

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 8.00pm on Tuesday 23rd March 2010

Present: Cllr Inge (Chairman), Cllr Brookes (Vice Chairman), Cllr Horsfall, Cllr Adams, Cllr Dowling, Cllr Norman, Cllr Moseley

In Attendance: Clerk, John Wallace - Worcestershire County Council Highways, Kevin Powell - Halcrow and 26 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Received from several Members of the Public.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. Register of Interests - No changes reported.
 - b. To declare any Personal interests – Chairman, Cllr Dowling and Cllr Horsfall item 11 Memorial Hall funding due to being on Hall Committee.
Cllr Moseley item 6(a) due to having interest in BT box.
 - c. To declare any Prejudicial Interests – Cllr Moseley as above.
3. **Public Question Time –** See notes at end of minutes.
4. **Minutes of last Meeting –** Minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 09 were agreed and signed by Chairman.
5. **District Cllrs report –** Apologies received.
County Cllrs report – Apologies received.
6. **Progress Reports for information:**

Cllr Moseley left the meeting

 - a. **BT Telephone Box –** (information circulated). A request from one Member of the Public had been received asking if Box could be used as an information point for the Parish. After discussion it was agreed that this could be done for a 12 month trial period. PC agreed they do not wish to fund any future maintenance of the Box. Clerk to check insurance if PC is not involved in maintenance etc.
Cllr Moseley returned to meeting.
 - b. **Memorial Hall/Painting of Railings –** Following further meetings Memorial Hall Committee to decide on work needed. PC will support where possible.
7. **Reports on Meeting attended by Clerk or Councillors: None.**
8. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made –** Printer Ink = £12.34. See also items e and f below.
 - b. **Payments received –** A&L – Nov, Dec 09, Jan, Feb 10 interest 67p. WCC LM Sept, Oct, Nov 09 = £345.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation –** Nov, Dec 09, Jan, Feb 10 signed. (Investment and Current Account).
Balance in Lloyds Acc = £3105.63, A&L = £2006.03.
 - d. **Internal Auditor –** to appoint for 2009-10 Accounts – it was agreed to appoint Auditor used last year.
 - e. **Clerks Salary –** increase April 09 to April 10 – Final salary increase of £8,344 per hr from 01/04/09 had not been paid. Details of back pay presented to meeting totalling £15.90. All agreed with arrears. Standing Order letter signed to increase payments to £100.13 per month from 21/03/10. Increase from April 08 omitted from minutes of 19th May 09 item 17 (d). This matter had been agreed at the meeting and arrears of £36.23 agreed, hourly rate £8.238. All details on file.
 - f. **Clerks Expenses –** 1st April 09 to 31st March 10 – It was agreed to pay expenses of £255.72 as per information presented to meeting. Details on file.

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9. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **see item 12.**
- b. Decisions received since last meeting – **None.**
- c. Plans for consideration tonight – **None.**

10. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – LM has resigned due to illness. See items 12 and 15.
- b. **Any problems to report** – See notes at end of minutes.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
 - **Missing rail at Highwood** – Marked to do by WCC.
 - **Resurfacing** – Highwood, some potholes have been filled.
 - **New Road** – erosion of sides, still not done.
 - **Eastham Bridge closure** – see notes at end of minutes.

11. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, see list attached.

12. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

- **10/00065/LBC** - Eastham Court, Eastham – rebuild section of collapsed brick wall, take off existing roof coverings and relay new handmade tiles, new oak boarded door and oak window, replacement rainwater good.
- **10/00064/LBC** - Eastham Court, Eastham – take off existing coverings and relay new handmade tiles, new oak boarded doors, new oak boarding, reinstatement of wattle panels. The planning applications were passed to Vice Chairman and 2 Cllrs who supported the applications, comments are on files.
- Lengthsman - Advertising/Interviews done with Knighton-on-Teme PC. Clerk Chairman and Cllr Norman attended interviews. See item 15 below.
- Payment made to retiring Lengthsman for final Invoice Dec 09 = £95.00

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

14. Date of next meeting: 25th May 2010 – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Members of the Public were asked to withdraw from meeting for the following items.

15. Lengthsman Contract – After discussion it was agreed to appoint Ian Mapp as recommended by Working Party who interviewed 3 applicants. Hourly rate agreed as £12.00. WCC have modified budget, hours be set when details known.

16. Internal Auditors fee – It was agreed to increase fee to £50.00 per annum.

17. Mowing Contract for 1st April 10 to 31st March 11 – Clerk had obtained 3 quotes. It was agreed to offer Contract to present contractor as he is the most competitive.

15. Meeting closed 9.40pm.

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 23rd May 2010

John Wallace WCC Highways –

Gritting - Apologies were given by Mr Wallace for the fact that the Highwood Bank should have been gritted prior to 9th January 2010 but was not. It had missed 8 grit runs prior to this date. Mr Wallace was not aware of this until January and then took action to get road gritted. It is a secondary route for

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the gritters due to being used by a school bus. Members of the Public questioned whether it had been gritted at all even after January 9th. Mr Wallace stated 40% of roads in County need to be treated, this was the worst weather for 40 years. It was not possible to grit every road. Gritters do main routes within 3 hours and then move to secondary routes.

Gritting routes are being reviewed for the winter of 2010/11.

Grit bins – The County has 600 bins out and requests for 500 more have been received. Mr Wallace had received one request for the Highwood area. Resident of Eastham had seen grit bin being emptied as soon as it was filled and nothing was left for the road. Mr Wallace acknowledged this as a big problem. Bins on A & B roads are filled but WCC lorries have a problem getting to minor roads in rural areas.

Potholes – Fast repairs were done to potholes until time allowed for a proper fix to be done. Mr Wallace stated it is preferred to repair properly first time but not possible with so many potholes to do. 60 gangs trying to do 900 potholes working 6 days per week.

Soil used to fill dip by Memorial Hall now spread all over road. Orleton Lane had been resurfaced and drains had become blocked by The Cassocks (Stanford Parish), also potholes on Eastham end of this road. Mr Wallace agreed to meet with some residents to tour the area and highlight problem areas which he would follow up. Meeting arranged for Tuesday March 30th.

Ditches - These are the responsibility of the adjoining landowner. Lengthsman should contact Clerk or Landowner regarding problem areas.

It was agreed the Clerk write to Mr Wallace with the issues raised so a formal reply could be obtained.

Kevin Powell - Halcrow

Eastham Bridge – Mr Powell stated all bridge work now done by Halcrow for WCC. Bridge is a listed building and area is SSSI. Consents to do the work will be needed from Malvern Hills District Council Conservation Officer but the bridge is in danger if left so it is hoped consents will be approved soon.

Mr Powell circulated large photographs of the damage to the bridge. He stated the bridge was inspected in June 09 and reported to be in reasonable condition. Another inspection in February 10 showed pillar had collapsed and there was slippage due to leaking water main. Severne Trent Water was asked to do an immediate visit but that took 2 days. The bridge was closed on Friday March 12th. STWA tested the water and, after another delay, agreed it was from their pipe work. Leak has now been fixed by them.

The ground is sodden and the wall is hanging in the air. Area needs to be cleared and concrete section put in to stabilize bridge and prevent further damage. When this has been done area under road can be assessed for any further damage. It is expected that the closure will be for at least 3 months but could be longer. There is no question of the repairs not being done as Severne Trent will be footing the bill. WCC will do the work as soon as they possibly can. Concern was raised regarding lack of diversion signs in Tenbury and other areas further out. This was acknowledged and is being looked into.

Clerk to contact Malvern Hills District Council Conservation Officer regarding their delay in contacting Mr Powell. It is felt the disruption caused by this closure could affect local businesses badly if the matter is not dealt with urgently.

Mr Powell stated he thought water repairs were being done on Thursday 25th March but residents had received no correspondence from STWA regarding disruption to supply. Clerk was asked to make enquiries for residents.