

## EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Village Memorial Hall on Tuesday 29 July 2025

**Present:** Cllr P Arnold, Cllr M Adams, Cllr I Matravers,; Cllr C Austin

**In Attendance:** Clerk, District Councillor A Willmott and two members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr L Arnold; Cllr B Lewis – accepted by all, also received from County Councillor J Bowen.
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
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

#### Meeting resumed

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor.** Reports are appended at end of minutes
5. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 May 2025 were agreed by all, resolved and signed by the Chair.
6. **Volunteer appointment to role of Footpath officer update** – training date awaited Clerk to email
7. **Notice Board replacement** - deferred to next meeting
8. **Grant application for consideration** – Eastham Fete for Toilets £70.00; All agreed resolved.
9. **Finance**
  - a. i. **Regular payments as on list from May 25.** Confirming payments made below as shown
  - ii. **Payments for consideration**, includes urgent payments since last meeting, list presented at meeting -

#### List as presented at Meeting – 29 July 2025

Cheque number	Payee	Description	£	
880	Cancelled		-	
881	L Jenkins	Salary June 2025	345.71	reg.payment
882	C Bunn	LM June 2025	216.75	reg.payment
		<u>Payments since last meeting</u>	562.46	
	Payments at meeting			
883	D Clark	Mowing Contract	500.00	reg.payment
884	L Jenkins	Clerks quarterly Expenses	121.31	
885	L Jenkins	Microsoft office renewal	84.99	reg.payment
886	L Jenkins	Salary July 2025	345.71	reg.payment
887	C Bunn	LM July 2025	195.50	reg.payment
888	Eastham Riverside Fete	Grant - Toilets	70.00	
		<u>To be paid this meeting</u>	1,317.51	
		<u>Total PAYMENTS</u>	£ 1,879.97	

All payments agreed by Councillors, resolved.

- b. **Receipts received** - WCC LM Scheme £198 & £204
- c. **Bank Reconciliation** - 30 June 2025, Balance of £ 20,109.90; All Agreed, Resolved - documents signed.
- d. **Budget Reports** – to review and agree quarterly Budget Report as at 30 June 2025. All Agreed, resolved.
- e. **Bank**
  - i. Change of ownership, notification of acquisition by Santander. Formal change date awaited
  - ii Internet Banking – defer to September Agenda

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10. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting – payments as noted in 9 a.i. – all agreed
11. Emails and Domain/Website (.gov.uk) Digital and Data Compliance under JPAG - deferred to next meeting
12. Planning
  - a. Plans received since last meeting – none
  - b. Decisions received since last meeting –  
M/25/00615/FUL – St Peters & St Pauls Church, Eastham, Foul Drain and Cesspit  
M/25/00642/HP – The Old Flatts, Eastham, erection of 3 car detached garage.
  - c. Plans for consideration at this meeting - none
13. Progress reports/ updates
  - a. Roads, kerbing drains & LM report – no items reported
  - b. Village Millenium Green kerbing – awaiting a date from WCC
14. Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk and/or Councillors – Clerk attended a meeting on the digital compliance and moving to .gov.uk domain
15. Correspondence for Information: as circulated to Councillors,  
RSN Bulletins weekly/monthly; CALC Newsletters, Neighbourhood planning, draft minutes area meeting; WMP contract, Smartwater Kits; RBL VJ Day 15 August 2025; WCC – road closures; MHDC – Community and Arts Grant, planning, Town & Parish Briefing reorganisation slides, Survey on unitary council for Worcestershire; Worcestershire Regulatory Services – Free dog microchipping events; H. Baldwin MP report; OPCC Town & Parish Survey.
16. Correspondence for discussion
  - a. WMP Charter renewal- agreed to carry forward previous points & to highlight speeding in the village request to be made to monitor at commuter times.
  - b. Smartwater kits for households – considered and all agreed not to go ahead
  - c. OPCC Town and Parish Survey – agreed Clerk to complete and circulate to Councillors before submission
17. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda. – no reports, items as agreed to be carried forward
18. Confirm dates of next meeting 30 September 2025 at 7.30pm.
19. Meeting closed at 19:55 pm

Signed

Date

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**Public Question Time** - Notes: - speeding in village around 6pm .

### County Councillors -

#### Report for Tenbury Division Parish Councils July 2025

#### Worcestershire County Council Matters

The first Cabinet Meeting of the new administration was held on 26<sup>th</sup> June. As the first Cabinet Meeting, the only matter before it was to sign off on the County Council accounts for year ending April 24/25, which was the final year of the previous Council.

The accounts confirm that the overall debt amounts to £604 million, which is due to a combination of insufficient national government funding and spending choices made by the previous County Council administration. This means that Worcestershire will continue to experience significant financial pressures for the foreseeable future.

Work is continuing on developing a Local Government Reorganisation proposal to be presented to national government in November. A seminar is being held later this month for all County Councillors, which will set out in more detail the options being considered. As previously circulated, these are the options of a unitary council (One Worcestershire), or a “two council” option of North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire. Financially, the analysis by the consultants PWC has indicated that the greater benefits come from the One Worcestershire option, although work is continuing on this. In respect of the North / South option, I

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understand that the Tenbury Division would come under South Worcestershire along with the rest of the Malvern Hills District Council area.

### **Tenbury Division Matters**

There are two main issues affecting Tenbury and the villages in our area.

The first is flooding. The Environment Agency has acknowledged that the settlement defence project for Tenbury will not be going ahead due to lack of funding. This is obviously disappointing, although not unexpected. It does give however clarity.

My new Council Cabinet colleague, Ian Cresswell, is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment and Infrastructure and also the divisional councillor for Stourport Mitton, so knows Tenbury Division well. I am therefore working alongside him, the Environment Agency, and experts in the field to explore other options that might be available to provide a package of flood prevention, protection and resilience, including drainage, attenuation and diversion. The Environment Agency's Individual Flood Resilience Scheme for flood affected properties in Tenbury is also on-going.

The other significant issue in the area, particularly for the villages, is speeding traffic. As you'll be aware, there are usually criteria that have to be met for roads to get traffic calming measures, and work has previously done to increase Mobile Speed Camera activity, as well some provision of Vehicle Activated Signs. What hasn't necessarily been given the prominence that it should have in the past is the impact of speeding traffic on the quality of life in our villages. I am therefore working with West Mercia Police and Worcestershire County Council Highways to change this. Another new Council Cabinet colleague, Karl Perks, is the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and Transport and the divisional councillor for Stourport Areley Kings and Riverside. So, he also knows our area well and understands the issues faced, and I am hopeful of positive support in trying to improve road safety in the division.

Having Cabinet Members with key responsibilities who understand the needs of our area is, I hope, going to benefit the division as a whole. I look forward to reporting in the months to come some of the improvements that this new approach to Tenbury and the villages will bring.

### **Justin Bowen**

Worcestershire County Councillor for Tenbury Division  
Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.

### **Andrew Willmott District Councillor Tenbury Ward Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells**

#### **Items of interest**

**28 July 2025**

I note that our MP continues to prompt Government on the Tenbury FRMS. I have asked the Officer and Cabinet member responsible at our Lead Local Flood Authority, Worcestershire County Council, to visit to discuss flooding in general in our district and Tenbury in particular especially given the lack of post-flooding Section 19 reports (evaluating flooding events as a learning exercise, a statutory duty).

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), commissioned by WCC, advocate a whole Worcestershire Unitary. PwC have also been commissioned by the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) on restructuring following their 50% cut to funding from March 2026; PwC recommend the present WCC + Herefordshire ICB be grouped with Coventry and Warwickshire ("with an eye to Local Government Reorganisation")

### **Neighbourhood Planning**

Government has summarily withdrawn funding for neighbourhood planning. We are lobbying MHDC to step in with funding.

### **MHDC Strategy, Post White Paper**

The Malvern Hills District Council Legacy Grant Scheme has had 70 bids for the £1 m fund for communities. Applicants will be advised on next steps during September. In addition, around £3 m is planned to be spent on MHDC community assets before the district council is dissolved in April 2028.

**Kerry, Tenbury Wells** I am informed that Kerry has plans to relocate to Ireland.