

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council
held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm
on Monday 8th January 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 3 Members of Public

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Horsfall.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep register updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Items 7 and 8 Eastham Memorial Hall issues.
 - 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 requested a Dispensation for items 7 and 8 – Eastham Memorial Hall, it was agreed by all at previous meetings Cllrs can speak and vote on this matter until May 2019.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
5. **Eastham Memorial Hall** –
 - a. To discuss whether the Parish Council would benefit from the advice of a Quantity Surveyor (QS). After much discussion and considering the views of residents given at this meeting it was felt advice from a qualified QS would be beneficial to the PC. It was agreed Cllr Worsley and Cllr Adams look into costs. See also item 8c below.
6. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday 23rd JANUARY 2018 at 7.30pm**
7. **Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
8. **Eastham Memorial Hall**
 - a. **Lease** – PC Solicitor is awaiting responses from EMH Solicitor before further work on legal documents can progress. No matters can be discussed tonight.
 - b. **Email correspondence from Hall Chairman dated 14th December and 21st December** – It was agreed Clerk to draft responses as discussed. To circulate for approval by Cllrs.
 - c. **Appointment of Quantity Surveyor (QS)** – It was agreed to fix a fee for a QS so the matter can progress. Confidential notes in files.
8. **Meeting Closed – 8.55pm**

Signed----- Date 23rd January 2018
Chairman

A Resident circulated a statement raising many points, a copy is held in files. The Resident read out the statement and matters were addressed as follows-

Query 1 – QS report for PC -

Q – why are PC discussing having a QS and spending more money.

A – Matter is on agenda for discussion, not yet decided. Some Cllrs feel a QS for the PC is money well spent to ensure PC are fully informed regarding the choice of final contractor and to answer questions that may occur in the future. Needs to be done now to ensure no delays in middle of February when decision is expected from BLF. EMH will need to accept or decline the BLF offer, PC are not the applicants so are not involved.

Query 2 – Legal papers -

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Q – Lease and legal documents – Why is a Lease necessary, Hall put to lot of expense. Two Legal documents need to be signed for Hall, this is all that is required.

A – Lease is needed along with a License for Works, that is what PC have been advised to do by PC advisors and PC Solicitor. The two other Legal documents needed for BLF cannot be signed until Lease etc. is signed. These documents are not required until money is to be released as written in BFL paperwork. PC have been working since last summer to get all Legal papers ready for signing to ensure no delays are encountered.

Query 3 –PC actions

Q – Resident felt matters had been discussed by PC in closed sessions regarding the proposed new Hall. Resident would support a vote of no confidence in PC if PC are found to be at fault if BLF funding lost.

A - PC have done nothing to delay the BLF process, the Legal matters are well advanced to ensure no delays occur in the near future. The Hall planning application was discussed at an open PC Meeting held on 31st August 2017 and the minutes have been published. Closed sessions and Working Party Meetings are held to discuss Legal and Contractual matters as advised by PC advisors. PC are looking after all residents of the Parish, they all pay the precept, any expenditure to ensure a smooth end to the project is money well spent. Cllrs can resign at any time but residents cannot vote on the PC or individual Cllrs being removed. There will be an election for the Parish in May 2019.

Some questions were matters that are relevant to Hall and not for the PC. The resident was advised to contact Hall.

Comments from other residents attending meeting –

Resident agreed that the PC should have an independent QS report, he has spoken to a few other residents who agree with him.

Contractor who has tendered for the work was thought to be a good company and resident has no issues with the company being the chosen contractor.