

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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

**In Attendance:** Clerk, 7 Members of the Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Caroline Palethorpe

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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 and Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
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. **Airband** – Concerns raised by resident have been passed to WCC and Airband to resolve.
  - b. **Parish Path Warden** – Work ongoing with WCC help to keep paths clear and signage in place.
  - c. **Data Protection May 2018** – Clerks wishes all Cllrs to be aware of change in law which will affect PCs. Information to be circulated.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -**  
**Clerk** - WCC Spring Conference – 6<sup>th</sup> March – information to be circulated.
9. **Finances** –
  - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM March 2018) = £187.20, Worcestershire CALC (Clerks gathering 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017) = £10.00, Mrs S Burrows (Printing, envelopes, postage letter 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018) = £85.15, Worcestershire CALC (Cllr Training 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018) = £30.00.
  - b. **Payments received** – None.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation 3<sup>rd</sup> January/February 2018 (circulated)** – Balance agreed as £17305.52 in cash book, all agreed for Cllr to sign.
10. **Planning:**
  - a. **Plans received since last meeting:** None.
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –  
**18/00074/FUL – Land at (OS 6708 6834), Eastham – Provision of holiday lodge. 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. **Outcome of APPEAL Hearing held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018.** The appeal has been dismissed, MHDC will be writing to the appellant, PC will have copy of letter. Clerk was thanked by Cllrs and residents for attending the appeal.
11. **Eastham Memorial Hall**
  - a. **Parish Council Working Party Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018** – Confidential notes of meeting were agreed.
  - b. **Mediation Meeting with Hall Trustees** – to be discussed at item 20b below. Cllrs wished to thank County and District Cllrs for their input!
12. **Road Report:**

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- a. **Lengthsman** – Drain by hall needs clearing.
  - b. **Problems to report** – New Road subsidence still not repaired, County Cllr stated it was on list to do and was inspected regularly.
  - c. **Update on outstanding queries** –  
**Astley Orchard** – Cllr Ward agreed to drive digger over uneven areas following drainage work.  
**Grit bins** - Clerk to contact resident on Highwood, Astley Orchard not yet received permission from WCC.
- 13. West Mercia Police Party in the Park 2018** - Request for a grant to support this event was discussed. Cllrs wished it to be noted they support such events but it was agreed by all the PC could not grant funds this year due to parish issues.
- 14. Correspondence for Information:**  
A list of items will be available at the meeting.  
CALC Training dates.  
MHDC Conference - 9<sup>th</sup> April – 5.30pm – 8pm
- 15. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.**  
**Payments made** – 20<sup>th</sup> March – Mr I Mapp LM February 2018 = £187.20.
- 16. Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.**  
Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Accounts
- 17. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 at 7.00pm ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
to be followed by Annual Parish Council Meeting**
- 18. Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
- 19. Internal Auditor** – It was agreed to appoint the usual auditor at a fee of £50.00.
- 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. It was agreed Cllr Worsley to contact PC Solicitor to ensure there are no delays in reviewing the lease.
  - b. **Other matters that require urgent attention** – EMH stated a lease is the only document that needs to be agreed to satisfy BLF to agree the funds. The notes taken by District Cllr Palethorpe to be agreed by email.
- 19. Meeting closed 8.47pm.**

Signed----- Date 22nd May 2018  
Chairman

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## Public Question Time –

**Eastham Bridge** – Stones have been dislodged by lorry, WCC are aware of the damage, contractor is responsible for repairs at present as they designed the bridge.

**Robins End** – broken sign, Clerk will report and ask for different fitting to be used.

## Millennium Green –

**Eastham Memorial Hall** – queries were raised about the contents of the lease. Clerk advised the details are confidential hence them being discussed in confidential sessions of PC meeting. PC do not know what conditions BLF require and a Lease was thought to have been agreed by both parties but at the mediation meeting Trustees stated it had not been agreed. PC in contact with their Solicitor as a matter of urgency.

Residents felt emails regarding meetings/updates would be useful, Clerk noted this point and has an email list to use.

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## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

**Waste collection changes gather pace:** More than 27,000 black wheeled bins have been delivered to households across the district as preparations continue for the introduction of Alternate Weekly Collections. Scheduled bin deliveries were completed at the end of last week (Friday 16 March). Any household with a green wheeled recycling bin that was expecting a black bin and has yet to receive one, should contact the waste changes hotline on 01684 862490 as soon as possible. The system begins the week commencing Monday, 2 April 2018 and residents with black bins are asked not to use them before that date as they will not be emptied. Residents remaining on a sack only collection for both waste and recycling will have a roll of black sacks and cherry recycling sacks delivered to them in May and June as usual. Officers have also been working with landlords and housing associations where waste and recycling is collected from one central point to manage the change. Communal bins will be delivered to these properties from April. Landlords who own flats/apartments and have yet to be contacted by us should get in touch immediately. Under Alternate Weekly Collections rubbish will be

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collected one week and recycling the next on a rotating basis. Residents can keep up to date with the changes as well as receive tips on recycling/waste reduction by signing up to our electronic newsletter -[www.malvern hills.gov.uk/emailalerts](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/emailalerts)

**Recent planning appeal:** Prior Approval was granted by Planning Services in September 2015 for works to convert part of a barn at Eastham to a dwelling (15/00982/PDU refers), however in February 2016 there was a devastating fire at the site and the barn was severely damaged, which in the Local Planning Authority's (LPA's) opinion meant that the prior approval application was no longer capable of implementation. Despite our assessment the landowner proceeded to carry out works on the site and effectively erected a partially completed dwelling house. In response to the LPA's assessment of the situation the landowner submitted a certificate of lawfulness application (16/01357/CLE) to seek confirmation that the building was still capable of conversion which was subsequently refused in January 2017. An Enforcement Notice was served following the refusal in June 2017 which required the demolition of the partially constructed dwelling house. An appeal was lodged by the landowner against the LPA demolition of the partially constructed dwelling house. An appeal was lodged by the landowner against the LPA's decision to refuse the certificate of lawfulness application which was subject to a hearing on 20 February 2018. The Planning Inspectorate dismissed the appeal on 28 February 2018 finding that after the fire there was, as a matter of fact and degree, no longer a building on the appeal site which could be converted to a dwelling without both structural and substantial works, none of which were permitted by the terms of the 2015 Prior Approval, and as such LPA's refusal to grant a certificate of lawful use or development was well-founded. The landowner will now be required to comply with the requirements of the Enforcement Notice served in June 2017 as well as a historic Enforcement Notice which was served on April 2013 which relates to the siting of a twin-unit mobile home on the land for residential purposes. Thank you to Sue our Clerk.

**Out of Hours Procedure:** If you need to report something urgently during out of hours, please phone: 01562 733175. This will ensure the issue is dealt with as quickly as possible. The Out of Hours Service is available after 5pm to 8:30am on weekdays, and on Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays. Highways out of hours: 07875 033759 to report faulty traffic lights or urgent Highways issues. Please note these numbers are for emergency or urgent attention only, and not for advice. **Caroline Palethorpe Teme Valley Ward MHDC Tel: 07974 966412 [caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net](mailto:caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net)**

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### COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

**County Council affairs** - March the 1<sup>st</sup> brought the dreadful and totally unexpected news of the death of our interim CEO, Steve Stewart. He was only 64 and had made a huge contribution since starting last May, when our previous CEO, Clare Marchant had left to run UCAS. Steve was just coming to the end of his service with us, before our new permanent CEO, Paul Robinson started work last week, the 19<sup>th</sup> March He has been the CEO of Derby City Council, where he has run a unitary authority with a large budget and staff, comparable to this county. In the last month or so, we have recruited other senior members of the management team. They are the Chief Finance Officer, Michael Hudson from Wiltshire, the Chief Commissioning Officer, Andrew Spice from Sussex, and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care Services, Avril Wilson from West Sussex. While there was never planned to be a handover period with both men in place, Steve's death casts a bit of a shadow over Paul's new job in Worcestershire. We wish the whole team well in getting started in post, and providing the vision and leadership needed for the large County council staff, and all those in the County that rely on the council for services and encouragement. Some people have questioned why so many senior staff have left at this time. In each case they have gone on to bigger and better jobs, indicating we had chosen high flying people originally, and that their careers had been advanced by their service in the County Council.

**SWDP revisions** - Following its publication in 2016, the SWDP has been the basis for deciding the pattern of house building across south Worcestershire. Recently, the three councils involved have been considering revising the plan in the light of the impending publication of the second National Planning Policy Framework.

While this concerns the County Council more from the infrastructure viewpoint, I have been keen to take part in the discussions. My impression is that while organic small scale growth of communities is desirable, it could be that larger new settlements may be necessary. Should one or two "new towns" of around 5,000 dwellings be required, the location of such developments is crucial. Any strong feelings on such plans would be welcome by your local district councillor and the planning departments. Recently Tenbury Town Council considered an application to build 72 houses off Oldwood road opposite the high school. I suggested that it would be advantageous to the school to have more young families in its catchment area. In addition, it is unrealistic to suppose that homes should only be allowed close to where there is an unmet need for employees. Minimising travel distance to work is desirable, but often unrealistic, and could be seen as a reason for allowing rural areas to become depopulated. In general, I suggest we should be prepared for organic growth of our villages and hamlets, as well as a growth in jobs in rural areas. Another aspect is the need for better broadband which is essential. I have to report steady if slow progress at reaching the last 5% or so of premises not yet served by Superfast Broadband.

**Tenbury Public Realm** - The bad weather has delayed the completion of the Public Realm work in Tenbury. The red tarmac should have been laid last night, the 26<sup>th</sup> on all the raised tables, except that outside Tesco's. I hope this single night will have proved sufficient, although further days were booked in case of colder weather. There are still one or two items of street furniture outstanding, as Tesco has not yet fulfilled all its obligations under the S278 agreement it signed. As a result, the County is having to apply for release of some of Tesco's bond, to cover the outstanding work, and it does mean that the raised table outside Tesco's will not have been replaced last night.

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**Eastham Bridge** - I note that a vehicle has collided with Eastham Bridge. This will need repairing but also brings to light the vulnerability of the brick work. I am hoping that the company who designed and built the bridge will realise that coping stones would not only be more resilient in accidents, but will also stop water getting into the brickwork and making it more vulnerable. I have no further news as to when the report on the collapse will be made public.

**Eastham Memorial Hall** - The progress made at the informal meeting between the Memorial Hall trustees and some of your Parish Councillors will be reported elsewhere on the agenda. I am very encouraged by the positive spirit in which the discussions were conducted, and I am confident that the project will proceed more smoothly from here on in. This is a tribute to the dedication of all involved and the single-minded concern to provide the best possible new hall, as a testament to the hard work of those involved in securing the Big Lottery Fund grant.

**Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 2BZ**