

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd January 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 6 Members of the Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Caroline Paethorpe

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Horsfall and Cllr Worsley.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs were reminded to keep their registers updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Item 11a, b and items 20a, b - 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 11a, b and items 20a, b relevant to this agenda.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes at end of minutes.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 28th November 2017 and Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman with no Cllrs asking for any changes to be made.
6. **County Cllrs Report** – 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** – County Cllr stated the report on bridge would be published soon, see his report below.
 - b. **Airband Concerns** – Clerk is meeting with WCC and Airband on 1st February, service still causing problems for some.
 - c. **Police Smartwater presentation** – Clerk has registered an interest for Police to come to a meeting later in year.
 - d. **Parish Path Warden** – Work to footbridges planned.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: - None.**
9. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM December 2017) = £187.20, Worcestershire CALC (Cllr Training 30th November) = £30.00, CPRE (see d below) = £36.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – HMRC VAT repayment = £573.66, WCC LM October 2017 = £156.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation November/2nd January 2018 (circulated)** – Balance agreed as £18121.60 in cash book, all agreed for Cllr to sign.
 - d. **It was agreed that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure** – It was agreed by all to grant £36.00 to become a member of Campaign to Protect Rural England for 2018-19.
 - e. **To agree Precept and Budget 2018-19 (circulated).** After discussion it was agreed by all to increase precept by £300.00 to £7700.00 for 2018-19.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans received since last meeting: None.**
 - b. **Decisions received since last 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. **Withdrawn by applicant.**
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting – None.**
 - d. **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. **Appeal date is 10am on 20th February 2018 at The Council House, Malvern, details have been circulated to residents.**

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11. Eastham Memorial Hall

- a. **Parish Council Working Party Meeting 19th January 2018** – Confidential notes of meeting were agreed. The meeting recommends that the PC appoint a QS to advise PC. To be discussed at item 20b below.
- b. **Joint Meeting with Hall Trustees** – Cllrs have agreed second draft notes. Hall Trustees do not yet agree with the notes so they will not be published. Email of 22nd January 2018 to be discussed at item 20b below.

12. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.
- b. **Problems to report** – New Road subsidence still not repaired, to pass details to County Cllr.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
 - Astley Orchard** – Blocked drain – now fixed but Millennium Green and drain outlet covers causing concern. Dist Cllr is meeting Stonewater on site to discuss.
 - Astley Orchard** – repairs to pavement – Clerk to report again.
 - Astley Orchard** - grit bin– Permission for bin by sign still being looked into by WCC.
 - Highwood Lane** – grit bin – WCC will not approve PC gritbin at far end of lane, Clerk to resolve locally.

13. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.
CALC Training dates.

ROAD CLOSURE - HIGHWOOD ROAD FROM RHYSE LANE TO B4204 – 1ST FEBRUARY FOR 2 DAYS

WCC Budget Consultation – 24th January – 6pm

WCC Spring Conference – 6th March – 5pm information/market place – 6pm Conference.

Worcestershire Pollinators Conference 2018 – 27th March 2018

MHDC Conference - 9th April – 5.30pm – 8pm

14. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Payments made – 13th December – Mr I Mapp LM November 2017 = £187.20.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Internal Auditor.

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 27th March 2018 at 7.30pm

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

18. Mowing Contract – It was agreed to renew contract with present contractor at the quoted price.

19. Lengthsman Contract – It was agreed to continue with present contractor for 2018-19 subject to WCC providing funding.

20. Eastham Memorial Hall –

- a. **Legal issues** - PC Solicitor has confirmed he has responded to all correspondence received from EMH Solicitors and his awaiting detailed information regarding contract etc. so he can finalise the Agreement for Works.
- b. **Other matters that require urgent attention** –
 - QS** – It was agreed as recommended by the Working Party to appoint the QS who attended the Working Party Meeting on 19th January 2018. This is subject to his confirming his costs by email. Chairman and Clerk had approached other qualified people but they were unable to help as they were busy on other jobs. Confidential notes are in files.
 - Notes of Joint Meeting 13th December 2017** - Chairman of Hall sent email on 22nd January 2018 with further queries regarding the notes. Confidential notes in files.

19. Meeting closed 8.47pm.

Signed----- Date 19th March 2018

Chairman

Public Question Time –

Eastham Bridge – coping stones for top and tree growth in brickwork prior to collapse - County Cllr has been advised stones not needed for top, report on collapse to be published in next few months - trees not relevant to collapse.

New Road – subsidence is getting worse. Clerk advised it has been reported. County Cllr to be given details to investigate.

Airband – resident stated still inconsistent, Clerk was thanked for her work in helping resolve issues.

Ownership of Hall – Resident felt new hall will be owned by Trustees. Clerk advised this is incorrect, it will belong to PC as they have freehold of land. This was disputed so Clerk advised resident to seek advice from a Solicitor.

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Draft Minutes of meeting held on 8th January 2018 (Item 5) regarding Eastham Memorial Hall – Resident who attended the meeting queried the wording in the minutes. Clerk advised the minutes had not been agreed by PC, it was agenda item tonight. Clerk understood the draft minutes to be correct, but Cllrs could ask for changes if they did not agree with them. Resident did not think the minutes were correct.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Waste changes update: Good progress is being made with the introduction from 2 April 2018 of changes to our waste and recycling collection services. Properties throughout the district have been assessed for their suitability for individual black bins, communal bins or remaining on sacks and we are pleased to say that a large number of properties currently using recycling sacks have been identified as suitable for bins as part of the new service. From Monday 15th January each home will receive a letter setting out more details about the changes and in particular whether their property is identified as suitable for an individual black bin, communal bin or remaining on sacks. If anyone has any additional enquiries please visit www.malvern hills.gov.uk/refuse-and-recycling, select Deliver/Replace Bin or Sacks and fill in the form. Alternatively you can call the waste changes hotline on 01684 862490.

Supporting our priority - to build stronger and healthier communities:

Balanceability Children's Learn to Ride Courses - in Tenbury - Cost £7.50 per child. Visit

www.malvern hills.gov.uk/balanceability for more information. Look for fliers for more details.

SELfie where's the HARM? - The SELfie where's the HARM? Film will be launched in Worcester as part of the online safety drop in events, raising awareness of cyber bullying and how to keep young people safe online. The wider public will have the chance to view the 25 minute film for the first time when it is shown at two upcoming cyber safety events being held at The Hive in Worcester. The first took place on Saturday 20 January between 10am and 1pm and the second on Wednesday, 7 February – also Safer Internet Day – between 1pm and 5pm. Advice and guidance will also be available on both days from Worcestershire County Council and West Mercia Police about how to keep children safe on the web and protect them from online bullying and harassment. For more information, email cypp@worcestershire.gov.uk. Proud of this project as I initiated the idea and developed the original programme with young people from local schools.

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

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Happy New Year - I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Eastham councillors and residents in and around the parish a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. We can expect there to be great challenges facing us at the town, district and county level. Worcestershire starts the year in good shape, as indicated in the annual conference of the Local Enterprise Partnership last month. Around 400 local business people, local authority officers and councillors attended the Chateau Impney Hotel to hear of some of the many good things that are happening in the county, and of the major challenges ahead. Some of the latter dealt with the way technology offers new possibilities in transport and manufacturing, as well as the handling of big data – a positive factor, but one open to misuse. Cyber security is a constant concern, but Worcestershire is well placed to benefit from the need, with several top flight companies operating in this area. It was also good to hear from the three recent top county apprentices, who have gone on to succeed in their chosen fields, after the benefit of their apprenticeships. They demonstrated how important it is to choose the right path for the individual, rather than believing the only route to success is via university. Indeed, one winner left her course after two years, when she realised that a better future lay with taking up an apprenticeship.

Overall, a very positive conference, with many lessons learnt and encouraging enthusiasm for the tasks ahead.

County Council affairs - We have recruited a new Chief Executive, who will start work in the middle of March. He is Paul Robinson, currently the CEO of Derby City Council, where he runs a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to WCC. Sitting on the appointments panel, I was impressed in particular by his vigour and keenness, qualities we will need as a new senior team is being recruited over the coming months. While we have lost some senior people recently, they have all gone on to more significant posts, indicating that our personnel are recognised as being highly effective and worth employing.

I will forward a note from Jon Fraser with other county matters of relevance and also a link to the latest bulletin re superfast broadband, some of which may be relevant to some residents of Eastham.

Tenbury Public Realm - The work in Tenbury is nearing completion. There are still some items of street furniture to be installed. Red tarmac will be applied overnight to the raised tables in the warmer weather in the first week of March. It is good to note that the 20 mph zone is now in force. The average speed of traffic on Teme Street was 22mph. While this is not fast, it means that many cars were travelling much faster than that, and we have to hope that motorists will now observe 20 mph as a maximum. This is reinforced by the raised

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tables, where pedestrians should feel more secure in crossing the road, because of the lower speeds. The zone extends from the Teme bridge as far as the Kyre brook and then as far as Cross Street beyond Bowketts. The roads around the church are also 20 mph, but that is an area where higher speeds are very unlikely anyway. The new 20 minute parking restriction for three car lengths outside Tenbury News will be applied next month. We must all trust that trade will now start return, to bring more prosperity to all retailers and residents in and around Tenbury.

Velo Birmingham - Some of you will be aware that there was a CALC meeting earlier this month to discuss Velo Birmingham in 2017 and the prospect of another such event this year. Since then the WCC Cabinet members have received a couple of reports from other parish councils detailing their attitude to the event and whether there should be another this year. As it stands, no decision has been announced and the matter will come to Cabinet on February 8th. Any comments from Eastham councillors and residents would be welcome, no matter what side they may take on the desirability of another Velo event.

Eastham Bridge - It is good to see the bridge functioning correctly and I hope all residents are pleased with the general style of the works. It was constructed under a design and build contract so the company has responsibility for making sure the structure is sound and durable. I am told problems with the brick mortar have been corrected. There have been comments about visibility for motorists turning off the bridge on to the A443. To my mind the felling of trees and bushes in the area has made the situation better than it used to be, and it is unlikely that any further adjustments will be made. Some have asked about the report into the collapse being published. I think this is likely to occur in the coming months. A display board charting the background to the old and new bridges is being prepared for erection on the verge adjacent to the fisherman's car park. It is hope that will prove popular and effective for informing the public about the bridge.

CLlr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ

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