

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 22nd November 2016

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

In Attendance: Clerk, 1 Member of Public, County Cllr Ken Pollock, District Cllr Caroline Palethorpe

1. **Apologies:** Apologies received and accepted from 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 7(c) 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 7(c) Eastham Memorial Hall. This was agreed at meeting held on 24th May 2016.
4. **Public Question Time** – Eastham Bridge Collapse was discussed, see notes at end of minutes.
5. **County Cllrs Report** – Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.
District Cllrs Report – Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of meeting held on 27th September 2016 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information**
 - a. **Eastham Bridge** – See County Cllrs report, work on schedule at present.
 - b. **Airband issues** – Work to resolve issues ongoing, Clerk in contact with residents still having problems.
 - c. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – Stage 2 application is ongoing, application deadline 19th December.
 - d. **Parish Path Warden Report** – WCC and landowner will work to install gates on land at Hillwood Farm. Resident has offered to form rambling group, Cllr Jones to contact them.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs:** -
MHDC Conference 17th October, WCC Conference/CALC AGM 26th October, details circulated, Clerk attend both meetings. CALC Clerks Training 3rd November.
9. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM September/October 2016) = £374.40.
 - b. **Payments received** – VAT Repayment £742.55, MHDC Precept £3575.00, WCC LM June/July 2016 £312.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – September/October 2016 signed Balance = £17984.74.
 - d. **Budget Review** – September 2016. Clerk to circulate, not available for this meeting.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting: None.**
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
16/00329/HOU & 16/00330/LBC – Lower Bank Farm, Eastham WR15 8PA – Garage conversion, first floor extension, replacement windows and internal alterations. **Approved by MHDC.**
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** –
16/01503/FUL – Upper Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA – Convert existing workshop into two self-contained self-catering holiday units. It was agreed by all to support this application.
 - 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. A further application for a Lawful Development Certificate has been submitted by the applicant. The new application will be discussed at close of this meeting, it was received too late to put on this agenda.

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11. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – Following heavy rain yesterday LM to clear up in Parish tomorrow.
- b. **Problems to report** – None.
- c. **Astley Orchard** pavement – Clerk to remind County Cllr of this outstanding issue.

12. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.

Bin/Recycling Collection Christmas 2016. Collections will be one day late.

13. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Letter sent on behalf of PC regarding Government Consultation involving Parish Precepts.

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

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Precept, Clerks Review.

15. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2017 at 7.30pm.

16. Meeting closed 8.12pm.

Signed----- Date 24th January 2017

Chairman

Public Question Time –

Astley Orchard - Resident query to Dist Cllr regarding blocked drain, Housing Association to be contacted by Dist Cllr (it has been looked at twice by them). Also request for grit bin, this is not WCC land so Dist Cllr to ask Housing Association.

Road issues – Hedges along lanes need trimming, Clerk to be given landowner details by Cllrs and letter to be sent. WCC have cut some hedges that were hanging into road. Road sweeper requested for Orleton Lane. State of verges due to passing traffic causing concern.

Bricks from Eastham Bridge – resident suggested local people may wish to buy left over bricks from the old bridge. County Cllr to see if this is possible.

Report for Eastham Parish Council meeting

Eastham Bridge- An artist's impression of the new Bridge has been published. Unfortunately, some renditions of the picture gave a false impression of the materials and how they would look. The steel girders that support the carriageway will be of a special steel that remains unpainted and moves to a subdued orange colour as it weathers. The abutments will be faced in brick, some or all of which will be recovered from the old bridge. The steel girders will be swung into position at which time the A443 will need to be diverted a little to the north to give adequate room. To assist this operation, the overhead wires have been moved to a new pole a little upstream. As foreshadowed at the parish council last meeting, the width will be the same as with the original, meaning there will be no footway or pedestrian refuges. This means that the bridge can be built immediately without planning permission under permitted development. This will avoid the long process of an environmental impact assessment that ruled out getting a temporary bridge in place before Christmas, as originally intended. Last Friday I joined our MP Harriett Baldwin, Celia Adams and Jen Jones for a photograph on the north side of the river with the site manager from WCC, Mark Mills. Since then rain has caused the river level to rise but no problems are expected as a result, as the works are protected by coffer dams.

The County Council has confirmed that the diversion routes using New Road and Rhyse Lane are designated as primary gritting routes. Site personnel have been reminded that they should only use New Road. The County is very aware of the value of the cooperation it is receiving from Celia and Mike Adams in the temporary use of their land and of the forbearance of the whole community at this difficult time.

Tescos in Tenbury - You will all be aware of the rapid progress that Tesco's are making in the building of their supermarket. The company is anxious to get the store open as soon as possible and their ideal timetable would see that happening at the end of February. It is clear that they will need to complete all their car park work and the refurbishment to the riverside path before the store opens as this was part of the planning conditions imposed by MHDC. You will be aware of the works going on in Shropshire at the junction between the A456 and the A4112, leading to Teme Street. Initially Western Power needed to replace some cables, this was carried out under traffic lights. WP tell me that Shropshire Council imposed conditions intended to minimise disruption for local residents, meaning they could not work double shifts or at weekends. Since then, Tesco's contractors have started work on their widening of the A4112 to make a left turn lane for traffic from Tenbury. This should be finished by the 2nd Dec. This also applies to all the Public Realm work that will run from the bridge to the Regal cinema. We have imposed an embargo until the start of the New Year, to see that there is no disruption to the Christmas trade and festivities. In consequence, Tesco's will proceed with their section, and then WCC will fill in the gap from Crow Corner to the Regal. Transport Regulation Orders (TROs) will cover the changes to parking and the bus stop and they involve a period of consultation with the police and the public.

Local Road works - Highwood has now been resurfaced, to give a decent standard of smoothness for all the residents who have suffered ripples and potholes for far too long. Orleton Lane will be closed later this month for utilities work. I hope this will not prove too disruptive, especially given the diversions already needed because of the bridge collapse. These works are in addition

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to the £12 million being spent on extra road repairs over the next two years. It is worth noting that WCC scores well in comparison to our neighbours. £2.6 million is being spent on footways, alongside carriageways

Careers Fair at Tenbury Ormiston Academy 1st November - I was pleased to attend there were over 40 companies and colleges seeking to give advice to pupils and many of them attended. It was encouraging to speak to many of the exhibitors and find that young people have a good appreciation of the alternative training opportunities for those not wishing to, or not suited to, going to university. I would like to thank your district councillor Caroline Palethorpe and the Tenbury school staff for their help in putting on this event that should become a regular fixture.

Congratulations also to Helena Baxter, of HP Consultancy and Training, for winning an award recognising her work helping young people looking for training, at the Annual Meeting of the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership later that week. I recently spent a day at Tenbury High and was able to congratulate Adrian Price and his staff for achieving such brilliant results in GCSEs this summer: 72% achieving 5 A* to C including English and Mathematics, a huge improvement.

Last Thursday I was able to attend the third annual Apprenticeships Awards ceremony organised by the County Council and the LEP. It was good to recognise the excellent work done by companies throughout Worcestershire in promoting training through apprenticeships. Around 16,000 have been offered over the last four years. Mike Forrester of Orchard Valley Foods Ltd was among the many distinguished guests at the dinner, held at the West Midlands Safari Park.

Liaison officers - Recognising the importance of the condition of the highways, the County Council has decided to increase the number of liaison officers from four to five.

Divisional Fund - I was pleased to be able to use a little of the Divisional Fund, made up of Council Tax contributions, to help put on the Careers Fair. Please get in touch if you know of other potential proposals and let others know of the fund's existence, so the money can be best spent in service of the community.

Cllr Ken Pollock

District Cllrs Report

Parish councils and the Transparency Code: Parish councils with annual turnover of under £25,000 are now required to comply with the Smaller Authorities' Transparency Code in publishing information online. The Government, through the National and County Associations of Local Councils, is providing funding (covering laptop purchase, website creation or training) to enable such parishes to comply with the Code. We are keen to ensure that all eligible parishes know about the funding, which is only available until 31 March 2017, and would therefore be grateful if you are eligible, please apply at <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/thetransparency-fund> through their county association (membership not required). You will also find a useful Frequently Asked Questions document - <http://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/our-work/transparency-fund/2016-faqs-21-4-16/file>

Mobile phone coverage: Our Economic Development Team recently attended a meeting convened by Harriett Baldwin MP with four mobile phone operators, to discuss coverage and their plans for the future in the area. Whilst it was agreed that coverage is variable across the district, all the operators explained that they would be investing in the infrastructure and were keen to develop a more proactive relationship to share information on coverage, plans for the future and to assist in engaging with local communities when it comes to developing solutions. It is hoped that regular liaison with the operators will be established and we will look to ensure we are involved in this important area as it evolves.

Free first aid courses: We are once again supporting free first aid courses, run by members of St John Ambulance. These are open to anyone who lives or works in the Malvern Hills District. If you would like to book a place on any of the below dates contact Harry harry.robinson@malvern hills.gov.uk or 01684 862372.

- Thursday 3 November, Malvern Vale Community Centre
- Monday 7 November, Council Chamber, Avenue Road, 6pm to 9pm
- Saturday 19 November, Upton Hill Centre, 10am to 1pm
- Thursday 24 November, Martley Memorial Hall, 10am to 1pm
- Thursday, 1 December, Tenbury Pump Rooms, 6pm to 9pm

Ward Budget Scheme – Please promote to local groups. There is still money available for one off projects. The deadline is March 31st 2017.

Councillor Caroline Palethorpe