

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26th July 2016

**Present: Cllr Arnold (Chairman), Cllr Conway,
Cllr Adams, Cllr Horsfall, Cllr Jones**

In Attendance: Clerk, 80 members of Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Caroline Palethorpe, WCC Highways Jon Fraser (Senior Engineer), Gerry Brienza WCC Highways.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Worsley and Cllr Moseley.
2. **Declaration of Interest:**
 - a. **Register of Interests** – All Cllrs reminded to keep their registers up to date.
 - b. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** – Chairman, Cllr Conway and Cllr Jones Item 16 Eastham Memorial Hall. All Cllrs are on Hall Committee.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – As (b) above.
3. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations received – Chairman, Cllr Conway and Cllr Jones all granted a Dispensation until May 2019 for Item 16 Eastham Memorial Hall. This was agreed at meeting held on 24th May 2016.
4. **Public Question Time** – Item 5 Eastham Bridge Collapse was discussed, see notes at end of minutes.
This session closed at 8.10pm, the Chairman agreed to close the meeting for Speakers and Members of the Public to depart.
Chairman reopened the meeting at 8.20pm, one Member of the Public remained for some of the meeting.
5. **Eastham Bridge Collapse**– Jon Fraser WCC Highways (Senior Engineer) and Ken Pollock County Cllr addressed meeting during Public Question Time.
Cllrs agreed to ask for weekly updates to be sent to Clerk by WCC. It was also agreed a Special Parish Meeting be called when WCC have more details on the issue, possibly middle of August.
6. **County Cllrs Report** – No further updates
District Cllrs Report – Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes. Reported small pot of funding available for worthy causes, contact District Cllr for details.
7. **Election of Vice Chairman:** It was agreed by all Cllr Conway be elected.
8. **Standing Orders** – As per regulations item 18(f) was amended, Cllrs to be sent amended copy.
9. **Financial Regulations** – As per regulations item 6(4) was amended and additions/deletions made to item 11. Cllrs to be sent amended copies.
10. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of meeting held on 24th May 2016 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
11. **Progress reports for information:**
 - a. **Defibrillator Training** – Free training kit passed to Cllr Jones. Cllr to organise dates in autumn.
 - b. **Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations** – A report of event had been passed to Clerk for files. Invoice for £200.00 was paid but it was agreed by all details of expenditure need to be in files. Clerk has asked resident for details but nothing received to date. Chairman to action.
12. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: -**
Clerk had attended 2 meetings with WCC and Airband (Broadband provider). Complaints had been made to Clerk by users regarding the level of service. Matter being addressed by Airband, Clerk to follow up.
13. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Eastham PCC (Mowing of Church Yard) £500.00, Eastham Riverside Fete Committee (Queens 90th Birthday Celebrations see item 11b) = £200.00, Mr I Mapp (LM May 2016) = £187.20.
 - b. **Payments received** – None.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – May/June 2016 signed Balance = £15714.07.

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14. Planning:

- a. **Plans received: None.**
- b. **Decisions received since last meeting – None.**
- c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting – None.**
- d. **Update from MHDC regarding – 14/01640PDU – Oaktrees Caravan, Highwood** - 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. Information on this case is now legally protected. It is known the case has been to court and a further hearing date has been arranged.
- e. **Temevale, Eastham** – Erection of field shelter. MHDC response to letter of complaint from PC stated the shelter is to be used for animals only, if this changes Clerk to notify Enforcement Team and they will investigate matter.

15. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – continuing work to ensure drains/grips are clear.
- b. **Problems to report** – Water leak by Boat House, Clerk to action.
- c. Clerk had meeting with WCC and many issues of concern were to be looked into.
- d. **Astley Orchard** – Housing Association have advised contractor will start work on 15th August 2016.
- e. **Rhyse Lane** – Road closure in August 2016 for repairs.

16. **Eastham Memorial Hall request for Public Loan from Parish Council to rebuild Hall** – Meeting with Hall Committee had been held and a presentation shown, notes in files. Cllrs agreed for letters to be posted to all households informing them of Special Public Meeting to be held on Monday 12th September 2016 at 7.30pm. It was agreed figures relating to increase in Council Tax to be included in letter and presented at meeting. Clerk to draft letter for approval by Cllrs and Hall Committee. To be posted early September.

17. **Seat on Millennium Green** – Plaque had been requested for seat. A resident offered to pay costs. Cllr Jones to action.

18. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.

19. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Payment – 4th July 2016 – Mr I Mapp – LM May 2016 = £187.20.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Village Gates.

21. Date of next meeting: SPECIAL PARISH MEETING TO DISCUSS EASTHAM MEMORIAL HALL

MONDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30PM

Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 27th September 2016 at 7.30pm.

22. Meeting closed 9.00pm.

Signed----- Date 27th September 2016

Chairman

Public Question Time -

Eastham Bridge Collapse – Jon Fraser (JF) stated in 2-4weeks he will have more detailed information. He confirmed he would attend Eastham Fete on 21st August with further information regarding reason bridge collapsed, erection/structure of temporary bridge, permanent bridge ideas. Environment Agency, MHDC, Historic England, Natural England all working with WCC to resolve issues. Ecological Survey of flora/fauna and Topographical Survey for lie of land have been undertaken. Results will be know shortly. Proper procedures must be followed to ensure no one can challenge the final outcome, must abide by law and follow due process.

Planning Permission – may be needed, being looked into.

Timescale – on track for 6 months from collapse.

Cause of collapse - is being thoroughly investigated by a consultant who has been brought in by WCC.

Temporary Bridge – WCC shortlisted 3 companies. Planning process, effects of siting structure and effect of when it is taken away being looked into. No weight limit and bridge will remain in place so long as it is needed.

Road issues - Signage has been improved. Companies who use road have been approached following complaints of dangerous driving. Hedges/Trees/Verges have been cut back.

Eastham Fete - WCC to help with signs.

New Road below Hanley Mill - needs attention and is on list to do but will mean closure of the road.

Jon Fraser then took questions.

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Was JF in charge of project – JF stated he is part of a team including bridge consultants/experts, communication experts etc. He has to answer to Director of Infrastructure at WCC. Not willing to share details of work at present. If any delays occur as the project progresses public will be kept informed.

Resident asked if rules could be broken – JF stated NO, if legally challenged in future it would be very costly.

Communication – could Facebook or blog be opened? Updates are on WCC website but willing to look into matter. Clerk will put on PC website if updates are sent to her.

Permanent Bridge – JF stated this is being looked at but priority at present is for a temporary structure. WCC have the interest of the Community at its Heart and want to do the best job they can. Type of bridge if rebuilt to be decided at future date. All efforts being put into siting the temporary structure at present.

Lack of activity on site – JF stated things are happening and debris has been taken away. It takes time to hire contractors to do work.

County Cllr Ken Pollock (KP) was invited to speak by Chairman – KP is working with WCC to ensure work is on track and keeps within predicted timescale, no problems at present. Confirmed proper procedures need to be followed to ensure no legal challenge can be made by anyone in future.

Resident asked if Business Rates/Council Tax could be reduced - JF stated this is a matter for MHDC but they are thought to be considering it.

Inconsiderate driving on all roads into Eastham - Clerk will contact Police, registration numbers can be passed to Police by residents on the 101 number.

Report for Eastham Parish Council meeting

Referendum - Malvern Hills declared our local result for Malvern at 2.50am. The total votes cast (excluding 41 rejected) were 48,497 (Remain –23,203, Leave – 25,294). This was a high turnout of 80.6% compared to the national average of 72.2%. Eastham had a 70% turnout, well done Eastham.

Customer service standards - It has been agreed that both Councils (Malvern & Wychavon) move to the same customer service standards so that residents/partners/businesses/ members know what they can expect from us. The plan includes a one day response time for emails and a five day response to letters. We appreciate that we might not be able to resolve the issue in a day, but would give a holding reply with further information. The use of voicemail is to be phased out, available for exceptional circumstances only. We are also keen to make sure everyone uses their out of office message on email saying when they will be back and who to contact while away.

Scheme to tackle social isolation launched - We have recently launched a new scheme to help tackle loneliness and social isolation within the district. The South Worcestershire Rural Communities programme is being trialled in Tenbury, Kempsey, Alfrick & Leigh and Morton wards, which were identified as having the largest potential number of people who are socially excluded. It is estimated as many as 250 older people could be suffering from loneliness and isolation in those areas. A series of door knocks will take place to identify individuals and support offered. People with local knowledge of their community will also be used to refer people who could benefit from the scheme. The first door knock took place in Tenbury on Monday (27 June). Social isolation can have a serious impact on health with research suggesting it is as damaging as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Older people are most at risk of social isolation with between a quarter and a third of people aged 65 and over in South

Worcestershire believed to be socially isolated. West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner are helping us to fund the scheme for two years after which it will be reviewed with the potential to expand it to other areas. It has already been running successfully in neighbouring Wychavon for eighteen months and has helped over 250 individuals. Visit www.malvern hills.gov.uk/rural for more information on the Rural Communities Programme.

John's hike for health and happiness - The new Chairman Cllr John Raine will be carrying out his walk around the district over ten days starting from 1 September, raising money for mental health charities. A letter regarding the walk has been received and I am hoping to get as many of the Teme Valley Ward residents involved as possible. Dates when John and colleagues will be in the area are: Thursday 1st September Route – Lindridge –Tenbury Wells (Beach Hay, Bayton, Mamble, Newnham Bridge, Knighton-Teme, Rochford totalling 11.5miles) - Friday 2nd September - Tenbury Wells – Upper Sapey (Tenbury, Kyre, Stoke Bliss totalling 11.5 miles) - Saturday 3rd September - Upper Sapey –Clifton Upon –Teme (Upper Sapey, Stanford Bridge, Stockton on Teme, Pensax, Abberley, Shelsley Beauchamp totalling 10.5 miles) - Sunday 4th September –Clifton upon Teme –Lower Broadheath (Clifton-upon-Teme, Little Witley, Shrawley, Holt, Grimley,Hallow totalling 15.5 miles) Let me know if you would like to join me.

District Councillor Caroline Palethorpe

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