

## EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Village Memorial Hall on Tuesday 30 September 2025

**Present:** Cllr P Arnold, Cllr M Adams, Cllr I Matravers, Cllr B Lewis and Cllr C Austin

**In Attendance:** Clerk, and one member of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr L Arnold; accepted by all, also received from County Councillor J Bowen and District Councillors.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
  - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep their registers always updated
  - 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** – no questions raised  
**Meeting resumed**

4. **Reports from County Councillor and District Councillors.** Reports are appended at end of minutes
5. **Minutes** - The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29 July 2025 were agreed by all, resolved and signed by the Chair.
6. **Volunteer appointment to role of Footpath officer update** – training is suspended at the present time
7. **Notice Board replacement** - deferred to next meeting
8. **Finance**
  - a. i. **Regular payments as on list.** 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

Cheque number	Payee	Description	£	
889	L Jenkins	August Salary	£ 401.16	reg.payment
DD	ICO	20.9.25 Data Fee renewal	£ 47.00	reg.payment
		Payments since last meeting	£ 448.16	
890	C Bunn	LM August & September	£ 403.75	reg.payment
891	L Jenkins	Sept Salary	£ 356.80	reg.payment
892	L Jenkins	Clerks quarterly Expenses	£ 74.99	
			£ 835.54	
		<b>Total PAYMENTS</b>	£ 1,283.70	

**All payments agreed by Councillors, resolved.**

- b. **Receipts received** - None
- c. **Bank Reconciliation** - 31 August 2025, Balance of £ 19,009.14; All Agreed, Resolved - documents signed.
- d. **Budget Reports** – to review and agree quarterly Budget Report as at 30 Sept 2025. All Agreed, resolved.
- e. **Bank**
  - i. Internet Banking – to apply for internet banking on the current account, All Agreed, resolved
9. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** – payments as noted in point 8 – all agreed
10. **Emails and Domain/Website (.gov.uk) Digital and Data Compliance under JPAG** - deferred to next meeting
11. **Planning**
  - a. Plans received since last meeting – none  
M25/01251/HP-Crookes Croft, construction of linked 2 storey extension & detached garage  
M25/01382/AGR & M25/01383/AGR Hillwood Farm, Silos, Access track.

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- b. Decisions received since last meeting – none.
- c. Plans for consideration at this meeting - none

### 12. Progress reports/ updates

- a. Roads, kerbing drains & LM report – no items reported
- b. Village Millenium Green kerbing – date of 1 December 2025 on weather permitting

### 13. Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk and/or Councillors – none

### 14. Correspondence for Information: as circulated to Councillors,

RSN Bulletins weekly/monthly; CALC Newsletters, Neighbourhood planning, Survey; WMP contract, fraud advice; WCC – Worcestershire Rights of Way improvement plan Survey closing 26 Oct.25; Draft local nature recovery strategy consult. MHDC – Storytelling sessions;

### 15. Correspondence for discussion

- a. WCC Worcestershire Rights of Way Improvement Plan RoWIP deadline 26 Oct – completed at meeting for submission by Clerk
- b. OPCC Town and Parish Survey – completed at meeting
- c. Heartstart – discussed to check on any costs involved
- d. WMP Charter renewal- agreed to carry forward previous points & to highlight speeding in the village request to be made to monitor at commuter times.
- e. MHDC Stortelling sessions – not this time
- f. CALC AGM – no attendees this time

### 16. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda. – Eastham Sign on Rhyse Lane for next Agenda, items as agreed to be carried forward

### 17. Confirm dates of next meeting 25 November 2025 at 7.30pm.

### 18. Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed

Date

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**Andrew Willmott District Councillor Tenbury Ward**

#### Items of interest

**22 September 2025**

#### Flood Defences, Tenbury Wells

The Environment Agency is pressing ahead with individual property protection in the area affected. The overall Flood Risk Management Scheme remains, I believe, in doubt; the Government's review on spending is scheduled for April next year. Our Local Lead Flood Authority, Worcestershire County Council, has been unable to meet with the MHDC until October to explain why no Statutory Section 19 Flood Reports have been made.

#### Local Government Reorganisation

That PricewaterhouseCoopers have linked the Integrated Care Boards for Worcestershire/Herefordshire to Warwickshire/Coventry is concerning when viewed against PwC's work on Local Government Reorganisation in our area; in that, our Parishes, may become even more remote from Local Government. MHDC voted this month by an overwhelming majority, and in line with survey results, for a two unitary Worcestershire, giving us the best local representation.

#### Neighbourhood Planning

Government has summarily withdrawn funding for neighbourhood planning. This appears contrary to their published view on Local Government Reorganisation, that local power will be enhanced under their restructure. We are lobbying MHDC to step in with funding.

#### MHDC Strategy, Post White Paper

The successful Legacy Grant Scheme bidders for the £1 m to be spread back to our communities are due to be contacted this month; those not successful at this stage will be advised on best next steps for their community projects. MHDC talks have started on the possibility of future schemes as we approach the dissolution of the District

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Council in April 2028. The latest financial review points to a favourable outcome for this year, largely due to increased investment income.

### **Kerry, Tenbury Wells**

I am informed that Kerry has plans to relocate to Ireland, there is speculation in the press that Aldi may be interested in the site.

### **Acute Trust League Table**

NHS England this month published a ranking of the NHS Trusts, Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust was ranked 110<sup>th</sup> out of 134.

### **David & Christine Lloyd-Jones Foundation**

The Foundation has received outline permission from Tenbury Town Council to build a significant community facility on, and adjacent to, Palmers Meadow.

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## **Malvern Hills District Council Report (September 2025)**

### **Cllr Lesley Bruton (Tenbury Ward)**

#### **Local Government Reorganisation**

At the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, Malvern Hills District Council voted to support the option of two unitary councils.

Under Government plans for Local Government Reorganisation, Worcestershire County Council and the six district, borough and city councils will be abolished on 1 April 2028.

They will be replaced by either one single council for Worcestershire running all services, or two councils – one for the north and one for the South – with each authority responsible for all services for its part of the county.

A detailed final proposal will be developed, which will be presented to Council for approval on 18 November. The proposal will then be submitted to the Government in time to meet the deadline of 28 November.

Once the Government has approved the model for reorganising councils in Worcestershire, elections will be held in May 2027 for a 'shadow' authority or authorities, which will guide the setting up of the new council structure.

The new unitary authorities or authorities will then take over local services in April 2025.

#### **Kerry Food**

With the support of the District Council, Citizens Advice Wellbeing and Lifeskills Adviser is organising a drop-in session at The Pump Rooms for employees of Kerry Food.

The drop-in session will be supported by other organisations such as the DWP, the Growth Hub, NHS, Shropshire Council etc who will be able to provide support and advice to employees.

#### **Support and Advice**

The District Council has a dedicated webpage that includes information on the support and advice available in the district. This includes help with clothing, counselling, financial support, food, furniture, housing, other support and general information and advice.

Please visit <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/general-information-support>

#### **Property Flood Resilience Scheme**

Residents and businesses are encouraged to register for the Property Flood Resilience Scheme before 20 September 2025. The Environment Agency will be contacting residents and businesses who have already expressed an interest and will be carrying out surveys to assess whether properties are suitable for the scheme.

Following the survey, residents will receive a report detailing any recommendations any recommended flood resilience measures. Informal community drop-in sessions have been held in The Pump Rooms

To register, please email [Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Tenbury.FRMS@environment-agency.gov.uk)

#### **Annual Canvass**

The Council has sent letters to all households in the district to make sure the voter records are up to date.

Registering to vote may also improve your credit score, which helps when applying for a mortgage or mobile phone contact. Your voice matters! Make sure your voice is heard in every election.

Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/voting-and-elections](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/voting-and-elections) for more information.

#### **Youth Citizen's Assembly**

The District Council is encouraging young people to get involved in helping to make a real change to the issues most affecting people their age.

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Our Youth Citizen's Assembly for Malvern Hills District is coming up on 14<sup>th</sup> October and the Council has reached to the schools in the district to take part but would also like to hear from young people aged 14 to 18 years old, who are not in mainstream education.

The assembly will see young people spend time with council decision-makers and talk about important issues such as jobs, opportunities and skills, as well as climate change and the environment.

If you are interested in taking part, please complete the short form on the Council website

[www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/youth](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/community/youth)

### **Tourism Grants**

Tourism businesses across the Malvern Hills District have the chance to apply for a grant to help improve the experience for visitors.

The Malvern Hills Tourism Grant Scheme, delivered by Malvern Hills District Council, is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The aim of the scheme is to help develop the local tourism industry within specific areas, as well as increasing visitor numbers and improving the visitor experience within the Malvern Hills District.

The scheme plans to support the Malvern Hills District tourism industry to grow over a two-year period, with the opportunity to:

Encourage businesses to adopt greener practices

- Help with upkeep of local attractions
- Improve visitor experience
- Improve accessibility at attractions

Eligible businesses can apply for a 50 per cent match-funded grant of up to £2,500 or £5,000 depending on the category. These include cultural/heritage, attractions, and sustainable tourism.

The funds will enable the museum to improve the overall look of the building and improve visitor experience.

The Malvern Hills Tourism Grant Scheme is all part of the council's vision for the Malvern Hills District to be recognised as a leading regenerative tourism destination.

The deadline to apply for a grant is 31 December. All projects will need to be completed by March 2026.

Visit [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/grants-and-funding](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/grants-and-funding) for more information about the grant and criteria for eligibility.

### **The Malverns**

Staycations in The Malverns have become more popular with tourists as figures highlight an increase in overnight stays in the area.

The annual Tourism Economic Impact Assessment (TEIA), undertaken for Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) by The Research Solution, has shown a ten per cent rise in the number of overnight trips in 2024 compared to the year before.

The overall value from day trips and overnight stays within the Malvern Hills District is nearly £200 million and more than 4,000 jobs are supported as a result.

The Council's new Regeneration Tourism Strategy aims to drive sustainable economic prosperity, create local employment, boost town and rural business revenues and enrich the lives of residents through a thriving visitor economy rooted in community, environment and cultural heritage.