

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 9 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 Item 11 Memorial Hall issues.
  - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – See 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 item 11 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. Five residents left at end of this session.
5. **County Cllrs Report**- Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.  
**District Cllrs Report** – Apologies received, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes** – Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information** –
  - a. **Parish Path Warden** – Three more volunteers are to be trained by WCC to help with clearing/marketing paths.
  - b. **SWDP Consultation** – Letter drafted and agreed by all sent in by Clerk 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors** – None.
9. **Finances**
  - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM December 2018) = £187.20, WCC (two bags salt for highways) = £280.00.
  - b. **Payments received** – Nil.
  - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – 5<sup>th</sup> November to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 balance in cash book agree as £15272.45.
  - d. **Internal Audit Review** (circulated) – No issues were raised, it was agreed all matters are being actioned.
  - e. **Budget Review/Precept 2019-2020** (circulated) – Budget was discussed in detail. It was agreed to increase the precept by £400.00 to £8100.00. Cllrs wished the following to be put in minutes.  
'The Clerk stated extra travelling expenses for meetings held regarding Eastham Memorial Hall had amounted to £126.00 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and had been repaid . Clerk had worked 66 extra hours for Hall meetings, these hours do not take account of the time taken to deal with Hall emails received and sent in between meetings. The Clerk at present will not be presenting a bill to the PC for the extra salary owed totalling £619.87 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The money is held in the budget if required in the future.'
  - f. **Internal Auditor (circulated)** – Letter of agreement from Auditor had been signed and returned by Clerk.
10. **Planning** –
  - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting** – None.
  - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** – None.
  - c. **Plans to comment on at this meeting** – None.
  - d. **Update from MHDC regarding – 14/01640/PDU and 14/01127/FUL** – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood. MHDC legal team are now taking further action, details are confidential to MHDC at this moment in time.
11. **Eastham Memorial Hall Subcommittee** – Cllrs who attended reported the meeting was very positive. Notes to be circulated to Cllrs when they have been agreed by Committee.
12. **Complaints Procedure** (circulated) – It was agreed to adopt the policy as circulated.
13. **Communications Policy** – Clerk working on draft and will circulated when finalised.

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

14. **Grievance and Disciplinary Procedure** – Clerk working on draft and will circulate when finalised.
15. **Road Report** –
  - a. **Lengthsman** – Drains, grips to be cleared, grit bins to be filled.
  - b. **Any problems to report** – None
  - c. **Outstanding queries** –
    - **Eastham Bridge** – dead trees – Clerk waiting for Spring to take photo so WCC can identify trees.
    - **New Road subsidence** – No update.
    - **Grit bins and rock salt** (circulated) – Salt had been delivered to Bine Farm and Court Farm. Clerk asked for bin for Highwood but no response from WCC to date.
16. **Correspondence for Information** –
  - WCC Budget Consultation Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> January – 6pm
  - WCC Minerals Local Plan 4th Stage Consultation – comments by 8<sup>th</sup> February
  - MHDC Planning Enforcement Summit at Pershore – 31<sup>st</sup> January – 6.15pm
  - MHDC Great British Spring Clean – 22<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> April
17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting – Payment made 18<sup>th</sup> December 2018** –
  - Thorntons Solicitors (payment for legal matters regarding Memorial Hall) = £2136.00.
18. **Councillors reports and items for the next agenda.**
  - Eastham Memorial Hall Subcommittee, Clerks Salary increase, Eastham Memorial Hall insurance.
19. **Date of next planned meeting: Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019 at 7.30pm**
20. **Cllrs agreed to close meeting to the Public due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.**
21. **Lengthsman Contract 2019-2020** – It was agreed to increase hourly rate to £15.00 as requested by LM. Clerk to meet LM to discuss work pattern for next year and review hours in contract. WCC to agree funding before LM contract is agreed. Cllrs wished Clerk to thank LM for work undertaken over the last year on the parish roads.
22. **Mowing Contract** – It was agreed to renew the contract with MTM at the price quoted (£1096.00pa). Cllrs wished Clerk to pass on thanks to the contractor, the Green has looked very neat and tidy over the last year.
23. **Meeting Closed – 8.35pm**

Signed----- Date 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019  
Chairman

---

## Residents queries raised -

**Eastham Memorial Hall** - Chairman of Trustees stated the Trustees could not obtain insurance for Hall so it closed at midnight on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019. Trustees have now been given a quote and asked PC if PC could pay the premium. A figure of £1200.00 was quoted.

**PC Legal advice** - Clerk read out a letter received late today from PC Solicitor stating as the Lease was now signed the PC are responsible for insuring for the building, Trustees need to obtain insurance for hiring out.

PC and Trustees both thought the Lease would not come into operation until the new hall was built but this is incorrect. Trustees to seek their own legal advice.

PC cannot discuss insurance as Clerk will need to speak to PC insurers about obtaining cover and obtain quotes.

A list of assets will be needed to ensure each party know what they are responsible for.

Trustees stated following electrical fault a local contractor has been to check the electrics and will give a quote for repairs.

Chair of PC agreed to go and drain water system.

**BLF update** - Trustees advised the searches are being undertaken by their Solicitor, all papers can then be sent to BLF for consideration.

**Eastham Bridge collapse** – See County Cllrs report below.

**Grit bin Astley Orchard** – A resident stated she had moved the bin onto verge by BT Box, Clerk explained permission is needed from WCC to place bins on verges. Clerk will move bin back to PC land. Following one concern raised at the November meeting the Clerk had spoken to the resident who was happy to leave the bin on PC land for one winter to see what impact it had on the grass.

**Defibrillator** – Resident stated she was happy for the defib to be put on the outside of her house. Clerk to contact Housing Association who own the house to see if it is possible.

# EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT

**The Bigger Picture:** We held a workshop with a group of young people on Thursday 17 January to discuss the results of our Bigger Picture survey. The survey was completed by over 1,200 young people from across the district and the results of the survey can be viewed in the attached document. Service managers will be taking away all of this feedback and coming up with some ideas for their service plans over the next couple of months, with a report expected to go to Executive Board in April. We will also be producing individual reports for the schools that took part – Chase, Chantry, Tenbury and Hanley – to see if there are any areas we can offer support on. To find out more about the Bigger Picture survey, please speak to **Claire Vaughan** by calling **01684 862449** or email [claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk)

**Rural funding:** The Princes Countryside Funds has opened up its grant funding, and rural communities have the opportunity to apply for up to £50,000 of funding towards projects affecting areas of greatest need in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Applications for funding must show how they clearly contribute towards one or more of The Prince's Countryside Fund's objectives:

- To sustain rural communities and drive economic vibrancy.
- To improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses.
- To support aid delivery in emergency and building resilience.

The funding should have a long-term positive impact on rural communities, helping those that live and work there to sustain the countryside, by tackling key rural issues.

**Details can be found <http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grant-giving-programme/grant-programme>** please share this information and the link to residents.

**Time to Change Champions:** Would you like to become a Time to Change Champion, campaigning to end mental health discrimination in your community? We are hosting an information session for people who have experience of living with mental health problems, who can use their own experience to become a champion by raising awareness and providing support to others. There is also an opportunity for champions to apply for up to £500 to run anti-stigma activity within their community. The information session is open to the public and will take place on Thursday 7 February, 5:30-6:30pm, in the Council Chamber. If you would like more information beforehand, please contact Melanie Whistance, our Health Improvement Practitioner, on 01684 862283 or email [melanie.whistance@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.whistance@malvern hills.gov.uk) Alternatively speak to Rachel Vann, Physical Activity and Wellbeing Officer, on 01684 862475 or email [rachell.vann@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:rachell.vann@malvern hills.gov.uk). More information about becoming a champion can be found at [http://www.comfirst.org.uk/worcestershire\\_time\\_to\\_change1](http://www.comfirst.org.uk/worcestershire_time_to_change1). Please share with any local organisations.

**Keep Britain tidy!** We will be supporting the Great British Spring Clean once again this year, with a day of picks planned on 15 March to launch the month-long programme aimed at encouraging communities to clean-up their areas. We will be making kits available for parish and town councils to borrow and community groups are also welcome to borrow equipment, but we do ask that organisations have public liability cover. We still have a couple of spaces available on our day of picks on the 15 March. If you have a litter hotspot in your area then please speak to **Claire Vaughan** by calling **01684 862449** or email [claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk](mailto:claire.vaughan@malvern hills.gov.uk)

**Councillor Caroline Palethorpe. Teme Valley Ward, Malvern Hills District Council, Tel: 07974 966412**  
[caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net](mailto:caroline.palethorpe@malvern hillsdc.net)

## COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

**Happy New Year** – If it is not too late, may I wish all parish councillors and the residents that you represent a very Happy New Year, and I trust it will be prosperous and enjoyable as well? We face some turbulent times in the next few months and it would be a fool who professed to know how it would all turn out. What I would assert, however, is that this country is highly capable, and well able to succeed in a huge variety of circumstances. In all the discussion of the various forms of Brexit that may be before us, what I find most disturbing is the feeling expressed by some politicians, business people and journalists that we are in danger of economic collapse or of some moral decline, because we may not have the protection and guidance of the EU. Leaving may be the worst move we make as a nation, but it would be foolish to believe that our prosperity is indissolubly tied to membership of the EU. I worry when I read that our environmental standards might be lowered or our workers' rights might be damaged by leaving. It would be a huge mistake to believe that we are dependent on Brussels for guidance in these matters. More often than not, we have shown the way, not least with the sort of environmental research that I undertook, on a Government grant in the early 70s, before we joined the EEC as it was then. So whatever lies ahead, I am sure we can succeed, especially if we respect others' viewpoints and seek to understand their basis. I am disturbed by the rhetoric and rudeness I have encountered on social media, where the remoteness of the writers seems to give them freedom to be rude, supercilious and scornful in a way that would not be acceptable face to face.

**Economic development** - You will recognise that I am responsible within the Cabinet, for the economy and infrastructure in the County. 2019 promises great things, whatever the political climate and we must seek to encourage the good developments, no matter what. W6, the business park just by J6 of the M5 is filling up with companies keen to take advantage of its excellent position. Kimal, Kohler Mira, Siemens (in the form of Material Solutions), Spire Healthcare and others are all expanding or transferring their operations to the park. The Redditch Eastern Gateway also has serious interest from big companies wanting to take advantage of its location next to the A435 and the M42. The fifth phase of the Malvern Hills Science Park is ready to let and there is more land acquired from QinetiQ for further hi-tech operations. We must not also forget the importance of Worcestershire Parkway which will open this year, probably in the autumn. The May timetable will include provision for trains on both lines to stop at Parkway, giving passengers a new destination or

## EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

embarkation point as an alternative to our road network. All of these developments promise more jobs and economic prosperity, the sort of activity we need to encourage, in order to fund those in our society that need help from local government. You will recall that 70% of our income at County is spent on vulnerable children and adults, but their numbers amount to only 12,000 of the 580,000 residents in Worcestershire.

**Eastham Memorial Hall** - I cannot ignore the issue of the rebuilding of the Memorial Hall. As I write, it seems that we may be meeting in the Church, to avoid the problem of insurance in the existing hall. It seems that progress is being made towards the rebuilding with the help of the Big Lottery Fund allocation. I am willing to offer any help I might to assist, but wish to thank all those who have been working so hard to bring you all a new Memorial Hall.

**Eastham Bridge** - There have been repeated calls for the publication of the report on the reasons for the collapse of the bridge in 2017. I am very happy to get into a discussion on the reasons for the collapse, but would just like to make a few points here. The bridge was regularly inspected by our civil engineering contractors, now known as Jacobs. They inspect the bridge once a year and employ divers to inspect the foundations. Government regulations say that under water inspection should happen once every 6 years. We do it every year. In the summer of 2016, divers inspected the foundations and found nothing amiss. Jacob completed their inspection in December 2016 and found nothing amiss. Clearly there was some undermining of the foundations for the southerly free standing pillar between the inspection and the collapse, but there was no evidence of this the previous summer. If another inspection had taken place before the collapse, it may have revealed the problem, but that may not have prevented the collapse. It might have been possible to stop all traffic using the bridge, and it still could have failed, as indeed it did without any vehicle on it. Regulation covering the SSSI designation would have made it difficult to reinforce the foundations below the surface, if that had been seen as necessary. As a result of this problem, all crossings in the county have been re-inspected and some remedial work done, for instance for the Teme bridge leading to Shelsley Beauchamp, just above Ham Bridge. It is worth noting that Jacobs are not employed in bridge repair and maintenance, and in consequence there is no reason for them to exaggerate the need for work on the bridges.

**Other Local issues** - At a time of financial difficulty, it is not possible to promise work will be done to correct all outstanding difficulties and priorities need to be observed. As we are now in the winter, it is good to know that there are extra funds for correcting potholes and handling seasonal pressures. I hope that you will all be keen to pass on any observations where highway matters are deficient, preferably in the first instance to your clerk, and thence to Hannah Davies, before coming to me for assistance. Likewise any other issues that require attention can be brought to me at any time and I will do my best to pass them on to the correct officer, to see that they are dealt with. Bearing in mind our general shortage of cash, this may not always be swiftly handled or done to the highest standards.

**Cllr Ken Pollock, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire**