

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Parish Meeting held on Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30pm in Eastham Memorial Hall

In attendance

Cllrs Paul Arnold (Chairman), David Conway, Mike Adams, Joyce Horsfall, Peter Moseley, Adrian Worsley, Jen Jones.
District Cllr Caroline Palethorpe, Clerk to Eastham Parish Council

Present

62 Members of the Public (Electoral Register shows 196 people registered, attendees were ticked off this list or added if not on).

1. **Apologies** - received from County Cllr Ken Pollock. 13 Electors had sent apologies and comments which will be considered by Eastham Parish Council at their meeting to be held later this month (see below). One resident had sent comments only.
2. **The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

Chairman read out a statement regarding a leaflet that had been hand delivered to some households by Sarah Breen of this Parish. The leaflet had Clerks name and an incorrect email for Eastham Parish Council. Chairman stated the leaflet was not sanctioned by Eastham Parish Council or the Clerk and a public apology was requested from Mrs Breen. No apology was given at this meeting. Clerk outlined voting process for Cllrs. Cllrs were at meeting as residents and could vote. Chairman could not vote as he is chairing meeting as Cllr. The vote tonight and comments made at this meeting will be considered by Eastham Parish Council at their meeting to be held on **Tuesday 27th September at 7.30pm** in this hall. It will be the Cllrs who make the final decision on whether a loan is requested.
3. **Eastham Memorial Hall –**

Eastham Memorial Hall Chairman read out a statement on behalf of the Committee. References were made to comments put on Facebook by Sarah Breen which had not been retracted despite a request being made. A copy of the full statement is in files. No apology was given by Mrs Breen at this meeting.

Ray Tunks gave a Power Point presentation referring to the condition of the hall, how the project has been costed and the lottery grant applications that have been made and why refurbishment is not an option.

Latest Lottery Application for £285K has been accepted at Stage 1, process of applying for Stage 2 involves more form filling and must be returned by 19th December 2016, result in 17/18 weeks. If accepted to Stage 3 will be another 6 months for result, so final decision predicted February/March 2018.

If no Lottery Grant received costs of rebuild could come down to £230-240K, lottery money comes with certain things you must do to ensure you get the funds.

Chairman thanked Ray for his work in putting this together and for his work on the Lottery Grant applications.
4. **Parish Council will outline the effect on Council Tax Payments if loan applied for.** This was discussed in Questions and Answers session and full details were given in letter posted to householders.
5. **Questions/Answers**

Q - Is the building survey report to establish state of building for grant purposes?
A - Yes. A visual look of the hall shows areas of great concern, the Committee are mindful of this.

Q - Is Hall insurable?
A - Yes, ok at present, risk assessments are in place as required by law.

Q - Why now and why so much money, you can build a large house for less?
A - Houses are cheaper to build, hall being a public building more regulations to follow.

Q - Why is second Lottery Application for less money, how have costs been reduced?
A - Volunteers would be needed to finish the hall e.g decorating, outside tidying etc.

Q - Could the Parish Council do a full consultation of residents to see what community want?
A - This meeting is consulting residents and is required before a loan can be applied for.

Q - Can residents vote Cllrs out?
A - No, you will have to wait until the next elections in May 2019. At the 2015 elections 7 residents applied to go onto Eastham PC to fill 7 seats, in the eyes of the law the Cllrs were elected at that time.

Q - Can hall not have a refurbishment, could vote be taken tonight to see if residents supported refurbishment?
A - Present Committee feel this is not a viable option and they feel the hall will become unsafe for future public use. Clerk stated meeting is to vote on applying for loan. If a further vote is requested by residents tonight it will be at Chairman's discretion whether it is taken.
- Other Comments -**

Cllrs are elected by residents and should take residents views into account.
Duty of Parish Council to do the best for the Community, what is right for the Community, people are willing to work on hall help with refurbishment.
Concerns from some residents regarding the increase in cost on Precept.
6. **Vote of Electors –**

A vote was taken to see if residents wanted to vote by ballot paper or show of hands. The majority voted for ballot paper. The Chairman agreed to this request and ballot papers were handed out.

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Clerk explained Ballot Papers show **FOR LOAN** or **AGAINST LOAN**, residents to cross out the one they disagreed with so the one left is the one they agree with and will be counted. This was explained twice before papers were handed out.

The count was done by Clerk and Cllr Jones in presence of full meeting and the vote was as follows-

- **FOR LOAN - 29**
- **AGAINST LOAN – 39**
- **Spoilt paper – 1**

No further vote was requested by residents.

7. Matters of concern within Parish –

Eastham Bridge - It was hoped a new meeting date with a further update would be known for this meeting but this has not yet been confirmed by WCC. Clerk is in continual contact with WCC and our County/District Cllrs regarding this matter. Concerns regarding landowners cutting back hedges on roads being used more by closure of bridge to be taken to WCC.

8. Chairman thank everyone for coming

Meeting closed 9pm.

Paul Arnold _____
Chairman of Eastham Parish Council

Date _____

DRAFT