

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28th January 2014

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

In Attendance: Clerk. District Cllr Gill Farmer, 2 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Vacancy** – One application had been received from David Conway. It was proposed by Chairman and seconded by Cllr Adams that Mr Conway be co-opted onto the Parish Council. This was agreed by all. Cllr Conway was welcomed onto the Council, signed the Declaration of Interest and was given a copy of the Code of Conduct. Clerk to inform MHDC.
3. **Declaration of Interests** –
 - a. Register of Interests: No changes. Cllr Conway given form to fill in.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Chairman and Cllr Conway Memorial Hall Grant, item 14, due to being on Memorial Hall Committee.
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests – See item (b) above.
4. **Dispensations** –
 - a. To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
 - b. **Dispensations requested** – With exception of Cllr Conway all Cllrs have a Dispensation for Precept, item 10(d). This was agreed on 27th November 2012 until May 2015. Chairman requested Dispensation for Memorial Hall Grant, item 14, due to being on Committee, he wishes to speak and vote. It was agreed by all to allow this Dispensation.
5. **Public Question Time** – Two Members of the Public attended the meeting see notes below.
6. **Minutes of last Meeting** – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 26th November 2013 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **District Cllrs report** – Attended and updated Cllrs on matters at MHDC. Discussed Plans passed for large number of houses in neighbouring parishes. Discussed benefits of doing Neighbourhood Plan. Planning – Oaktrees - Cllrs raised concerns at slow progress regarding Enforcement action, District Cllr is aware of concerns and will help if she can. District Cllr was thanked for her help on recent planning issues within the Parish, she then left meeting.
County Cllrs report – Apologies received. Written report at end of minutes.
8. **Progress Reports for information:**
 - a. **Broadband** – Meeting with WCC is being held in February, some local issues still of concern.
 - b. **Defibrillator Machine for Parish** – Millennium Committee may make a donation. Clerk to contact. County Cllr has granted £500.00 from his Divisional Fund. Clerk to look into costs of Machine. Memorial Hall have agreed to have machine on outside of Hall and resident offered to do regular checks.
9. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors: None**
10. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – LM December 2013 = £187.20, Clerks Salary increase = £23.14 also Standing Order changed to £144.14 from March 2014 (details in files).
 - b. **Payments received** – Current Account November/December 2013 – WCC LM August/September 2013 = £312.00. Investment Account interest December 2013/January 2014 = 34p total.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – December 2013/January 2014 signed for Investment Account Balance £2013.88. November/December 2013 signed for Current TSB Acc = £8128.21.
Cllr Conway left meeting room.

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- d. **To discuss precept for 2014-15** – after much discussion it was agreed to increase precept to £6900.00 subject to Government Legislation on capping of Parish Councils. Clerk to advise MHDC of this decision.

Cllr Conway returned to room.

11. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **None.**
- b. Decisions received since last meeting –
13/01276/HOU Robins End Cottage, Eastham - Construction of a raised timber children's playhouse in the garden (Part retrospective). This application was **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). Enforcement Officer dealing with case is leaving. It was agreed, due to slow progress by Enforcement on this case, a letter be sent to MHDC advising them of local concerns on the delay and lack of information.

12. Road report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – Millennium Green – water not draining from roadside near to 30mph sign.
- b. **Any problems to report** – Robins End possibly broken pipe, Highwood - hole in verge and broken drain. Clerk to report.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
- Water on road at Robins End (Rhyse Lane) – Resident and Landowner have sent correspondence to Clerk for information. This is now an Environment Agency matter.
 - Astley Orchard – repairs to road and pavement – Housing Association still to do some repairs.

13. **Clerks Review** – It was agreed Chairman sign circulated review as discussed at last meeting.

Cllr Conway left meeting room.

14. **Memorial Hall Grant-** After discussion it was agreed to grant £500.00 to the Hall. It was thought they may wish PC to purchase something for kitchen. Clerk to contact Hall Committee.

Cllr Conway returned to meeting room.

15. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.

16. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting** –
Payments made – 10th December- LM October/November = £374.40.

17. **Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.**
Precept 2014-15, Defibrillator Machine.

18. **Date of next meeting: 1st APRIL 2014** –
POLICE HAVE CONFIRMED THEY WILL ATTEND THIS MEETING

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

20. **Mowing Contract for Millennium Green** – Three requests for quotes made, two quotes received. It was agreed by all to remain with MTM Contracting Ltd as they have been very reliable in past, are local and with no price increase for 2014-15 were the cheapest.

21. **Lengthsman Contract 2014-15**– It was agreed by all to offer contract to present contractor with no increase in hourly rate. Contract will be renewed on condition WCC provide funding.

22. **Meeting closed 8.55pm.**

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 1st April 2014

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Residents raised concerns regarding lack of action taken regarding Enforcement against the Oaktrees. This is item 11(d) on agenda. Residents will be kept informed of progress.

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 28th January 2014 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. BUDGET PROBLEMS

On 16th January the Full Council approved the budget for the coming year. For the first time for several years, an increase in the County Council precept was approved. Following extensive consultation through road shows around the county, the increase of 1.94% will be devoted to the children's department budget to help pay for the increasing number of children taken in to care.

After the consultation period, the Cabinet will next week consider what cuts need to be made in the bus subsidies. The only one affecting this area is the 26-27 and 308-310 Aston Coaches services from Clifton to Worcester. It is most likely that the frequency of the service would be affected, while all scholars travelling to Worcester will be accommodated.

In addition, there is consultation on the reduction of the supporting people budget that is set to be reduced from £15 million to £6 million. All of this money is spent on discretionary services that are not a statutory requirement of the Council. Following the consultation that finished last week, decisions will have to be made on which services to reduce.

2. ENERGY FROM WASTE

The final decision approving the Energy from Waste plant for Hartlebury was taken at the Full Council meeting on January 16th. I am entirely satisfied that this is the right decision for the two counties and it is distressing to see so much false and misleading information peddled in the press. There is no proven cost effective alternative. WCC is dedicated to reducing waste, to reusing it, to recycling it and then recovering energy from the residue. I would be very happy to bore any resident for hours with more detail if they wish to know it.

3. PLANNING

I was disappointed that the Walshes Farm development was recently given approval by the Northern Area Development Committee, when the Chairman of the PC spoke eloquently against the proposal. The District Councillors find themselves in the impossible position of approving unwelcome developments because they cannot risk expensive appeals that they are very likely to lose. It is ironic that the only such proposal that evening that had widespread support from the local people, at Steps Farm in Clifton, was the only one to be turned down.

4. HIGHWAYS FUND.

Despite having allocated most of my allowance from this fund, I would be keen to know of any small highway maintenance problems that could be eligible for this support. Any examples of flooding of roads should be reported and feel free to mention them to me as well, to strengthen the case. Similarly, there are bound to be potholes appearing and the sooner these are reported, the smaller will be the job to be completed.

5. TENBURY PUBLIC REALM

Following the exhibitions in the Pump Rooms at the end of last year, detailed final plans are being prepared for the Public Realm enhancements in Tenbury and there is a reasonable expectation that Tescos will start building in the next couple of months.

Cllr Ken Pollock,

28th January 2014