
7. **WCC Lengthsman Scheme** (update on move to online) Clerk has attended an online training session; New system is potentially more work for the Clerk. Portal is live from 8 April 2024, where the contract and running total of expenditure will be visible.
8. **Mowing Service for 2024 – 2025** - considered quotation, All Agreed to MTM Contracting at £1152 plus VAT. Resolved
9. **Finances**
 - a. To consider payments to be made as presented at meeting – L Jenkins Training (ILCA) £144.00; L Jenkins Expenses £185.42; LM (March) C Bunn £220.50
 - b. To report receipts since last meeting – WCC LM reimbursement £189 two repayments received
 - c. To agree Bank Reconciliation and Finance Report March 2024 – All agreed Bank reconciliation and Finance Report. Resolved
 - d. Laptop replacement for consideration – current laptop will be obsolete within 18 months, cost of required upgrades impractical. Laptop replacement sourced and agreed no more than £514 plus VAT proposer Cllr Wordsley, seconded Cllr Arnold. All Agreed.
 - e. Lengthsman consider increase in hourly rate from 1 April 2024 – All Agreed and resolved increase to £16.75 per hour from 1 April 2024
 - f. Noticeboard quotations for consideration – All agreed no header to board no more than £843 plus VAT
 - g. Noticeboard installation for consideration – All agreed to C Bunn maximum of £75
10. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** - Clerks Salary (L Jenkins) £985.14 and LM February invoice £220.50- All agreed
11. **Planning -**
 - a. **Plans received since last meeting -**
M/24/00168/FUL – Land at OS 6736 6703 Hanely William
M/24/00172/AGR – Land at Os 6567 6850 Eastham
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting**
Refused - M/23/00636/HP Robins end & M/23/01721/AGR – Land at OS6567 6850 Eastham
Approved – M/22/00802/FUL Caspian Lodge
Permitted Development – M/24/00172/AGR Land at Os 6567 6850 Eastham
 - c. **Plans for Consideration at this meeting** – none
12. **Road Report**
update from LM – all in hand.
13. **Progress Reports/updates**
 - a. Pipers Brook Road Update – road marked awaiting jetting.
 - b. EMVH – Green Area Kerbing – Costs were given of £9,000 as given by WCC Highways for kerbing – no details of length,

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- dropped or high kerbs. More information required. No funds available in precept.
- c. Road Closures/works – none received
 - d. Bridge Damage – no update or repair at present time
 - e. A443 Flooding – no update received
 14. **Reports on any meetings attended by Clerk/ Councillors** – Clerk has attended “Clerk Gathering” and Training for Lengthsman Dashboard
 15. **Correspondence for information as circulated to Councillors** - received from RSN Weekly & Monthly Digest; Worcestershire CALC; MHDC; WCC; Severn Arts Music Box; LNRS Consultation; WCC Energy Grants; OPCC Comms WMP – survivor pathway
 16. **Policies to be reviewed**
 - a. **Risk Assessment** – noted and all agreed
 - b. **Grant Making Policy** – noted and all agreed
 - c. **Defib Policy** – noted and all agreed
 17. **Correspondence for discussion**
 - a. **Police Charter Contract review** – noted to include same as previous, all Agreed
 - b. **Biodiversity Policy** – moved to next meeting agenda
 - c. **WCC Town and Parish Conference 12 June 2024 invitation to attend** – no-one to attend
 18. **Councillors reports and items for the next agenda**

Cesspit unpleasant owned by Severn Trent – next agenda
Footpath Officer – next agenda
VAS signs costs etc - next agenda
 19. **Confirm date for next meeting – 28 May 2024** (Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting)
 20. **In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Councillors will consider to agree to close the meeting to the Public and Press to discuss the following item on the agenda** - All Agreed
 21. **Clerk** – conversation noted by all
 22. **Meeting closed at 8.14 pm**
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Reports

County Councillor’s Report March 2024

1. Like virtually all other local authorities, Worcestershire County Council is experiencing increasing costs in general and in three expenditure areas in particular, namely, Adult Social Care, Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport. These cost increases are resulting in budget pressures which the Cabinet has addressed resulting in the Budget for 2024/25 which was presented to a full meeting of the Council on 15th February. The Budget was approved by Council. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel which I chair, has been scrutinising the budget concerns with regards to Child Care Placements and Home To School Transport. I am satisfied that budget concerns are being addressed regarding Child Care Placements, that will have no detrimental effect on the safety and care of any child within the care system in Worcestershire. At the moment over 1,000 children are within the care system in the county. There remains however, much work to do to overcome the budget deficit with regards to Home To School Transport. The cost of providing school transport for children without any care needs is within budget, it is the cost of providing transport to school, for children with Special Education Needs that is extremely expensive and the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide what ever means of travel is necessary, including individual taxis. Following a meeting with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny Panel overseeing Economy and Infrastructure (both our Panels have an input into Home To School Transport), we met immediately following the full council meeting with the council’s Chief Executive and made it clear that we were dissatisfied with progress being made by officers and required immediate improvement. The Budget which was presented on was a balanced budget but it required the use of the County Council’s Reserves, in order for this to happen. Now approved, the Budget is/will be available on the County Council’s website for anyone who may wish to view it.
2. The Director of Health who works for Worcestershire County Council, together with Trading Standards have done an excellent job in recent months with regards to challenging the use of vaping in the county, particularly by children aged 11 to 17. The BBC has acknowledged that Worcestershire has undertaken more surveys than the rest of the UK put together. WCC has lobbied the government to ban disposable vapes and the news recently, that the government has announced it intends to do so, is welcomed. Since the end of 2021 Trading Standards Officers have seized almost 24,000 illegal e-cigarettes from across Worcestershire. Campaigns are ongoing in schools to raise the concerns of vaping by young children.
3. I am pleased to report that works are planned for week commencing 25th March to install a sump and pump in Market Street, Tenbury Wells. Hopefully this will eliminate flooding in Market Street as a result of surface water from heavy rainfall and the underground flood table. This is a separate project to the EA’s Flood Defence Scheme provided by WCC, and it is the first such

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project that the council has ever undertaken, independent of the EA. It should be noted that this scheme will not prevent flooding in Market Street as a result of the River Teme flooding.

David Chambers County Councillor, Tenbury Division

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Malvern Hills District Council Report (March 2024)

Council Tax & Budget 2024/25

Council, at its meeting held on 20th February, approved a net budget of £6,034,410. The Band D equivalent for the District Council has increased by £5.00 (2.82%) to £182.60.

Proposed Changes to Car Park Times & Charges

The District Council is proposing to make changes to car park times and charges — the first change for most tariffs in 12 years. As part of a public consultation, there are several changes which include stay-time increases, as well as a cost increase for some.

Traders in Malvern have asked for the maximum waiting time to increase from two hours to three hours. As well as this, there will be increase to three hours for vehicles displaying a valid disabled person's blue badge across all sites.

Other changes could include a cost increase of a 24-hour stay car park from £3.00 to £4.00 at the Council House, Victoria Road, Hanley Road, New Street, Priory Road North, Priory Road South and Teme Street car parks. Also, an increase in the cost of the evening operating hours tariff (4:00pm to 8:00am) from £1.50 to £2.00 at all car parks and an increase in the cost of the Resident Annual Two-Hour Permits from £25.00 to £30.00 per year.

The cost of the most popular tickets — the 50p one hour and £1.00 two-hour tickets will be frozen. These will remain some of the lowest parking rates in the county. Full details of the of the proposed changes and to comment on the proposals, please visit: <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/about-your-council/public-notice-and-consultations>

Any objections should be made before the deadline at 12:00pm on 28 March 2024.

Spacehive Crowdfunding

The District Council is encouraging individuals, organisations and businesses to come forward with ideas that could make their area greener, healthier and connected. Working with crowdfunding platform Spacehive, MHDC is launching the next round of funding as part of Crowdfund Malvern Hills, which gives local people the opportunity to create and deliver projects that aim to enhance the district.

There is a free online workshop from 12:00pm to 1:00pm on Tuesday, 5 March 2024 for those wanting to know more about how to get involved. The event will include guest speakers offering information on what funding is available, advice on creating a project and how to run it on the platform, as well as providing a specialist support. To sign up to the workshop, please click on the link below:

<https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/connected-communities/crowdfunding>

SWDP Review

The Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent scrutiny towards the end of last year, a process known as examination. Dates for public hearings to provide inspectors with the opportunity to ask questions on parts of the plan and the evidence supporting it were expected to be announced this month.

While the inspectors say they have made good progress on preparing for the hearings they have requested for several evidence documents to be updated first. This will avoid delays further in the process and ensure people making representations at the hearings have the latest information available to them. Inspectors have requested further information about the impact of increased traffic generated by the plan on the surrounding road network.

Home and Property Security Roadshow

Thank you to the Community Safety Team (MHDC) for the excellent Home and Property Security Roadshow, which was held in The Pump Rooms on Thursday 29th February. The drop-in event offered advice on a wide range of preventative security measures to reduce the likelihood of being a victim of theft or burglary. Free security devices as well as property marking was available.

Officers were on hand to discuss any crime prevention questions and offering advice on how to maximise the chances of having stolen property rightfully returned.

The event was also supported by the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team and the Police Community Engagement Officer.

Malvern Hills Rural Fund

The third round of funding for rural businesses and communities has been released. Grants of between £2,500 and £25,000 are available from the Malvern Hills Rural Fund. The grant aims to support new small or micro businesses in rural areas, including helping farmers diversify into other sectors and growing tourism. The funding comes from the Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.