

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting

held on Tuesday 27 May 2025 at 7.30pm in Eastham Memorial Hall

In attendance

Cllr Paul Arnold (Chair), Cllr M Adams, Cllr I Matravers; Cllr L Arnold; Cllr B Lewis; Cllr C Austin

Clerk to Eastham Parish Council, County Councillor J Bowen, District Councillors L Bruton & A Willmott and 5 Members of the Public

- 1. Welcome** – Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting
- 2. Apologies** – Chair of Eastham Memorial Hall M Palfrey.
- 3. Adoption of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 May 2024** - Minutes were read and all agreed for them to be signed by Chairman.
- 4. Police Report** – none received.
- 5. County Councillors and District Councillors Reports** –
County Councillor J Bowen gave a brief on having been appointed to the post of Children & Families with the County Council, on the Budget overspend and pressures. The re-organisation of Worcestershire and the County report ned to be by November 2025 .
District Councillor Wilmott report given and are noted at the end of these minutes
District Councillor Bruton report included to express the contribution local Councillors make within their Parish Council. Distribution of DC monies. Devolution there will be a launching of a survey.
- 6. Chairman's Report 2024-2025** – given at meeting and is below.
- 7. Welfare Trust Report** – report received was available at meeting
- 8. Memorial Hall Report** – Report was made available at the meeting and noted that the Hall, monetarily is in a healthy position.
- 9. Raised Matters not discussed above** –
Parishioners voiced concerned about the debt Worcestershire County Council and a response was given by Cllr Bowen.
School transport for the local school
Flooding of Tenbury – response by D.Cllr Wilmott and D.Cllr Bruton.
- 10. Meeting Closed at 8.00pm** - Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Date

Chair of Eastham Parish Council

Item 5. District Councillors Report for Eastham Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2025

District Councillor A Willmott, Tenbury Ward, 27 May 2025

Items of interest

Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells

The Environment Agency have paused the main Tenbury Scheme for additional funding but are supporting individual property protection prior to April 2027. I now chair a group investigating district flooding and Tenbury in particular. I have presented an evaluation of the EA Tenbury “settlement” strategy compared to strategic attenuation (temporarily holding peak floodwater back in catchment areas with constructed lakes and reservoirs).

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government's strategy for mayoral control of strategic areas may have been given pause by the Reform gains in the recent elections.

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We now have a Reform County Councillor, Justin Bowen; we had our first meeting on 7 May covering a range of topics in our area with my focus on Tenbury flooding. At the time of talking, Reform will need the support of others at County to win votes and get things done. County's ongoing finances are "difficult".

Neighbourhood Planning

Having a Neighbourhood Plan for Tenbury (area) is now set in the context of District and County Councils disappearing in April 2028, giving these Plans strategic, statutory importance. Having a plan is in the gift of Tenbury Town Council. The main TTC protagonist in this matter is on leave at present and the next vote on the topic is limited in any case to some months hence.

MHDC Strategy, Post White Paper

The Malvern Hills District Council Legacy Grant Scheme, Expressions of Interest, closes on 8 June 2025. Part of our strategy of spreading reserves back to our area before MHDC ceases to be in April 2028 requires a tight timescale to get community project funding identified, approved and constructed. I have met a number of groups over the past couple of weeks to encourage the uptake of this grant scheme, worth up to £100,000 per project, and I urge action in the limited time available to make use of this opportunity.

Item 6. Chairman's Report

This is a summary of the matters over the past year

The Parish Council received two applications to become Parish Councillors and were voted onto the Parish Council

A new Mowing contract was awarded this year

Thank you to fellow Parish Councillors, Lengthsman Chris Bunn and Malvern Hills District Councillors and our Clerk

Paul Arnold

Chairman