

**Minutes of the Eastham Parish Council Meeting held on
Tuesday 24 September 2024 in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr Arnold, Cllr Adams, Cllr Lewis, Cllr Matravers & Cllr Worsley

In attendance: Clerk, PCSO Partridge, 3 Parishioners

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

a. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests as required.

b. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature.

c. 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 –**

a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – written requests to be with the clerk prior to a meeting.

• **Dispensations requested – none**

The Meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time at 7.35

Brief notes will be appended to the minutes

The Meeting reopened at 7.42

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor(s) –** appended at the end of the minutes

5. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on the 28 May 2024 were agreed by all as a true record. Resolved

6. **Meetings not quorate –** It was noted that meetings for the 30 July and 20 August 2024, did not take place as the meetings were not quorate

7. **Co-Option for Vacancy of a Councillor -** no applications received for consideration at the meeting

8. **Volunteer appointment to role of Footpath officer –** A parishioner has expressed an interest, Clerk to write to them

9. **Documents/Policies to be reviewed**

a. Scheme of Delegation – as agreed by all, resolved

b. Financial Regulations 2024 – reviewed and agreed by all , resolved.

10. **Finances**

a. Payments -

i To present list of regular payments for the year to 31 March 2025 – all agreed

ii To consider payments, Including urgent payments since last meeting, to be made as on list presented at meeting

Cheque number	Payee	notes	£	
843	Salary Clerk	Salary June 24	328.38	reg.payment
844	Chris Bunn	LM June & July 24	404.25	reg.payment
845	Salary Clerk	Salary July 24	328.38	reg.payment
846	Microsoft office renewal	Ljenkins	59.99	reg.payment
847	Salary Clerk	Salary Aug 24	328.38	reg.payment
DD	ICO		35.00	reg.payment
		Regular Payments	1,484.38	
848	L Jenkins	Defib purchase	143.88	
		Urgent Matters	143.88	
	Payments at meeting			
849	Chris Bunn	LM Aug & Sept 24	408.38	reg.payment
850	Salary Clerk	Salary Sept 24	328.38	reg.payment
851	Clerk L Jenkins	Expenses	157.65	
		To be paid this meeting	894.41	
		Total PAYMENTS		2,522.57

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- b. Receipts - Receipts received since May Meeting WCC LM reimbursements £404.25 & £198.00
- c. Bank Reconciliations - Reviewed reconciliation as of 30 June, and 3 September 2024, Balance £18018.12 all agreed.
- d. Budget Reports - To review and agree quarterly Budget Report as at 30 June & interim 31 August 2024, - all agreed.

11. Clerks report on any Urgent Decisions since last meeting – regular payments of Clerks Salary, Lengthsman timesheet and re-imbursed Clerk for expense as detailed in point 10a.ii

12. Planning:

- a. Plans received since last meeting -
M/24/00707/HP. Coppice House, M/24/00684/AGR. Chimney Park
M/24/00168/FUL Land at OS 6736 6703 M/24/00576/CLE Caspian Lodge
- b. Decisions received since last meeting –
M/24/00163/HP Cookes Croft – withdrawn by applicant
M/24/00168/FUL Land at OS 6736 6703 – approved M/23/01199/OUT Land at Os 6745 6818 - approved
- c. Plans for consideration at this meeting - none
- d. Enforcements – no further communication

13. Eastham Bridge –

- i. Visibility from junction – Response from WCC no mirror can be considered at the junction
- ii. Vegetation overhang on A443 by Eastham Bridge – vegetation has been cleared. Visibility impeded by end of barrier Clerk to speak/write to WCC Highways

14. Progress Reports/ updates

- a. Notified Road Closures/works – as notified
- b. Bridge Damage – has been repaired

15. Vas Signs information – WCC can put in the place 2 poles agreed to request poles sited.

16. EMVH Village Green - Kerbing – discussed various issues arisen from verbal and written missives. Clarification from Worcestershire CC Highways department on the issues raised.

17. Welcome to Village Signage - along the Rhyse Lane Clerk to enquire of cost considered at next meeting

18. Reports on any Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors – none attended

19. Correspondence for Information: as circulated to Councillors from

RSN Weekly & Monthly Digest; Worcestershire CALC newsletter, Training; WCC; TAP; SWDP Review; NPPF Consultation; CALC Meeting and AGM notifications; WMP; Road Closure notification.

20. Correspondence for discussion

- a. WMP Parish Charters renewal confirmation – agreed to continue with notes on previous 3-month contract
- b. TAP - Flooding signage A443/A456 – agreed in principle based on no cost to the Parish Council initially or in the future
- c. Lithium ion Batteries safety – no comments

21. Councillors reports and items for the next agenda

Village Sign, VAS and Village Green Kerbing

22. Confirm Date for next meeting –

26 November 2024 and Parish Meeting & Annual Parish Council Meeting 27 May 2025

23. Closure of meeting - 8.33pm

Signed:

Date

Notes from Public Question Time – Solar farm/Battery storage in neighbouring parish.

County Councillor's Report – September 2024

Following the disclosure that RAAC has been found in the roof of County Hall and a positive Legionella test on 20th June, County Hall remains closed. Expert teams are now assessing the building and will provide a detailed report shortly regarding the works necessary

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to repair the building. Officers are currently located at Wildwood, Pershore Civic Centre as well as a number of additional locations. All council services continue as normal.

1. Worcestershire Children First held their annual free fun day for foster families and children who are looked after by the local authority. Amongst others, the event was organised by the Youth Voice team from Worcestershire Children First.
2. Worcestershire Children First will cease to operate as an independent company from 30th September. Children's Services will transfer to Worcestershire County Council. All children's services will continue as normal.
3. A recent survey has shown that satisfaction levels of tourists visiting Worcestershire are high. 95% of visitors surveyed are likely to visit the county again.
4. I have a sum of money to assist businesses in Tenbury who have been or are likely to be affected by flooding. Currently businesses are being approached to assess their needs and I hope to make the funds available by the end of the year.
5. Teme Street in Tenbury is due to be resurfaced between 25th September and 1st October. Road closures are due to take place for three nights, in order for works to be completed. Actual dates will be dependent on weather conditions.

David Chambers - County Councillor for the Tenbury Division

Malvern Hills District Council Report (September 2024)

Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)

Annual Residents' Survey The Annual Residents' Survey was launched on Sunday 1 September — please spread the word! The District Council would like residents' views on a variety of different topics, including what they think of their local area and the services the Council provide and their priorities for the district. The survey will run until the deadline at midnight on 29 September 2024. A 75.00 voucher for a local, independent restaurant or shop could be won (terms and conditions apply). The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete but progress can be saved so the survey can be completed in stages.
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/MHRSWeb2024/>

Active Travel The District Council is committed to encouraging Active Travel. Active Travel contribute to the vision of the five-year strategic plan 'to enhance the Malvern Hills District as a destination to explore and an outstanding place to live and work'. Active Travel journeys are those made by using some physical activity like; walking, cycling, e-cycles, scootering or wheeling. They are usually short journeys to a destination i.e. shopping, dropping children off to school, clubs, travelling to work, to appointments, or visiting family and friends. Active Travel can form part of a longer journey i.e. to the bus stop or train station or picking up a lift in a car. To encourage active travel the District Council organised two events in Tenbury where residents could have their bicycles repaired free of charge. Both events were extremely successful.

In addition, the Council ran a Bike Boost Scheme where residents could apply for a £50.00 voucher to encourage people to cycle more. Cyclists of any skill level were reimbursed €50 towards the costs of a bicycle check or service, replacement parts, tools, locks, accessories or even a new bicycle.

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/community/active-travel>

Apprentice Bursary 2024 The Council recognises that apprentices and trainees may struggle to cover the cost of travel or equipment to access work or college and in turn this may prevent them from applying for certain jobs.

An Upskilling Bursary Scheme is available to support trainees where they are earning less than £250.00 per week and are Malvern Hills residents.

£500.00 is available to help cover the cost of travel, equipment, tools and clothing necessary to access training. For those interested in using active travel methods (walking/cycling) for their commute to work this may be put towards the cost of equipment such as purchase of a bicycle or e-bike.

The bursaries are administered via Worcestershire Apprenticeships on behalf of Malvern Hills District Council.

<https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/business/skills-and-training/apprenticeships-andtraining-opportunities>

Malvern Hills Upskilling Grant The District Council is also helping local businesses through an Upskilling Grant Scheme. Funding up to £1,500 is available to help businesses with the cost of training new staff (i.e. apprenticeships, trainee or other). To qualify the business must: Be based in the Malvern Hills district postcode area and Employ fewer than 250 people Pay at least minimum wage to the trainee for a post of at least 30 hours a week including training leading to a recognised qualification The apprentice/trainee must have started their training after 1 October 2023 and have at least a 12-month signed employment contract.

Home Upgrade Grant If your annual household income is 36k or less and you are not connected to mains gas for heating, then you could be eligible for the Home Upgrade that offers free improvements such as all types of home insulation, Air Source Heat Pumps, Solar PV etc.

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<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/sustainability-and-carbon-reduction/tackling-fuel-poverty/home-upgrade-grant-scheme-hug2>

Community Arts Grants Programme

Severn Arts and Malvern Hills District Council have launched round two of the Community Arts Grants Programme. As part of the programme, individual artists, arts organisations, venues and community groups can apply for Community Arts Funding. The Grants Programme aims to strengthen community connections, offering a range of art activities, providing creative opportunities for all residents of the District and have an impact on local communities.

You can apply for up to £2,500 for your community arts projects, which must take place before March 2025. The deadline for applications is 9am on Friday 20th September.

Please email l.farley@severnarts.org.uk if you have any questions regarding the grant programme.

Planning Decision The Northern Area Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 4 September, consider the Reserved Matters application for 25 holiday lodges and associated car parking at Cadmore Lodge. The application was refused unanimously on the following grounds: The proposed development would, by reason of the type of lodges (static caravans) layout, appearance, landscaping and the amount of supporting infrastructure, including parking spaces and service roads; result in a visually intrusive form of development, lacking in quality, which would result in harm to the character and appearance of the area, the setting of the hotel and cause noise and light pollution to dwellings on the opposing eastern side of the valley which would be exacerbated in the autumn and winter months.

Andrew Willmott District Councillor Tenbury Ward Report on Items of Interest 23 September 2024

Flood Defences, Tenbury The latest Environment Agency review of the Scheme calculated that the savings from averting Tenbury flooding made the Scheme robust. The new Government has decided to review the Scheme again in its reallocation of funding.

Planning, MHDC We await the results of the improvements introduced on 1 April. To date, planning officers are still advising of delays in responding.

Speeding West Mercia Police have agreed to Operation Snap and the signs are up in the Rochford area and more recently we have added Hanley. Other communities are showing interest. An application to include Berrington Green is in process.

Parkrun A tentative course has been mapped out on Palmers Meadow in discussion with and support of the Football Club, the Community Pool and the Scouts. An initial meeting of volunteers has been held but more volunteers are still needed.

Teme Bridge The recent evaluations by the Environment Agency on the Flood Relief Scheme include their moving the services currently buried in the Bridge pavements. This has led to Highways' re-evaluation of whether the pavement areas actually can take vehicle weight, to date they have maintained not. This will have a knock-on effect on the viability of a footbridge.

Road Works Roadworks methodology, how and when works are undertaken, is a local and national problem with roads closed and interrupted for long periods with no work being undertaken. I have asked, and Government has agreed, to consider legislation to redress the balance with adequate incentives to reduce current disruption.

Tenbury Pharmacy Rowlands HQ has admitted to problems at the Tenbury Pharmacy. There has been patchy improvement. I am in discussions with Rowlands HQ.

Neighbourhood Plan New developments attract Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from developers. Under a suitably framed Tenbury / Burford Neighbourhood Plan (TBNP) and concomitant levy agreements, developments on the Shropshire side of the Teme, impacting on Tenbury, could have those development levies directed to Tenbury Town projects. A TBNP would also increase the CIL contribution retained for the locality. (Source: MHDC Planning Policy) TTC was unable, at the time of writing, to give a date for the next vote on this matter.

TSB Closing The Town's last bank is closing next May. I have pressed Government for a banking hub to replace it, similar to the one in Pershore. MHDC has also joined the push for a replacement banking facility in Tenbury.

Parking Strategy Given the developing problems in the Town, the Tenbury Traders Group has asked that a Parking Strategy be developed and adopted by Worcestershire CC Highways. There is logic in a Town Parking Strategy being in accord with a possible Neighbourhood Plan - we await the next vote on this by Tenbury Town Council.

St Michael's College This local heritage asset and school has just changed hands, having been empty for some years. The new owner is a UK company who intend to refurbish and reopen the school next year.

Increased Government Housing Targets The annual house building target for Malvern Hills District has been raised by 65% from 368 each year to 609 under the new Planning Framework. The new instructions also mean that our existing plan for MHDC, currently with the Planning Inspectorate, hoped to be agreed next year, will probably have to be reviewed immediately after it is approved.