

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th November 2013

Present: Cllr Inge (Chairman), Cllr Adams, Cllr Horsfall,
Cllrs Arnold, Cllr Worsley, Cllr Moseley

In Attendance: Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Cllr Moseley Planning item 10(b) related to property owner.
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests – See item (b) above.
3. **Dispensations –**
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
 - b. **Dispensations requested** - None.
4. **Public Question Time** – No Members of the Public attended the meeting.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting** – Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27th August 2013 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – None given.
County Cllrs report – Written report at end of minutes and circulated by email.
7. **Progress Reports for information:**
Broadband – Some areas have problems with reception, these queries have been passed to supplier. Further meetings with WCC are being held.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
Clerks/Cllrs Networking Meeting – 24th September, CALC AGM 10th October, MHDC 2nd Conference 17th October, CALC Area Meeting 22nd October, Clerks/Cllrs Insurance/Finances 21st Nov. Clerk attended all meetings and reports were circulated by email. Insurers have highlighted need to have trees looked at by qualified person every three years. Clerk to look into prices.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – LM Aug/Sept = £374.40, WCALC (Clerks Gathering 21st Nov) = £10.00, MTM Contracting Ltd (mowing millennium green) = £1152.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – Current Account – WCC LM June/July 2013 = £312.00, Precept MHDC £2950.00. Investment Account interest August/Sept/Oct/Nov 2013 = 68p total.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – August/Sept/Oct/Nov 2013 signed for Investment Account Balance £2013.54. August/Sept/Oct signed for Current Lloyds Acc = £10006.91.
 - d. To discuss precept for 2014-15 – it was agreed to have a meeting in January. Budget details and a forecast were circulated.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 15.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
13//00499/HOU – 13/00500/LBC - Bine Farm, Highwood – Major repairs to property.
13/00452/HOU – 13/00453/LBC – Bine Farm, Highwood – Extension to property.
These plans were approved by MHDC.
 - c. Plans to comment on at this meeting – **None.**
 - d. **Update on Enforcement Action - 12/01721/FUL – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood** – Retention and resiting of mobile home (Retrospective). MHDC have advised this matter is in hand and letters have been sent to the landowner. They were unable to give full details for legal reasons.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

11. Road report:

- a. Lengthsman – Leaves on drains main issue all areas.
- b. Any problems to report – Severn Trent water leak below turning to Church, broken drain cover back of Old Farm, Highwood, Bine Farm curbs still to be done.
- c. Update on outstanding queries –
 - Water on road at Robins End (Rhyse Lane) – Clerk wrote to residents and they agreed to take action but the sewerage is still leaking. Environment Agency is now looking into matter.
 - Astley Orchard – repairs to road and pavement – Housing Association still to do some repairs.

12. **Defibrillator Machine for Parish** – Details of meeting held at Bayton had been circulated. It was agreed to look for funding for a machine for Eastham. Siting of machine to be agreed at later date.

13. **Resignation of Cllr Norman** – The Returning Officer has advised the post can be filled by Co-option. Notices have been displayed. Vacancy can be filled at January meeting. Chairman agreed to write a letter of thanks to Mr Norman for over 50 years' service to this community.

12. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.

13. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payments made – 30th September - Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection) = £35.00.
13/01276/HOU Robins End Cottage, Eastham Construction of a raised timber children's playhouse in the garden (Part retrospective). Plans were circulated by email.

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

Clerks Review, Memorial Hall, Precept 2014-15, Co-option of new Cllr.

15. Date of next meeting: 28th JANUARY 2014

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

17. **Clerks Review** – Chairman and Cllr Horsfall held review before this meeting. No matters of concern raised. Clerk requested national increase in salary from 1st April 2013 to (£8.83ph) and incremental increase from 14th November 2013 to SCP18 (£9.009ph). All agreed to the increases.

18. Meeting closed 8.40pm.

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 28th January 2014

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT 26th NOVEMBER 2013

1. FINANCE

The County is developing plans to save £30 next financial year and £25 million for the three years after that. Prominent savings will need to be made in bus subsidies – the nearest one affecting Eastham is the 291 R&B service from Tenbury to Kidderminster. At present that is subsidised to the tune of £3.11 per passenger, even though there are 21,878 passengers per year. It is most likely that the frequency of the service would be affected, although we are just entering a consultation phase.

We are just starting a consultation on this plan to save £3million by eliminating these subsidies. The result of this consultation is unlikely to be the stopping of all these services, but rather some trimming of frequency and the like to make them commercial. It seems likely that the response will be similar to the 758 Tenbury to Worcester two years ago, where the loss of the Whitehall subsidy resulted in a decrease in services from 6 to 4 by Yarrantons. It should be remembered that 80% of all the County's bus services are profitable and receive no subsidy.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Please let me know of your response to this possible change and do urge as many people as possible to take part in the consultation, so that any changes can reflect the needs of the residents.

In adult social care, the intention is to try and build on the personalisation agenda where people choose to spend their money as they wish and encourage more people to take control of their care. This will probably mean more people being cared for in their own homes, which is preferable all round, if feasible.

At the most recent Cabinet meeting there were 10 contributions from the public about the changes planned under the Future Lives initiative. Many people made strong cases for maintaining their services and these will be taken into account in the consultation. It should be emphasised that all of these services for the disabled people subject to possible cuts are discretionary and not statutory and some other counties spend nothing at all on some of them.

Children's services are absorbing a lot of money, with an increase in the numbers of looked after children, which means an extra £2.5 million on their budget next year.

Services under increasing pressure will be positive activities for youth, arts and the countryside, while road maintenance is seen by the public as very important. A new contract is being signed soon and that is likely to result in the same standard of care for less money.

2. MINERALS

The County has developed, as is required, a minerals policy, whereby all potential mineral deposits are mapped and assessed. It can be viewed on the website, from which you can see that there are no mineral deposits in the village area and in consequence there should be no cause for anxiety that mineral workings will take place in the village.

3. USE OF THE WCC WEBSITE

I note that you put details of your meetings on the County website. Various parishes find this a worthwhile method and I would be interested to hear of your experience of using it. Some parishes use their own website, rather than the County website itself, and have a link from the latter to their own.

4. ACT LOCAL

The County council is anxious to promote the idea of localism and has prepared a website under the Act Local banner, to seek to encourage all sorts of alternative ways of delivering services. Some may be by private operators or social enterprises and some by volunteers. I would be very interested to hear of any feedback from those who have tried to use the site or who have looked at it as a result of this note.

5. CHANGING FUTURES FUND

As part of the Act Local initiative, the County has set up the Changing Futures Fund to help voluntary organisations to expand their services. £750,000 was allocated for three years and about half of this is still available. I would be grateful if the fund could be promoted through Parish Councils, although they cannot apply in their own names. Details are on the WCC website.

6. DIVISIONAL FUND

There is money left in the divisional fund, should any good cause spring to mind in your parish. In the financial stringency of the moment, there are plans to remove the councillors' discretionary highways money, worth about £5,000 per year. In fact, this year we have extra funds available, and I would be keen to know of any small highway maintenance problems that could be eligible for this support.

7. TENBURY PUBLIC REALM

A report on the plans for developing the town's public realm will be given to the Tenbury Town Council on Monday, 2nd December, after which there will be an opportunity to view the plans and discuss them with Council officers on the 9th and 11th December, between 12 noon and 4pm. These plans take into account the results of the consultation at this time last year.

It is expected that they will be brought about during 2014, when Tesco's are also expected to build their supermarket. Any views on the plans can be passed to the County via the website and to me personally on kpollcock2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Cllr Ken Pollock,
26th November 2013