

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 6th October 2017

Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Adams,
Cllr Horsfall, Cllr Jones, Cllr Ward, Cllr Worsley

In Attendance: Clerk, 1 Member of Public

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Matravers.

2. **Declaration of Interest:**

a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs were reminded to keep their registers updated.

b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Item 13a and b and item 20 Eastham Memorial Hall.

c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – As (b) above.

3. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –

Dispensations requested – All Cllrs have been granted a dispensation to speak on Eastham Memorial Hall matters until May 2019. Items 12a and b and item 20 are the relevant items on this agenda.

4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.

5. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 25th July 2017 and Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 31st August 2017 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.

6. **County Cllrs Report** – Apologies received, report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.

District Cllrs Report – Apologies received, report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.

7. **Progress reports for information:**

a. **Eastham Bridge** – Old Eastham Bridge sign now up, bricks on top to be finished, Clerk to contact to WCC.

b. **Airband Concerns** – Some residents still having issues, Clerk to continue helping with this matter.

c. **Parish Path Warden** – WCC are working with Hillwood Farm owner to clear fallen tree and other issues.

8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: - None.**

9. **Finances** –

a. **Payments made** – See item 16.

b. **Payments received** – WCC LM April/May 2017 = £312.00.

c. **Bank Reconciliation July/August 2017 (circulated)** – Balance agreed as £16733.08 in cash book, all agreed for Cllr to sign. Budget up to 30th September to be circulated when September bank statement received.

d. **External Auditors Report** – No issues of concern, notices on website.

10. **Planning:**

a. **Plans received since last meeting: None.**

b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –

17/00997/FUL – Barns at (Os 6574 6784) Lower Bank Farm, Eastham WR15 8PA – Conversion of timber framed barns to form a single dwelling house, including removal of existing stable framed barn. **Approved by MHDC.**

17/01086/LB – Associated ref 17/0997/FUL – Amended paving layout and new field gate, further to previous Listed Building Consent 14/01697/LBC. **Approved by MHDC.**

17/01214/FUL - Eastham Memorial Hall, Eastham - The demolition of the existing village hall to be replaced with a new community hall building of a similar size and scale. **Approved by MHDC.**

17/00740/FUL – Colley Brook Fine Furnishings, Upper Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA – Conversion of existing workshop into two self-contained self-catering holiday units. **Approved by MHDC.**

17/00462/LB (Retrospective) – Robins End, Eastham WR15 8NW – Partial demolition of existing utility room

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to form a link and conversion of existing bike shed to from new utility. **Approved by MHDC.**

17/00110/FUL - Khandala, Highwood, Eastham WR15 8PB – Proposed replacement of detached garage/storage building with detached garage with integrated holiday accommodation. **Approved by MHDC.**

c. Plans for consideration at this meeting –

17/01191/HP – Rosedene, Eastham WR15 8PB – Proposed single storey Extension. It was agreed by all to support this application.

17/01345/FUL – The Old Forge, Eastham WR15 8NW – Construction of Artists studio adjacent to The Old Forge and associated extension of residential land area. It was agreed by all to support this application.

17/01286/FUL – Lower Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA – Proposed 3 bay garage with log store and formation of a vehicle and pedestrian access. It was agreed by all to support this application.

d. Update from MHDC regarding – 14/01640PDU – 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 - Retention and resiting of mobile home. An Appeal has been lodged, no details have yet been received from Planning Inspector.** It is noted work has been done on the site over last few weeks, MHDC to be informed.

11. Eastham Memorial Hall PC Representative – No Cllr wished to be appointed to the Hall Committee, the position will remain vacant. Clerk to inform Chairman of Hall.

12. Police Smartwater initiative – Cllrs do not recall receiving this information by email. Clerk to resend. It was agreed Cllrs to confirm by email whether they wish Police to attend meeting to give further information. Smartwater is used to mark valuables, it is a unique marker and is being offered to Parishes at a reduced rate through this scheme.

13. Eastham Memorial Hall

a. Parish Council Working Party Meeting with Eastham Memorial Hall 14th September – Notes of the meeting circulated to Cllrs and Trustees and were amended at request of Trustees. PC approved amended notes at this meeting, it was agreed by all they can be published on the website. Clerk to obtain Trustees approval of the revised notes before publishing.

b. To discuss letter received from Eastham Memorial Hall on 2nd October by email (letter undated). Memorial Hall have appointed new Solicitor, PC Solicitor had a brief conversation with the new Solicitor and a conference call was arranged by PC Solicitor for 4pm on 27th September. Hall Solicitor failed to take the call and despite many attempts by PC Solicitor to contact Hall Solicitor no contact has yet been made. PC Solicitor is now unavailable for two weeks so the legal contents of the letter will be left until his return. It was felt the tender process be discussed at Item 20 below due to the sensitive nature of the matter.

14. Road Report:

a. Lengthsman – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear. Complaint regarding road safety from resident to be looked into by Clerk.

b. Problems to report – Visibility problems on A443 Eastham Bridge junction and B4203 Orleton Lane junction, see notes at end of minutes, to be reported to County Cllr.

c. Update on outstanding queries –

Astley Orchard – Blocked drain – Clerk has contacted contractor and given permission for him to work on PC land. It is hoped the work will commence this month. If no work done by end of October Dist Cllr to be asked to make enquiries.

Astley Orchard – repairs to pavement – WCC have stated pavement is serviceable. Clerk to query with WCC.

Astley Orchard - grit bin request – WCC have not yet given permission to place green-bin near footway.

Highwood Lane – grit bin – WCC stated does not fit criteria for bin. Clerk has queried this with WCC.

15. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.

MHDC Conference 23rd October – 6-8.30pm - Malvern

CALC AGM 15th November – 6.30pm – Trade Fair from 5pm – Worcester.

16. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Payments made –

1st August – MHDC Planning Fee for Eastham Memorial Hall = £577.50.

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14th September 2017 – Information Commissioners Office (data protection) = £35.00, Mr L Mapp (LM August 2017) = £187.20.

21st September Eastham Memorial Hall Oak Tree – Neighbour to hall had complained regarding the tree roots causing possible damage to his drains/foundations. MHDC Tree Officer was asked for advice, details in files. A letter has been circulated and sent to householder. PC insurers and Hall Chairman have been informed, onus is on householder to prove cause of any damage and a claim can then be processed by insurance companies for both parties.

17. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Budget.

18. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th NOVEMBER 2017 at 7.30pm

19. Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

20. Eastham Memorial Hall – To discuss legal issues that may arise for urgent discussion.

No legal matters could be discussed due to no conversations having been entered into by the Solicitors acting for both parties. The letter received on 2nd October from Chairman of Hall was discussed and it was agreed Cllr Ward, Cllr Adams and Cllr Worsley meet to draft letter in response to be sent early next week. Some serious concerns have come to the Parish Councils attention. The matter needs immediate attention by Hall Trustees. It was agreed PC will offer to help Hall on all aspects of the tendering process and to meet lottery deadlines. PC do not wish Trustees to have undue responsibility and understand the Solicitors need to discuss the legal aspects of the matter to ensure all parties are agreed before documents are presented for signing. Further confidential notes are in files.

21. Meeting closed 8.58pm.

Signed----- Date 28th November 2017

Chairman

Residents queries – Eastham Bridge brickwork – (Item 7a refers) this matter has been noted by PC to report.

Obscuring of vision A443 – A piece of the metal structure is obscuring vision when turning off Eastham Bridge looking towards the Eardiston side of the A443.

Orleton Lane turning onto B4203 – When exiting Orleton Lane and looking towards Stanford Bridge there is a dip in the road which obscures vision. If a car is overtaking when going uphill you cannot see it if it is in the dip. It was suggested double white lines may be a solution. Two Cllrs noted the same concerns and had near misses on this junction.

Astley Orchard drainage work – See item 13c.

District Cllr Report

Economic Development update: Over the summer we are pleased to have been able to offer apprenticeship grants to local businesses, including Sierra CP Engineering (Malvern), Roberts & Egan (Upton), P Owen & Sons (Clifton) and Mercia Marine Insurance (Malvern). A number of graduate jobs and internships have also been supported with Marshall Structures in Holt Heath and Graffica, HD Connectivity and Photoglide in Malvern all receiving grant offers. If any businesses in your area are interested in taking on an apprentice or graduate please refer them to the Economic Development Team: ecodev@malvernhills.gov.uk to find out what support is available.

New resident magazine: Our new annual resident magazine has now been distributed to households within MHDC. It covers a wide range of news, updates and information about how we are investing in and supporting the district, and the services we provide. <https://www.malvernhills.gov.uk/documents/10558/0/Magazine+FINAL/d87701e7-9dca-952f-cae7-ed2103e3b4b7> **Have you seen this publication?**

Ward Budget Scheme: A small pot of funding is once again available to support local community projects. I am keen to support as many projects across the Ward as possible. **Deadline for spend is 31st December 2017.**

Search is on for unsung heroes: Unsung heroes are once again being sought as the Our Malvern Hills Community Awards return. The awards were launched for the first time last year by MHDC and were a huge success, with 60 nominations and 20 groups and individuals recognised during a celebration event. Organisers are now appealing to the public to help make this year's awards bigger and better by nominating even more people, organisations or projects that have improved the lives and well-being of residents. There are six categories people can nominate in - Safe and Sound, Improving Lives, Action in the Community, Cleaner and Greener, Young Person's and Business in the Community. Those chosen to receive an award will be presented with it during a celebration ceremony at the HD Anywhere Stadium, the home of Malvern Town FC, on Wednesday, 29 November 2017. For more information and to download a nomination form visit

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www.malvernhillsgov.uk/communityawards. They can also be requested by calling Isobel Rich on 01684 862467. **Deadline for nominations is Sunday, 29 October 2017.**

Dist Councillor Caroline Palethorpe Tel: 07974 966412 - caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillsgov.uk

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Tenbury Public Realm - From my observation over the last two weeks, the Public Realm work seems to be progressing well if slowly. The second started this week and CH2M are still confident of meeting the finishing deadline. After discussions between all parties decisions were made on the street furniture. The heritage style would be used around the Regal cinema, and include a black flagpole in lieu of the stainless steel one. Alongside the flag pole would be a black heritage cast iron bin, an extra to be added to the scheme. The heritage style finger post outside the library would be retained, but painted in situ. This would be in accordance with the other finger post signs already in the scheme, as in Market Street. Beyond that stainless steel would be used for the bollards and the waste bins. There would be four stainless steel planters, but these would be lined with insulation, as the company does not supply double skin versions. It is thought that some at least of the planters on Teme Street should have evergreen shrubs and perhaps conifers offering more height, in addition to the conventional bedding plants. A stainless steel bench with wooden slats would also be installed. Some of these items will be paid for by Tesco's, as they should have been installed during their work this spring.

Tenbury Applefest - It appeared to me that Applefest went off very well, with large crowds, plenty of stalls doing a good trade and entertainment from all sorts, including the Tenbury and Teme Valley Band. I would like to congratulate all concerned on an excellent show, not impeded I believe by the Public Realm work. It was also good to see the overflow car park in use, indicating a good attendance. It appears to have been expanded temporarily as well, but probably only because the ground was pretty dry and firm. I was also pleased to be able to attend the Martley Applefest in the Chantry School on the same day. These two events exhibit the best of our county and the strength of support for local farmers and the businesses that depend on them.

Velo Birmingham Bike Event - The controversial bike event took place on the 24th September and divided the communities through which it past. There were large crowds out in all the villages applauding the riders, and in several places like Bewdley and Droitwich, special arrangements were made to offer food and drink to the spectators. In other places, there was serious opposition, some of which was regrettably expressed in oil, nails and tacks being strewn on the road and hedge clippings deliberately scattered on the route. Clearing up this material meant the cyclists were delayed and the road closures lifted late. This aggravated the situation for many who were not sympathetic to the event in the first place. County officers and relevant councillors will be deciding in the next couple of weeks whether to permit the event to go ahead in subsequent years and, if so, whether the route might be modified to minimise disruption and loss of business.

Road and footway conditions - I trust that any local concerns about carriageway and footway conditions are being reported on the WCC website and any outstanding problems will be referred to me for action. We are investing a lot of money in seeking to reach the upper quartile of road condition and in general, our county's roads are in good condition. Any defects need to be chased up as soon as possible.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, GL50 2BZ