

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25th August 2015

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

In Attendance: Clerk and 3 Members of the Public.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Declaration of Interests –**
 - a. Register of Interests: No changes.
 - b. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests – Vice Chairman item 13.
 - c. Other Disclosable Interests – All Cllrs item 13.
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 requested a Dispensation until May 2019 for Eastham Memorial Hall (item 13). It was agreed to grant Dispensations to all Cllrs to vote and speak as requested.
4. **Public Question Time** – See notes below.
5. **Minutes of last Meeting** – Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 26th May 2015 and of Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2015 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
6. **District Cllrs report** – None given.
County Cllrs report – Apologies given. Written report at end of minutes.
7. **Progress Reports for information:**
 - a. **First Aid Training** – Residents had asked for basic first aid training, Clerk to look at costs.
 - b. **Speeding issues** – Wheelie bin stickers will be offered to residents with 30mph or slow down on them. Clerk is looking into further action that may be taken by Safer Roads Partnership.
8. **Reports on Meetings attended by Clerk or Councillors:** None.
9. **Finances:**
 - a. **Payments made** – Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection) = £35.00, MHDC (Election Fees May 2015) = £26.49, Campaign to Protect Rural England = £36.00 (see item 12).
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM payments January/February/ March 2015 + October/November 2014 = £780.00, June/July 2014 = £312.00, April/May 2015 = £312.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – May/June/July 2015 signed, balance agreed as £13303.50.
 - d. Budget up to 31st July 2015 was circulated, no adjustments made.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. Plans circulated since last meeting – **See item 17.**
 - b. Decisions received since last meeting –
15/00141/FUL – Eastham Grange, Eastham, WR15 8NP – Proposed New Dwelling. Refused by MHDC Planning Committee. (See also item 17).
15/00618/HOU – 2 Council Houses, Eastham WR15 8NP – External insulation and render system to existing house. Withdrawn by applicant.
15/00345/HOU – Eastham Kiln, Eastham WR15 8NN – Two velux windows in the roof to the east of the property. Approved by MHDC.
15/00465/HOU – Dingle Cottage, Eastham WR15 8PB – Timber shed and log store. Approved by MHDC.
 - c. Plans to comment on at this meeting –
Appeal Lodged for 15/00286/PDU – The Oaktrees, Highwood WR15 8PB – Prior Approval of Proposed Change of Use of part of an Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development. After much discussion it was agreed to send in comments based on previous comments for this site. Clerk to circulate letter to Cllrs for approval.
11. **Road Report:**
 - a. **Lengthsman** – General tidying to be maintained.
 - b. **Any problems to report** – Rhyse Lane, Rochford boundary needs potholes repaired (Oakhill).

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- c. **Update on outstanding queries –**
- Water on road at Robins End (Rhyse Lane) – Drainage work to be undertaken by WCC.
 - Astley Orchard – repairs to road and pavement – Housing Association still to do some repairs, Clerk to report matter to County Cllr to investigate.
12. **It was agreed that the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure –** To grant £35.00 to Campaign to Protect Rural England for 2015-16 to support the good work they do countrywide.

**Chairman agreed to close meeting at 8pm for residents to speak regarding Eastham Memorial Hall.
Meeting was re-opened at 8.10pm.**

13. **Eastham Memorial Hall –**
- a. **New Cooker** - Funding of £500.00 is in budget for kitchen item for hall. Due to cost of cooker (£2000.00) it was agreed by all to ask for more details before making a decision to increase grant. Cllr Conway may be able to purchase at more competitive price. County Cllr has granted £1000.00 towards this item.
- b. **To consider supporting the idea of a new build Memorial Hall –** it was agreed by the majority that Eastham Parish Council wish to support Eastham Memorial Hall Committee in their efforts to bring the community together and in planning for the long-term future of Eastham Memorial Hall. Clerk to draft letter for approval by Cllrs to send to Committee.
- c. **To consider pledging money towards a new build Memorial Hall –** after much discussion it was agreed by the majority to pledge £1000.00 towards this project. There was concern residents have pledged own money and if precept is increased they would be paying twice for a village facility.
14. **Neighbourhood Plan –** Clerk to distribute information to Cllrs. Small Parishes usually link up with other Parishes, lot of work, needs input of residents and groups from within community, should not be all Parish Council. Grants available and Consultants will help for a fee.
15. **Meeting Dates 2016 -** After much discussion it was agreed by all to meet every other month during 2016.
16. **Correspondence for information:**
Circulation with Clerk, list in minute's folder.
Cllr Worsley signed his Acceptance of Office in June 2015.
MHDC Conference 5th October 2015 – 6-9pm at Malvern – Cllrs and Clerk invited.
17. **Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting –**
Planning issues delegated to Clerk with input from Cllrs –
July/August 2015 - To note comments made by Parish Council on this application - 15/00982/PDU – The Oaktrees, Highwood WR15 8PB – Prior Approval of Proposed Change of Use of part of an Agricultural Building to a Dwellinghouse (Use Class C3), and for Associated Operational Development. Letter was circulated to Cllrs with reasons for objections to this application. The letter was approved by all and sent to MHDC by Clerk.
July/August 2015 – Outcome of PC request for Appeal Hearing to be held at Eastham Memorial Hall - Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood – 14/01640PDU – Prior approval of Proposed change of use of part of an Agricultural Building Dwelling House (Use Class 3) and for Associated Operational Development and **14/01127/FUL -** Retention and resiting of mobile home. At residents request Clerk asked MHDC if this appeal could be heard at Eastham. MHDC decided to hold the hearing at Malvern due to the legalities that may be involved.
15/00141/FUL – Eastham Grange, Eastham, WR15 8NP – Proposed New Dwelling. This application went to full Committee but comments made by Eastham PC were not passed to Committee Members. A letter was sent querying this matter. A reply has been received from MHDC and was circulated to Cllrs. Comments should be sent directly to Committee Members but this was not clear from information received.
18. **Councillor's reports and items for the next agenda.**
Clerks Review, Precept 2016-17.
19. **Date of next meeting: 24th NOVEMBER 2015**
20. **Meeting closed 8.50pm.**

Signed-----
Chairman

Date 24th November 2015

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Eastham Memorial Hall – Two residents present were concerned regarding cost of cooker, why was it so expensive. Vice Chairman stated cooker is needed to help raise funds for hall. He had no detail of model. John Phillips stated he was attending to ask for PC support for the Memorial Hall. Lottery Funding was being applied for and local support for the project would need to be shown by pledges and letters of support.

Planning - Chairman wished it to be noted that at Eastham Flower Show a person, not now residing in the Parish, was very vocal regarding the Parish Councils objections to planning applications at The Oak Trees, Highwood. It was implied the PC and MHDC were not treating the applications fairly. Chairman stated each application is treated fairly and he did not wish to discuss the matter. Person stated the application would be allowed no matter what was said. Chairman withdrew from the person's presence.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

1. Road conditions - I am sorry to note that the drainage work at the end of Rhyse Lane has not yet been undertaken, although I am sure it is in the programme for this autumn. It was surprising to see that the new water pipe laid only a couple of years ago by Severn Trent had sprung a leak and that closed the road to the bridge for some time. The reinstatement seems to have been satisfactory and not degraded the newly resurfaced road too badly.

2. Tenbury High Ormiston Academy - I was very pleased to note that GCSE results from Tenbury High Ormiston Academy were exceptionally good. One key measure is the percentage of young people gaining 5 subjects at grades A* to C, including English and maths. The national average is about 60% and Tenbury achieved 66% and the school deserves our congratulations on these results. I think we can all have confidence in recommending the school to the parents of potential students.

3. Green Deal Insulation - I was very interested to meet three parishioners outside the village hall after my last meeting. They advised me about the application for solid wall insulation on one of the four houses just across from the hall, indicating that the design would spoil the look of the pair of semi-detached houses.

I had been advocating the grants for improving the insulation of solid wall houses, and this seemed to be a case where the work would be inappropriate. I lodged an objection with the Malvern Hills planners and the application, made by the housing association that owned the property, was subsequently withdrawn.

There are two points to make. Firstly, I was told that the house walls were not solid, so the application was inappropriate. Secondly, County officials told me that all applications are carefully vetted so this house would not have been given a grant, if the walls were not solid and if the work was unnecessary.

In consequence, I am confident that you may encourage the right people to seek further grants of this type where it is sensible to do.

4. Clare Marchant's visit to Tenbury - Two weeks ago I was able to welcome the County Council chief executive, Clare Marchant, to Tenbury where she was able to discuss the Public Realm with town councillors and review the work on the ground. The reception was generally favourable and useful comments were made on how such projects can be handled better in future.

The final snagging work, in particular around the Market itself, is now in progress and I am confident it will be completed in the near future.

We are as yet unsure of when Tesco's will start their construction but I am confident that they will complete the work in the next year or so. At that time the Public Realm work will continue up to the bridge.

Cllr Ken Pollock

Martley,

Worcester,

WR6 6QA