

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 24th July 2018

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 5 Members of Public

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Worsley and Cllr Ward.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – Cllrs reminded to keep register updated.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – All Cllrs Items 12 and 21 Eastham Memorial Hall issues. Cllr Matravers item 9d Lindridge Preschool Group grant request.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – As (b) above due to Cllr having children using preschool.
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 regarding 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. **County Cllrs Report**- Apologies received, see notes at end of minutes.
District Cllrs Report – Apologies received, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** – To consider adoption of the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd May 2018 and of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 14th June 2018 (attached).
7. **Progress reports for information** – None.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors** –
GDPR Training 23rd May – Clerk attended, papers have been circulated for Cllrs to read. Policies are being drafted for adoption at next meeting and email consent has been received from many residents.
9. **Finances**
 - a. **Payments made** – Mrs S Burrows (printer ink 2017-18) = £77.86, Mrs S Burrows (McAfee computer security 2018-2020) = £69.99, Mrs S Burrows (Microsoft update 2018-19) = £59.99, WCALC (training 23/05) = £10.00, Mr I Mapp (LM June 2018) = £187.20, Lindridge Preschool (see item 9d) = £50.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM March 2018 = £312.00, MHDC Precept = £3850.00, cheque 000642 returned by bank = £187.20, WCC LM April 2018 = £156.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – April/May/June 2018 balance in cash book agree as £18190.11.
Cllr Matravers left the meeting due to having an interest in this item.
 - d. **Lindridge Preschool Group (circulated)** – To discuss grant request to support the group. After discussion it was agreed by all a grant of £50.00 be given to help the group.
Cllr Matravers returned to the meeting.
10. **Planning** –
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – See item 17 below.
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
 - c. **18/00625/FUL – Land at (OS 6708 6834), Eastham – Timber Lodge for use as a holiday let. Approved by MHDC.** Clerk to query why this did not go to Planning Committee as requested in comments sent in by PC.
 - d. **Plans to comment on at this meeting** – None.
 - e. **Update from MHDC regarding – 14/01640/PDU and 14/01127/FUL – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood.** Mobile unit demolished. MHDC are visiting site and will update regarding barn.
11. **Road Report** –
 - a. **Lengthsman – Work ongoing.**
 - b. **Any problems to report** – Subsidence New Road, Astley Orchard potholes.
 - c. **Outstanding queries** –
Grit bins in Parish – WCC still not confirmed Astley Orchard bin placement.
12. **Eastham Memorial Hall** –

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- a. **Correspondence from Trustees dated 13th July 2018** – Letter states Trustees do not want to run Hall as of 1st October 2018. PC have been advised PC can take responsibility for Hall at this date if the need arises.
 - b. **Trustees on Eastham Memorial Hall CIO** – Cllr to send letter to Trustees if he wishes to be a representative for PC.
 - c. **Urgent matters that may arise relating to the BLF grant** – As Trustees have not responded to correspondence of June 2018 from PC no matters to discuss. PC Solicitor has not looked at Licence as information from Trustees has not been forthcoming. It was hoped PC could meet with architect and then Trustees but this request has not been met. Trustees are awaiting legal advice.
13. **Standing Orders (circulated)** – It was agreed by all to adopt the document as circulated.
 14. **Financial Regulations (circulated)** – It was agreed by all to add paragraph regarding direct debit payments.
 15. **Freedom of Information request dated 27th May 2018 and 24th June 2018** – Resident not satisfied with previous reply. Clerk advised information is exempt, PC Solicitor did not wish to release the information without seeking further advise from a legal expert. The costs of taking this matter further will be in excess of £500.00 and is therefore not affordable and the information is not in the public interest. Resident to be sent letter.
 16. **Correspondence for Information** –
A list of items will be available at the meeting.
 17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting – Plans circulated to all Cllrs my email on 4th July 2018 – 18/00521/HP – Khandala, Highwood, Eastham, Tenbury Wells WR15 8PB – Proposed replacement of detached garage/storage building with detached garage with machinery-garden storage, office and WC.**
 18. **Councillors reports and items for the next agenda. Data Protection, Eastham Memorial Hall.**
 19. **Date of next planned meeting: Tuesday 25th SEPTEMBER 2018 at 7.30pm**
 20. **Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
 21. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – The residents offer to underwrite any shortfall in funding was discussed. Clerk to seek advice.
 22. **Meeting Closed – 9.14pm**

Signed----- Date 25th September 2018
Chairman

Planning query – Item 10c refers to the query from resident.

Residents asked many questions regarding Eastham Memorial Hall

Q - What is happening about the BLF grant? Had Hall Trustees been invited to this meeting?

A - PC could not give any update on progress but the Lease has been signed by PC. Anyone can attend PC meetings, Trustees have attended in the past without being invited.

Q - What legal requirements has the PC Solicitor requested from Trustees so PC can sign Licence for Alterations.

A – All requirements were in letter of 12th June 2018 sent to Trustees, Clerk read out the details from the letter.

Q - The legal advice given to PC was disputed by a resident.

A - Clerk explained the PC Solicitor and PC advisors all agreed on the legal requirements needed before Licence for Alterations can be signed by PC. Clerk has been diligent in ensuring PC are taking the correct action and is confident that the PC Solicitor is more than capable of fulfilling the job. Clerk cannot allow any papers to be signed until firm costings for the project have been obtained, an estimate is not sufficient.

Q - Again this was disputed by a resident.

A – Clerk stated Cllrs do not have to follow legal advice but it would be irresponsible not to.

Q - Do we need a new hall? Can we refurbish old one or is this not feasible?

A – These questions may need to be answered at a future date.

Q - Contractors can be approached after BLF have agreed the grant. Can PC not get own specification now from three contractors?

A - PC did get a builder to give costings in the initial stages and had thought about obtaining their own specification now as a way forward, the PC would then have most of the information needed to enable the signing of the Licence for Alterations. PC Solicitor is awaiting a reply to letter of 6th July sent to Trustees Solicitor.

Q - Was the PC concerned about the costs of running a new hall? PC had not given Trustees any help in costs for

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running the present hall.

A – PC had no issues with the running costs of a new hall. PC had given grants to present hall for kitchen items, asbestos survey, grants for improvements to building, Clerk can look back through records for exact amount. If Trustees wanted help with running costs they should ask PC for a grant.

Some discussion took place regarding contractors that Cllrs had visited and what the feedback was on those visits. Some discussion took place regarding the design of the building, choice of final contractor, materials to be used.

The Chairman closed Public Question Time so matters on the agenda could be dealt with.

At the end of item 19 a resident asked if he could speak. The Chairman granted that request.

Q – Resident offered to underwrite the financial risk the PC feel they may need for the new build. Resident asked what figure PC wanted and how they had come to this amount. Resident quoted £50k as a figure. What amount did the PC want, how was it to be assessed? Resident has asked for the following to be entered into this part of the notes as it relates to his offer. ***“The Perceived Risk’ should be properly and professionally assessed and quantified without delay (by the PC) and the figure given to me (the resident). I (the resident) would then consider underwriting ‘The perceived Risk’, thereby giving the EPC all the protection they needed thus removing their need for ‘The More Complex Licence’.*”**

A – Clerk felt risk could not be assessed until a specification had been obtained. Clerk to seek further legal advice from Solicitor and PC advisors. Matter would need to be agreed at a PC meeting if it was viable. Resident was advised to inform Trustees of his offer.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

Healthy workplace award: Malvern Hills District Council was revealed as the winner of the Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace category at the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Chamber Business Awards 2018 during a ceremony on 7 June. Below are the judges’ comments for our winning entry: “Malvern Hills District Council scored high in the area related to their future business objectives, plans and what effect (linking back to Health and Wellbeing) these plans and objectives would have on the company, its employees and the wider community. The judges in particular liked the MHDC ambitious five-year plan, the array of activities that would engage and build healthy and stronger communities, the clear messages in place and the leading by example approach.” High praise indeed and congratulations once more to everyone involved.

The Tenbury Music Festival: MHDC provided a development grant to the Tenbury Music Festival, which took place on Saturday 30 June on the Burgage in Tenbury. The festival was headlined by the Lightning Seeds and also featured a number of local bands and poets. The festival also showcased the Grapevine young people’s music project, which has been aimed at supporting performers from rural communities.

The next Meet Your Councillor day is scheduled for Thursday 13 September in Teme Valley. Please let me know where you would like me to meet you!

**Councillor Caroline Palethorpe Teme Valley Ward Malvern Hills District Council Tel: 07974 966412
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COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Road Developments - Two weeks ago, at a Midlands Connect meeting in Birmingham, I heard of various plans for coordinated improvements to the transport infrastructure for the Midlands Region.

Highways England should be removing the throttle at Junction 4A in the autumn, which should relieve the congestion at that point and the dispersal of through traffic to local roads in the vicinity. They are also planning on improving the A46 trunk road, which will relieve some of the pressure on the Birmingham motorway box.

During the smart motorway road works, Bromsgrove has suffered from displaced traffic on to the A38.

At the July Cabinet, I presented an interim report on the planned developments along that section of the A38 through Bromsgrove. This is partially funded from various nationally determined sources and is intended to relieve the long term congestion through the town. We have rejected the idea, popular with some local District Councillors, to plan for a western distributor route, running through the housing developments between the town and the M5, partly on cost grounds and also as it might be used as an alternative to the M5 at busy times. Some of you will have noticed that the works to raise New Road passed the cricket ground in Worcester are now complete. We all appreciate that funds are tight and there may need to be reduction in services like school crossing patrols. I would like to make clear that these two projects have different sources of funding, the New Road work being paid for by central government through the Environment Agency. As such it is not using money that could be used for school crossing patrols and other services that we may need to review.

Rail Developments - One of the important matters we have taken to Midlands Connect is the Worcestershire Rail Investment Strategy, which seeks to improve rail services in the county. The priorities are the dualling of the Cotswold Line to London, so that we can carry two trains per hour on that line. One of those should take no more than two hours, bringing London a lot closer for business people. A second important development is the Worcestershire Parkway station now under construction at Norton. We recently held a press conference there, to highlight the rapid progress the station is making. Trains should be stopping there within 12 months.

The station will not only allow passengers wanting to go to London to bypass the city and park next to the station, but also there will be trains stopping on the cross country line between Birmingham and Bristol. This will mean that people wishing to travel by train to the north east and the south west will not have to leave the county to catch the right train. On a more

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parochial level, work on a new station at Kidderminster will start later this year. This station is already the second busiest in the county, and the new buildings will reflect its importance for travel to Birmingham and London.

The Financial Position – WCC finances are very tight and we will be under pressure to make savings for some years. This is never a popular matter with residents but I hope we all appreciate that we need to balance the books. Our finances are not helped by the increasing demands for Children’s Services and Adult Social Care. These are areas where we have statutory obligations and the demand for our services is increasing. At the July Cabinet, we brought forward plans for a wholly owned company to run our children’s services, which are improving swiftly, but still under an Ofsted judgement of being inadequate. Given that some 70% of our income is devoted to meeting these two needs affecting only 12,000 people, you can appreciate why we may be short of money for crossing patrols, repairing potholes etc. We certainly do not want to be cutting road side verges unnecessarily – and cutting down valuable wild flowers before they have had a chance to seed.

Economic developments - Meanwhile, we are keen to support local industry and get more new companies started or relocated to this county. Worcester 6, the business park next to Junction 6 of the M5, has seen new tenants being established, with Kimal, the medical supplies company building their large depot there just now. Kohler Mira, the shower company, have also committed to a major installation in the last week.

We need to produce as much sand, gravel and crushed rock locally as possible. At the July Cabinet, I presented the results of work to improve the number of appropriate sites for aggregate extraction in the county. In addition we will be bringing forward the latest waste strategy to ensure maximum recycling of waste where possible and incineration of other materials at the plant at Hartlebury. There is scope for increasing the throughput at that plant, which should bring in extra income for the county. You will know of the developments in 5G in Worcestershire. While we are acutely aware that not all residents get a good service at present, there was a celebration last Friday week at Upton Warren of the superfast broadband that has been installed in an area that has been unable to get good speeds for some time. Our new Home Secretary, the MP for Bromsgrove, Sajid Javid, has been active in this, but was not able to be present. Meanwhile, we are all concerned about the future security of energy supplies, and I have been to a couple of local conferences recently examining the alternatives available, several of which are local developments of new ideas in this area. Western Power Developments held a workshop last Friday, and the Worcestershire Energy Strategy held another meeting today on how we can improve our situation locally.

Local issues - While this report has concentrated on county wide issues, I am aware of the local problems and needs in Eastham. I am very disappointed that a further collision has resulted in more damage to Eastham Bridge. Any information about who was responsible would be welcome and I hope the contractors will be able to repair the bridge in the near future. I will not comment on the problems with the rebuilding of Eastham Memorial Hall. It may be that there could be a role for your District and County Councillors, but I await to be approached if there is a feeling that a further mediation meeting would be helpful. 10 days ago, at the invitation of your District Councillor, I was able to spend some time at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy discussing the importance of local politics with some of the pupils. I hope I was able to convince them of the importance of the sort of dedication shown by people like yourselves at local level, as well as those who serve at District and County level, not to mention our Members of Parliament. There is a tendency to believe that anyone who gets involved in this sort of activity is only interested in furthering their own careers and status. I am sure you will agree with me that this is far from the truth in most, if not all, cases.

CLLr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire