

# Minutes of the Eastham Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2024 in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllr M Adams, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr I Matravars & Cllr A Worsley

**In attendance:** Clerk, 2 Parishioners

1. **Apologies:** Cllr P Arnold – All Agreed to accept reasons. County Councillor Chambers, District Councillor Willmott. Cllr A Worsley took the Chair for the meeting
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

Brief notes will be appended to the minutes

## The Meeting reopened

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor(s)** – appended at the end of the minutes.  
Noted the flooding referred to in the DC report.
5. **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on the 24 September 2024 were agreed by all as a true record and signed .
6. **Finances**
  - a. Statutory Increase to Clerks Salary from 01.04.2024. Backdated payments will be in November Salary. Agreed
  - b. i Regular Payments as detailed below since last meeting – all agreed
  - ii To consider payments, Including urgent payments since last meeting, to be made as on list presented at meeting and detailed below – Agreed by All.

Cheque number	Payee	notes	£	
852	Salary Clerk	Salary Oct 24	328.38	<b>reg.payment</b>
		<b>Regular Payments since last meeting</b>	<b>328.38</b>	
	Payments at meeting			
853	Chris Bunn	LM Oct & Nov 24	408.38	<b>reg.payment</b>
854	Salary Clerk	Salary Nov 24	328.38	<b>reg.payment</b>
855	Eastham Riverside Fete	Grant	500.00	
		<b>To be paid this meeting</b>	<b>1383.64</b>	
		<b>Total PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 1711.92</b>	

- c. Receipts - Receipts received since WCC LM reimbursements £614.63 plus Precept 2<sup>nd</sup> payment £4435
- d. Bank Reconciliations - Reviewed reconciliation as of 4 November 2024, Balance £21666.08  
- all agreed.
- e. Budget Reports - To review and agree Budget Report as at 4 November 2024 - all agreed.
- f. Budget setting for precept – agreed to defer to January Meeting.

7. **Grants to be awarded – Eastham Riverside Fete Grant £500**

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8. **Appointment of Internal Examiner for FYE 2025** - All agreed to Ruth Mullett
9. **Clerks report on any Urgent Decisions since last meeting** – regular payments of Clerks Salary. Grit Bin Salt ordered at a cost of £158.12 inc VAT
10. **Planning:**
  - a. Plans received since last meeting
  - b. Decisions received since last meeting – M24/00707/HP – Coppice House WR15 8PA, single storey Extension - Approved
  - c. Plans for consideration at this meeting -
  - d. Enforcements – none
11. **Eastham Bridge –**
  - i. Visibility from junction – awaiting inspection
12. **Progress Reports/ updates**
  - a. Roads no issues reported
13. **Vas Signs information** – Deferred to next meeting
14. **Welcome to Village Signage** - along the Rhyse Lane– deferred to next meeting
15. **EMVH Village Green - Kerbing** – Deferred to next Parish Council Meeting.  
A meet up scheduled with Highways Liaison Officer 2 December 2024 at 11.30am to look at area.
16. **Volunteer appointment to role of Footpath officer** – Cllr Worsley to follow up from Letter sent by Clerk
17. **Co-Option for Vacancy for 2 Councillors –**  
**Agreed by all Meeting Adjourned to allow applicants to speak**  
Two parishioners who have applied to be members of the Council, Ms C Austin and Miss L Arnold, both spoke about themselves and reasons for wishing to stand.  
**Meeting reopened.**  
Councillors voted to appoint both Ms Austin and Miss Arnold
18. **Reports on any Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors** – Clerk has attended Worcestershire CALC Clerks Gathering
19. **Correspondence for Information:** as circulated to Councillors from RSN Weekly & Monthly Digest; Worcestershire CALC newsletter, WCC Planning for Health, MHDC Gambling Policy, Live & Local Arts Meeting; WMP Fraud Advice, New SNO, Contract; Independent Examiner. WCC draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy, CALC unveiling of NALC's new website – create your account
20. **Correspondence for discussion**
  - a. WMP Parish Charters renewal confirmation – agreed to continue with notes on previous 3-month contract
  - b. CALC unveiling of NALC's new website – create your account. Noted Councillors can create their own account
  - c. WCC draft Local Nature Recovery - survey – agreed responses to be completed by Clerk
21. **Councillors reports and items for the next agenda**  
Budget setting for Precept, Village Sign, VAS, Village Green Kerbing, Bus stop / waiting area
22. **Confirm Date for next meeting –**  
21 January 2025
23. **Closure of meeting - 8.27pm**

**Signed**

**Date**

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**Notes from Public Question Time – Bus stop /covered area**

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**County Councillor's Report – November 2024**

1. A number of parents with children who attend independent schools has asked me if WCC can help with the additional payment they will have to make from January 2025, to cover VAT on fees. Unfortunately, the County Council are unable to help in this regard.
2. WCC continues to promote the recruitment of Foster Carers across the county. A number of grandparents have come forward who didn't realise they could foster their own grandchildren. In the case of "special" foster carers who look after children with additional needs, a payment of approximately £50,000 per annum is now available. I would urge anyone who would like to consider fostering or knows someone who may, to please contact Children's Services at WCC. A new WCC video is now available on You Tube to promote foster caring.

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3. Two WCC employees have received the prestigious Worcester Wildlife Medal, having been recognised for their efforts to promote nature conservation across the county. They are Rebecca Lashley and Cody Levine who have been working on the county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
4. Early Years Sufficiency Places  
Take-up of funded places for 2-year olds in Worcestershire was 79.5% in 2024, higher than the national average of 74.8%. Take-up of 3 and 4-year old funded places within Worcestershire is 97.6%, compared to the national average of 92%. Last year the government announced an expansion of the childcare programme to provide access to supported childcare for younger children and babies for working families and extended 2-year old funded provision.
5. There has been a great deal of coverage in the news recently about the number of children and young people who have Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). In Worcestershire there has been an increase year on year since 2014. In 2017/18 the number was 3,295, currently, 2023/24 the number is 6,418.
6. I am informed that work is now underway in Worcestershire to improve mobile phone signals, particularly in rural areas.

Cllr David Chambers, County Councillor for the Tenbury Division

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

**Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells** The latest Environment Agency review of the Scheme calculated that the savings from averting Tenbury flooding amounted to £60 million against costs of £25 to £30 million. A financial return HS2 could only dream of. While the Government ponders whether to go ahead and protect the Town, our townsfolk, once again, wade waist deep in raw sewage.

**Planning. MHDC** We await the results of the improvements introduced on 1 April. To date, planning officers are still advising of delays in responding. I have asked for a review of the success or otherwise of the changes.

**Parkrun** More volunteers are still needed for the Tenbury Junior parkrun. Parents of children at local schools have been contacted recently, asking for their help. I attended the Town's Volunteer Fair on the 23rd of November trying to drum up more interest.

**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. I understand that Highways are to check the Bridge after the weekend's flood.

**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. We await Government action.

**Tenbury Pharmacy** I await the promised meeting with Rowlands area manager following my approach to the Ombudsman. I understand that a new Tenbury Pharmacy Manager is to be appointed and there appear to be signs of improvement. User comments are welcomed.

**Neighbourhood Plan** TTC have agreed to have another vote on whether to have a Plan. MHDC have checked with Locality on possible funding routes for Neighbourhood Planning. For example, should three or more parishes join the plan, additional funding would be available, also, such a structure may qualify for a new grant allowance with no deduction for earlier spending.

**TSB Closing** The Town's last bank is closing next May. I have pressed our MP 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.

**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.

**Terrills Farm Development, Tenbury Wells** The speculative application to develop up to 125 houses, rejected earlier, went to appeal this month. A significant impact to consider for the Town.

**Malvern Hills District Council** Councillor Tom Wells, Leader of the Council, has stepped down. A new leader is under discussion and likely to be appointed at the Council Meeting tomorrow.