

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th November 2017

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

In Attendance: Clerk, District Cllr Caroline Palethorpe

1. Apologies: Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Jones.

2. Declaration of Interest:

- a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs were reminded to keep their registers updated.
- b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Item 12a, 19 and items 20a, b, c 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, 19 and items 20a, b, c are relevant to this agenda.

4. Public Question Time – No issue raised.

5. Minutes of last Meeting: Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 6th October 2017 and Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 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 – Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.

7. Progress reports for information:

- a. **Eastham Bridge** – Work has been done to improve brickwork at top.
- b. **Airband Concerns** – Some residents still having issues, Clerk continuing to help.
- c. **Parish Path Warden** – No update received.

8. Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -

MHDC Conference 23rd October - CALC AGM 15th November – Clerks Gathering 30th October (Transparency Code/WCC Website. Details of items of interest circulated by email.

9. Finances –

- a. **Payments made** – Eastham PCC (see item 9e) = £500.00, MTM Contracting Ltd (mowing Millennium Green) = £1248.00, Mrs S Burrows (see item 9f) = £194.14. See also item 15.
- b. **Payments received** – WCC LM June/July/August/September 2017 = £624.00, MHDC Precept £3700.00.
- c. **Bank Reconciliation September/3rd November 2017 (circulated)** – Balance agreed as £20459.20 in cash book, all agreed for Cllr to sign.
- d. **Budget up to 30th September** (circulated) - Draft budget for 2018-19 discussed, precept to be agreed at next meeting.
- e. **Eastham PCC letter** – It was agreed by all to grant £500.00 for the mowing of the Churchyard.
- f. **Clerks expenses 2016-17** (circulated) – It was agreed by all to pay £194.14 as circulated.

10. Planning:

- a. **Plans received since last meeting: None.**
- b. **Decisions received since last meeting –**
 - 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. **Withdrawn by applicant.**
 - 17/01286/FUL – Lower Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA** – Proposed 3 bay garage with log store and formation of a vehicle and pedestrian access. **Withdrawn by applicant.**
 - 17/01191/HP – Rosedene, Eastham WR15 8PB** – Proposed single storey Extension. **Approved by MHDC.**
- c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting –**
 - 17/01605/FUL – Lower Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA** – Change of use of agricultural land to domestic garden and proposed 3 bay garage/log store and formation of a vehicle and pedestrian access.
It was agreed by all to support this application.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

APPEAL – APP/J1860/X/17/317644 – Oaktrees, Highwood Lane, Eastham WR15 8PB – Application for Lawful Development Certificate for existing works to convert the existing barn into residential dwelling as approved under 15/00982/PDU. It was agreed by all to send letter to Planning Inspectorate due to the contents of the applicants appeal. It was agreed the Clerk contact the Fire Service for a more detailed report of the fire if it is available, cost of this report approximately £250.00, to be agreed by email.

11. Police Smartwater initiative – It was agreed to invite Police to attend a 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. Clerk to advertise date when known.

12. Eastham Memorial Hall

a. Parish Council Working Party Meeting 21st November – Notes of the meeting circulated to Cllrs. The notes were approved at this meeting, it was agreed by all they can be published on the website.

b. PC Insurance Company (circulated) – Notes of Clerks conversation with Came & Co are in files.

13. Road Report:

a. Lengthsman – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.

b. Problems to report – New Road subsidence still not been repaired, area above Eastham Grange.

c. Update on outstanding queries –

Astley Orchard – Blocked drain – District Cllr now in contact with CEO of Housing Association.

Astley Orchard – repairs to pavement – Clerk to report again.

Astley Orchard - grit bin – Permission granted by WCC but for wrong road, Clerk working to resolve.

Highwood Lane – grit bin – Clerk to obtain permission for Parish grit bin.

14. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.

CALC Training dates.

15. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Payments made – 15th November – Mr I Mapp Lengthsman work September/October 2017 = £374.40.

October 2017 – Complaints concerning Chairman and actions of PC have been verbally raised by residents to Clerk – Clerk informed resident complaints must be put in writing. Chairman and PC were informed of the matter, details in confidential files.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Precept.

17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd January 2018 at 7.30pm

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

Dist Cllr was asked, and agreed, to stay for this part of the meeting to offer help for both parties if she is able.

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

No legal matters could be discussed due to no papers having been finalised by the Solicitors. PC Solicitor has confirmed he has responded to all correspondence received from EMH Solicitors.

20. Eastham Memorial Hall letter of 13th October 2017 (circulated)

a. To discuss request to pay Solicitors fees for lease etc.

b. To discuss request to pay Solicitors fees for making Charity an incorporated body.

c. To discuss request to pay costs for sending out extra Tender documents.

It was agreed by all present the PC could not pay any of the fees listed above as the costs should have been in the initial budget set by Hall Trustees. Clerk to send letter informing Trustees of the decision.

Chairman had received an email from Treasurer of Hall which was circulated to Cllrs at this meeting with sender's permission, its contents were noted by all Cllrs.

It was agreed by Cllrs present that a letter should be sent to Hall Trustees informing them the PC have been approached by other contractors who are interested in the final contract. The PC have looked in depth at the contractor named in the Stage 3 paperwork, the PC will not approve this contractor. Paragraph of letter sent to Hall on 10th October 2017 concerning contractor to be inserted into the letter. The letter is to ask for a joint meeting to discuss issues of concern before the anticipated approval of the Stage 3 is received. (confidential notes in files).

21. Meeting closed 8.47pm.

Signed----- Date 23rd January 2018

Chairman

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

My Local Area: We have recently created a new online service to enable residents in the district to find out key information about where they live. My Local Area, allows people to find out a range of useful information including current and historic planning applications, bin collection days, councillor details, nearby hospitals, leisure centres and recycling points. People can also carry out property searches for listed buildings, conservation areas and tree preservation orders near to their home. You will find it on the home page of our website.

Community engagement plan: The latest community engagement action plan for 2017/18 was approved at Executive Committee in June. Our Council Policy Group on community engagement has met a couple of times since to review progress and come up with ideas for next year's plan. This year's plan includes 19 actions that aim to inform, consult and involve residents in our work. My next date for "Meet your Council" has been set up for Thursday 13th September 2018! Plenty of time to plan the day out in the Teme Valley Ward.

Local Schools to attend Council: The two winning schools who took part in our Local Democracy Day - The Chase and The Chantry, will be attending Full Council on 28 November. The Chase School won the build a political party challenge and it was announced one of their manifesto proposals – to send young people into residential homes to help alleviate loneliness and breakdown barriers between the generations – will be taken forward as part of our Five-Year Plan. The Chantry School was highly commended for its radical manifesto. Schools will be presenting their policies at Council this month, which is a great opportunity to promote the importance of local democracy.

Worcestershire Wellbeing Hub: The Worcestershire Wellbeing Hub is an information and signposting service for people over the age of 16 who are experiencing low mood, anxiety or stress, and feel that they would benefit from support from local community providers. Visit their website for more information.

Caroline Palethorpe Teme Valley Ward MHDC Tel: 07974 966412 caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillsc.net

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

County Council Affairs - While the overall picture of our finances is difficult, there are a number of very encouraging developments. The Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy was approved. This plan, based on work done by our consultants, outlines the priorities for rail development in the county, with great emphasis on the new Worcestershire Parkway station to be opened in the winter of 2018/19 and achieving two trains per hour from Worcester to Paddington. One of those should be a high speed train averaging a lot more than the current 55 mph. We also approved the developments of Kidderminster station, the second most used station in the county, but with very poor facilities. Pershore will also see important road improvements, including a new bridge over the main railway line to linkup with the Wyre Piddle bypass. This will relieve some of the problems at the Pinvin crossroads. Finally the revised Local Transport Plan (LTP4) was approved. This outlines all the possible transport improvements across the county to be considered between now and 2031. It does not in any way guarantee the funds to carry out these projects, but rather describes an envelope encompassing all the schemes we would like to see implemented. There are also priorities given, so that it can be seen what work might be undertaken first, as funds become available. For two days this week I will be assisting in choosing a new Chief Executive for the WCC. We are hopeful that the chosen candidate will be able to start work early next year, to provide the strong leadership we need at a time of financial difficulty, and great challenges in the departments of Children's Services and Adult Social Care.

Tenbury Public Realm - Work in Tenbury is nearing completion. At the end of last week the refurbishment of the pavements was completed, leaving the new tarmac to be installed this week. This is happening overnight for three days, with a fourth booked in case it is necessary. The roads will close at 21.00 and be open again at 06.00 the following morning. I trust that all parties will be satisfied with the end result of this extended work, and that Tenbury will flourish as a retail and visitor centre, once the work is complete. It was good to see that the Headway traffic controller Steve was appreciated and actually switched on the Christmas lights in Teme Street on Saturday, 18th. Steve became the most popular man in Tenbury with his big smile and engaging personality, making everyone held up by the traffic management much more patient and cheerful. Very many thanks to him.

Velo Birmingham Bike - County officers and relevant councillors met the organisers earlier this month to hear all the evidence of positive and negative impacts. There have been many positive comments about its value and one of the major charities benefitting from the event, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity (including three other hospital trusts) and the Leukaemia Trust informing me that they are each in receipt of £400,000 from the participants. The Director will now decide 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.

Eastham Memorial Hall - I trust that the works for the new Memorial Hall are in progress and I have confirmed to Treasurer of Hall that I will be able to provide £400 towards the cost of an induction loop to assist those with hearing problems. This should be processed soon. There has been a lot of hard work gone into the preparation of plans for the new hall and I trust it will proceed smoothly from here onwards.

Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ