

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th MARCH 2015

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

In Attendance: Clerk, County Cllr and 3 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** Received and accepted from Cllr Adams and Cllr Horsfall.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. Register of Interests: No changes.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – All Cllrs item 7.
 - 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** – All Cllrs had been given a Dispensation on 26th August 2014 until May 2015 for Defibrillator Machine (items 7).
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes below.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting** – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 25th November 2014 and of the Special Parish Council Meetings held on 16th December 2014, 8th January and 17th February 2015 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – Apologies received. See report below.
County Cllrs report – Written report at end of minutes. **Rhyse Lane** (Item 11c) – County Cllr has been looking into matter - Parish Council requested the matter be resolved within 3 months. Water has damaged road surface and caused icy road, Cllrs are concerned regarding safety issue. **Highwood** - damage to hedge caused by gritting lorry – Cllr to look into. **Astley Orchard** (item 11c) – County Cllr requested details, Clerk has been emailing since 2012, residents also been trying to get road resurfaced, now managed by Stonewater.
7. **Progress Reports for information:**
Defibrillator Machine – Training dates still to be confirmed. Cllr Arnold was thanked for doing the installation of the machine.
Chairman agreed to suspended meeting at 8.15
Beryl Lewis and Jen Jones offer to check machine weekly, Clerk to contact them. They were also interested in having training. **Chairman reopened meeting 8.20pm.**
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:**
CALC – Elections 26th November – Elections papers given out and advice passed to Cllrs.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – WCALC (Clerks training Cilca August/January) = £60.00, Mrs S Burrows (salary increase arrears) = £11.09.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC (payment sent in error) = £182.00, Transfer from Investment Account £0.10.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** - Current Account – January/February 2015 signed, balance agreed as £11050.56.
 - d. Bank Reconciliation Investment Account – February 2015 account closed.
 - e. To appoint Internal Auditor for 2015-16 Accounts - it was agreed to appoint Mrs Howell.

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10. Planning:

- a. Plans circulated since last meeting – See item 13.
- b. Decisions received since last meeting –
- c. **14/01584/PDU – The Stables, Field on Highwood, Eastham.** Prior Approval of Proposed Change of Use of Agricultural Building to a Dwelling house (Use Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development. **Refused by MHDC.**
- d. Plans to comment on at this meeting –
15/00141/FUL – Eastham Grange, Eastham, WR15 8NP – Proposed New Dwelling.
Chairman suspended meeting at 8.38pm for applicant to answer queries raised by Cllrs.
Chairman re opened meeting at 8.45pm.

After much discussion it was agreed to support this application. Comments to be plans are an improvement on previous withdrawn plans, no objection to museum, less impact on landscape, less intrusive to neighbouring Mill Cottage, previous objections raised by officials appear to be addressed, the Parish Council do not consider this to be an isolated area due to two neighbouring properties.

11. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – Rhyse Lane to tidy area where water is running.
- b. **Any problems to report** – Rhyse Lane from Rochford boundary needs potholes repaired.
- c. **Update on outstanding queries** –
 - Water on road at Robins End (Rhyse Lane) – The water is now cleaner thanks to residents having work done to their sewerage systems. See item 6 County Cllr report.
 - Astley Orchard – repairs to road and pavement – Housing Association still to do some repairs. See item 6 County Cllr report.

12. **Annual Parish Meeting 26th May 2015 at 8pm.** Reports to be obtained from Welfare Trust, Memorial Hall and Chairman of Parish Council. Police have been invited.

13. Correspondence for information:

Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.

New Plans - 15/00286/PDU – The Oaktrees, Highwood have been received. A Special Meeting to be held next week. Clerk to arrange date.

14. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –

Payments made – 27th February 2015 – WCC refund of incorrect payment = £182.00,

LM October/November/December 0214 = £561.60 (paid 8th January 2015 omitted from minutes)

Planning – 14/01696/FUL - Lower Bank, Eastham – Conversion of timber framed barns to form a single dwelling house, including removal of existing steel framed barns. Plans circulated by email to all Cllrs. It was agreed to support the application, comments in files.

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

Chairman stated he does not wish to be Chairman next year if re-elected onto Parish Council.

16. **Date of next meeting:** **26th MAY 2015 Annual Parish Meeting and
Annual Parish Council Meeting**

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

18. **Clerks annual review** – It was agreed for Chairman to sign review.

19. **Clerks Salary** – it was agreed increase as per National Rates from 1st January 2015. Arrears paid by cheque, Standing Order signed, new monthly payment £147.31.

20. **Meeting closed 8.50pm.**

Signed-----

Date 26th May 2015

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Chairman

Planning – John Phillips brought a model of the new plans he had submitted for a dwelling at Eastham Grange. He advised the lower room would be a museum for his musical machines. A large area to be glass, lot of earth to be moved to lower the building to make it less visible.

District Cllr Report – The Cllr advised she would not come to this meeting due to having conflict of interest regarding planning application. She may have to sit on Committee that discusses the plans. She is available to give help and advice if needed.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. Local Issues - I have not heard any definitive outcome of the drainage problems in Rhyse Lane, but I am hoping that matters can be resolved satisfactorily. Please let me know of any other difficulties with road conditions. I trust the gritting necessary this winter will be satisfactory.

It is encouraging that we near the end of March without much if any disruption due to bad winter weather. With luck, this will have saved a lot of overtime payments to gritter lorry drivers and meant that we will carry a large stockpile of salt into next winter.

We will also hope to be able to continue with the programme of road surface improvements and pothole filling, using the special multi million pound fund allocated by the Department of Transport for that purpose.

Please use the online system for reporting road defects and let me know of any difficulties with the system or dissatisfaction with the quality of the work done.

2. Tenbury Public Realm update - The Public Realm work in Tenbury is due to finish next week. There has been a certain amount of concern on the part of retailers because of the lower footfall during the work. While the traffic lights were clearly causing a delay, this does not amount to a long time in the context of the time taken to drive to alternative shopping centres. The roads are now closed at night, between 6.00pm and 6.00am, to complete the carriageway repair and the creation of the raised tables at either end of the improved area.

Pedestrian access is being maintained at all times, but this will be bound to mean some disruption to evening entertainment.

Work to demolish parts of the old fire station has been completed. This will guarantee the planning permission granted to Tesco to remain in perpetuity, and, although it does not mean that Tesco will definitely build in Tenbury, I remain confident that they will in the next year or so.

3. Café 27 in Tenbury - You may know that funding for positive activities for young people is being cut again from April 2016. This will put the position of Café 27 in some jeopardy. They and the rest of the community have 12 months in which to find a continuing source of funds to keep the café open and thriving, as it is at present. I am sure I do not need to tell all local representatives how valuable this facility is to the whole community and I hope we can find an appropriate funding stream over the coming year. Personally, I would not rule out sponsorship from a company or individual and I am sure benefits would accrue from such support to those involved.

4. Foster Carers - You may well be aware that we have experienced an increase in looked after children in the County. We also have a need for more foster carers and there is a general call for more people to come forward to offer their homes and hospitality. You can get in touch via a website cleverly called www.isfostering4me.co.uk or call 0800 028 2158.

5. Economic development - I am sure you will have noticed that Worcestershire has posted the third largest economic growth in England over the last four years. It falls behind just Oxford and London in the table, with a growth of 12.09% between 2010 and 2013. Despite all the difficulties associated with austerity, it is clear that the economy is reviving strongly and that this county is doing better than virtually anywhere in the country.

Cllr Ken Pollock