

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Adams,  
Cllr Horsfall, Cllr Moseley, Cllr Conway, Cllr Worsley**

**In Attendance:** Clerk, County Cllr Ken Pollock and 2 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Inge, received and accepted.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
  - a. Register of Interests: No changes.
  - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – None.
  - c. Other Disclosable Interests – None.
3. **Dispensations –**
  - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
  - b. **Dispensations requested – None.**
4. **Public Question Time –** See notes below.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting –** Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report –** Vacant seat, election being held in December.  
**County Cllrs report –** Apologies given. Written report at end of minutes.
7. **Progress Reports for information:**
  - a. **First Aid Training –** Costs of training very high. MHDC are offering free training around the district, details have been circulated. Clerk to continue looking for training courses with lower costs.
  - b. **Neighbourhood Plan –** MHDC are to hold information sessions on this matter next year. Clerk has information but will attend these meetings with anyone else interested.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:**  
Clerk attended - MHDC Conference 5<sup>th</sup> October, WCALC - Clerks Gathering 12<sup>th</sup> October. Details circulated.
9. **Finances:**
  - a. **Payments made –** Mr I Mapp (LM October 2015) = £187.20, AMC Ltd (see item 9c) = £600.00, Eastham PCC (see item 9d) = £500.00.
  - b. **Payments received –** HMRC Repayment of VAT = £704.89, MHDC Precept = £3450.00, WCC LM payments June/July 2015 = £312.00.
  - c. **Eastham Memorial Hall Grant –** It was agreed to pay £500.00 +VAT for commercial dishwasher accessories as per the invoice presented. It was agreed to donate the items to Eastham Memorial Hall.
  - d. **Eastham Church –** It was agreed to pay grant of £500.00 for mowing of Church yard 2015-16.
  - e. **Bank Reconciliation –** August/September/October 2015 signed, balance agreed as £16482.17.
  - f. **Budget (circulated) -** to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015. Draft budget/precept for 2016-17 agenda item next meeting.
10. **Planning:**
  - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 17.**
  - b. Decisions received since last meeting –  
**15/01368/FUL – Old Farm Barn, Eastham WR15 8PA –** Addition of two velux conservation style roof-lights to west (rear) elevation. **Approved by MHDC.**  
**15/00982/PDU – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood -** Prior approval of proposed change of use of part of an Agricultural Building Dwelling House (Use Class 3) and for Associated Operational Development. **Approved by MHDC.**  
**Appeals lodged - 14/01640/PDU & 15/00286/PDU - Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood –** Prior approval of proposed change of use of part of an Agricultural Building Dwelling House (Use Class 3) and for Associated Operational Development and **14/01127/FUL –** Temporary rural workers dwelling on land at Oaktrees Farm, Highwood. **Withdrawn by applicant.**

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- c. Plans to comment on at this meeting –  
**15/01563/FUL – Teme Valley View Cottage, Eastham WR15 8PA** – Proposed self-build construction of a replacement dwelling and detached car port and extension of curtilage at Teme Valley View Cottage. After discussion it was agreed to support this application. The present dwelling on the site needs a large amount of work, it is reasonable to build a new house to modern standards.

### 11. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – General tidying to be maintained.
- b. **Any problems to report** – Mud on road Orleton Lane by boundary sign towards Stanford. Feather Bed Lane branch hanging over road.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
- **Robins End (Rhyse Lane)** – Drainage work has now been completed by WCC, road to be resurfaced soon. Our thanks to County Cllr and residents for helping resolve this longstanding issue. Chairman reported some verbal abuse from contractors and no workers onsite after 3.15pm some days. County Cllr to investigate.
  - **Astley Orchard** – repairs to road – Housing Association still to do some repairs, matter has been reported to Dist. Cllr Melanie Baker who is portfolio holder for this matter but no feedback yet been given.

### 12. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.

### 13. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

**Planning issues delegated to Clerk with input from Cllrs -**

**October - 15/01368/HOU – Old Farm Barn, Eastham** – Addition of 2 velux conservation style roof-lights to west (rear) elevation. Plans were circulated by email, Cllrs had no objections to the application.

**November – 15/01342/FUL – Land at (OS 6557 6668) Eastham** – Change of use from agricultural to equestrian use, comprising hay barn/stables, ménage and circulation area for grazing horses. The plans were circulated by email, Cllrs had not objections to the application.

**Payments** – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015 - Mr I Mapp (LM June/July/August/September 2015) = £748.80.

**Complaints –**

**Temevale, Eastham WR15 8NW** – New wooden building in field – this matter was reported to MHDC Enforcement Team on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2015, they are discussing the matter with their legal team.

**Chairman agreed to close the meeting at 8.15pm for resident to speak.**

Comments noted at end of these minutes regarding Temevale.

**Meeting was reopened at 8.20pm.**

### 14. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.

Clerks Review, Precept 2016-17.

### 15. Date of next meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

### 16. Meeting closed 8.20pm.

Signed----- Date 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Chairman

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**Temevale, Eastham WR15 8NW** – Concerns were raised by residents regarding the wooden building which has been erected within 400 metres of residential dwellings including a listed building. The work was started on 19<sup>th</sup> October, the structure was delivered in sections.

### COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. **County Council Budget** - At present, it looks as if we need to find another £3.4 million of savings for 2016/17, but the outlook further ahead seems increasingly difficult. We are aware of the desire of central government for local authorities to become self-supporting, so that we have control of our own finances, and not having to rely on a central government grant year by year. The retention of all business rates will assist in this change, and it will give the Council the opportunity to make further changes, for instance by optimising sales, fees and charges locally, as well as maximising the value of our asset base.
2. **Devolution** - Worcestershire does not intend to link up with any other council. All six District Councils, the County Council and the LEP, among other stakeholders, have agreed that a plan for significant devolution should go to Whitehall for approval. The details of which powers and responsibilities should be devolved are still being hammered out, and the leadership is open to all suggestions that might be forthcoming from residents. In broad terms we would like to see better public service reform and faster economic growth. Certain principles of governance have been spelt out, comprising an all-inclusive public sector and local partner strategy forum,

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accountable decision making, accountable project delivery, more simple streamlined governance structure and an equal partnership for publicly elected bodies.

**3. Viewpoint survey** - The recent viewpoint survey and roadshows around the County have yielded some encouraging figures. 82% of respondents are satisfied with the local area as a place to live. There is improved satisfaction with the state of the roads and most people think the Council offers value for money. The top three concerns for respondents at the roadshows were supporting older people when they become unwell, helping people with mental health difficulties more effectively and supporting vulnerable families early to prevent family breakdown.

**4. Positive Activities for Young People** - The decision to end all support for positive activities for young people next April has been rescinded, in favour of tapering down support over the next three years. This removes the threat of imminent closure for Café 27 in Tenbury, among other projects around the County, but still means that other sources of income need to be found to keep these facilities open for the young people they serve. I would like to place on record my appreciation for the work of all those involved with Café 27 and trust that adequate support can be found to see its work continue into the future.

**5. Household Recycling Centre** - It is good to see rapid progress with the building of the Household Recycling Centre in the Bromyard Road Business Park, and it is possible to believe it will be completed by the end of the year. At the time of the transfer about 20 new spaces should become available. The range of materials that will be accepted by the new centre will be very wide, encompassing most items of which residents would ever want to dispose. The new centre should be open for three days a week, but the facilities run by the town council for card and paper recycling will be within the centre and thus only available at those limited times.

**6. Public Realm Phase 2** - Councillors may have heard the interview on BBC Radio 4 "Today" recently with the Tesco representative, concerning their land sales. It was not clear to me how our site fitted in to this pattern, so I made a request. The essence of the reply is that there is no change at all. Indeed the following sentence is hopeful: "We don't yet have a start date for our work in Tenbury, but we remain eager to open and start serving the local community, and I will be able to make contact when I have news on timings." I will continue to press Tesco's, as are many other people, for a decision on when they will start work. In the meantime, we have been exploring ways in which we might bring forward Phase Two of the Public Realm work along Teme Street, using some other source of finance, based on a commitment from Tesco that they will go ahead at some stage. This urgency applies most particularly with regard to Tenbury Transport Trust who stand to receive a grant of £95,000 over five years from Tesco, once they go ahead.

**7. Post office move** I have responded to the consultation about the move of the Post Office from Teme Street to Bowkett's as follows:

1. I am happy to accept the idea of moving the Post Office from its dedicated building on Teme Street to a position within Bowkett's Supermarket, run as part of NISA chain. Having said that there are one or two relevant observations to make, as follows:
2. The position within the town is less central, but is subject to high footfall and should result in adequate accessibility.
3. Being part of the existing store will mean no awkward step to access the Post Office, unlike the existing building, which is very inconvenient for wheel chair users.
4. The existing store will need to be remodelled and I would hope that the Post Office would not find itself at the back of the store in a relatively obscure position. One thinks of the move in Worcester to shared premises with WH Smith, where the Post Office is upstairs and relatively inaccessible.
5. It will be far preferable to have longer opening hours, with no closure at lunchtime and longer opening hours on Saturdays.
6. This perhaps needs to be refined, as the nature of the counters will be very different. At present there are three dedicated counters, while the proposal is for one screened and one open plan, plus some services at a conventional retail stand. The latter will provide limited services and, if the extended hours are achieved by keeping this one open, the benefits will be greatly curtailed. Overall, this could mean slower service for customers at busy periods.
7. It may be that there will be less privacy in the Post Office area, which could be disturbing for some users with a desire for confidentiality.
8. Being able to buy foreign currency will be a considerable benefit for some users.
9. There would need to be adequate signage outside the existing building, to indicate to strangers the existence of the Post Office within the supermarket.
10. While the supermarket has some free parking nearby, this is often fully occupied, meaning that some customers will need to use parking places from further afield. I believe there will be fewer disabled parking spaces nearby, for those most in need of easy access.

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**8. Divisional Fund** - Repeating my earlier comment, all of my grants are detailed on the WCC website, as for all councillors, and you may care to have a look sometime. I am anxious to see that as many causes as possible should benefit from this funding, and would encourage anyone who knows of a need that might be helped by a small amount of money to please contact me.

**9. Rhyse Lane** - Now that the drainage work has been completed in Rhyse Lane, Eastham, the road will soon be closed for resurfacing between Lower Rochford and the junction with the road to Eastham bridge. After such work, the lane should be in good condition for the whole of its length.

**Cllr Ken Pollock**

**Martley,**

**Worcester,**

**WR6 6QA**