

EASTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Eastham Parish Council held in Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th January 2017

**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, Jon Fraser (WCC Head of Highways), Mark Mills (WCC Project Manager), Kevin Hall (Site Manager at Alan Griffiths Contractors).

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** – None declared.
 - c. **Other Disclosable Interests** – None declared.
3. **Dispensations** - To consider written requests from councillors for the council to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) –
Dispensations – none received.
4. **Public Question Time** – Eastham Bridge Collapse was discussed, see notes at end of minutes. Cllr Worsley and speakers left the meeting at end of this item.
5. **County Cllrs Report** – Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.
District Cllrs Report – Apologies received, Report circulated, see notes at end of minutes.
6. **Minutes of last Meeting:** Minutes of meeting held on 22nd November 2016 were agreed by all and signed by Chairman.
7. **Progress reports for information**
 - a. **Eastham Bridge** – See notes at end of minutes.
 - b. **Airband issues** – Clerk to attend meeting with Airband and WCC on 15th February. Some residents still having issues.
 - c. **Eastham Memorial Hall** – Stage 2 grant application has been sent in, decision expected in April 2017.
 - d. **Parish Path Warden Report** – Gates at Hillwood Farm to be installed.
8. **Reports on meeting attended by Clerk/Cllrs: - None.**
9. **Finances** –
 - a. **Payments made** – Mr I Mapp (LM November 2016) = £187.20, WCALC (Good Cllrs Guide Cllr Jones copy) = £2.70, CPRE (see item 11) = £36.00.
 - b. **Payments received** – WCC LM September/October 2016 = £312.00.
 - c. **Bank Reconciliation** – November/December 2016 signed Balance = £17364.40.
 - d. **Precept 2017-18** – Draft budget circulated and agreed for 2017-18. After much discussion it was agreed by all to increase precept to £7400.00, an increase of £250.00. Budget to 31st December 2016 circulated.
10. **Planning:**
 - a. **Plans circulated since last meeting: See item 14.**
 - b. **Decisions received since last meeting** –
16/01503/FUL – Upper Bank, Eastham WR15 8PA – Convert existing workshop into two self-contained self-catering holiday units. **Refused by MHDC.**
 - c. **Plans for consideration at this meeting** –
16/01357/CLE – Oaktrees, Highwood Lane, Eastham WR15 8PB - Application for Lawful Development Certificate for existing works to convert the existing barn into residential dwelling as approved under 15/00982/PDU. **Refused by MHDC.**
 - 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.
Enforcement action will be taken by MHDC on this application following the refusal of application 16/01357/CLE (see (c) above).

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11. 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. It was agreed by all to grant £36.00 to the Campaign to Protect Rural England for 2016-17 to support their work.

12. Road Report:

- a. **Lengthsman** – Grit bin Highwood to be filled, drain by Memorial Hall needs attention.
- b. **Problems to report** –
Damage to Parish Verges by STW tankers – STW have contacted Clerk and Cllr and have assured them the damage will be repaired on completion which should be tomorrow. See notes at end of minutes.
The Chairman praised the quick response of STW to the emergency and the efficient way in which the affected houses had been kept with fresh water.
Gritting issue - 22nd December on Orleton Lane – This was reported to County Cllr at time of problem.
- c. Update on outstanding queries -
Astley Orchard repairs to pavement – Clerk to remind County Cllr of this issue.
- d. **Astley Orchard grit bin request to Housing Association.** Dist Cllr is continuing her enquires with Housing Association but they are not very helpful. Problem of blocked drain is also being queried.
- e. **Highwood Lane – Request for gritbin by residents** - Clerk to ask WCC if bin can be provided/filled by County. Bin was on the lane but had been removed a few years ago.
- f. **Community Speed Watch Scheme** – Clerk outlined scheme. Can only be done in 30/40mph areas, needs to fit criteria, 6 Volunteers needed to run scheme locally. It was agreed by all to register an interest.

13. Correspondence for Information:

A list of items will be available at the meeting.

MHDC Parish Conference – 24th April 2017 - 6-8-30pm – Clerk to attend.

Notices on following consultations to be put on noticeboards.

WCC Consultation – Local Transport Plan – January – mid March 2017

MHDC Consultation - Public Space Protection Order pursuant to Dog Control – this is open to anyone to respond to regarding dogs in Public areas.

14. Clerks report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting.

Plans discussed at close of meeting held on 28th November 2016 -

16/01357/CLE – Oaktrees, Highwood Lane, Eastham WR15 8PB – Application for Lawful Development Certificate for existing works to convert the existing barn into residential dwelling as approved under 15/00982/PDU. It was agreed by all to object to this application, comments were circulated and approved by Cllrs before being sent to MHDC.

Plans circulated by email since last meeting -

30th December 2016 - 16/01726/PDU – The Old Cattery, The Old Flatts, Eastham – Prior approval for the change of use of a building from office use (B1) to two dwelling houses (C3). No comments were made.

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

Cyril Norman MBE – The Chairman gave the sad news that Cyril had died following a short illness. Cyril had been Clerk and then a Cllr on Eastham Parish Council. Cyril was very involved in the Parish being born in Eastham; he moved to Tenbury in 2014. He was awarded a MBE in 2003 for his services to the Parish of Eastham. Clerk to send letter to his widow from the Parish Council.

Agenda items – Eastham Memorial Hall, Clerks Review.

16. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

17. Meeting closed 8.50pm.

Signed----- Date 28th March 2017

Chairman

Public Question Time –

Gritting – Eastham is on primary route for gritting for this winter. Trackers are on lorries any reports of no grit being spread can be checked if dates/times/locations are known.

Eastham Bridge – Questions were answered by Kevin Hall Site Manager for Alan Griffiths Contractors, Jon Fraser of Worcestershire Highways and Mark Mills Worcestershire Project Manager. Severne Trent Water sent apologies to this meeting but did offer to meet the Parish Council at a date to be agreed if it was felt necessary.

STW - It was unfortunate a water pipe was hit when drilling for new bridge was being done. A new waterpipe has now been put in under the river away from new bridge along with 140 meters of new main. 350 houses were affected. STW will make good damage to verges/driveways caused by the extra traffic. WCC will ensure the repairs are satisfactory.

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Bridge - Pictures were shown of the works to date. The supporting structures on the Eastham side are 23metres deep, not so deep on other side. Supporting bags will be removed later in build. Steel beams being made in Wales, the beams are 36 metres long, they will be moved in 3 pieces to be delivered in February. Crane to lift them into place will be onsite last weekend of February, depending on weather. This will mean a road closure of the main A443 in that area from Friday at 9pm to 6am on Monday. The date will be advertised, the public are welcome to watch, viewing areas will be available on the Eastham side of the bridge. The work will be weather dependent so could happen anytime that weekend, day or night.

Old bricks being cleaned to be put back into bridge but will not be load bearing.

Paul Hudson from WCC to talk to residents about bridge closure and effects on them.

Work to repair verges etc. will be undertaken and overseen by WCC on completion of bridge work. It is anticipated the bridge will be open for traffic in May 2017. Work will continue around the bridge after opening.

Report for Eastham Parish Council meeting

May I wish all residents of Eastham, a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. The year promises to bring some major changes with local Elections on May 4th, when all 57 county council seats will be contested, to give a new administration at County Hall. Before then we need to approve our County Council budget and seek endorsement for our plans to increase council tax by 0.94%. This will be in addition to the 2% rise in tax to provide money for adult social care, using a device arranged by the government for councils to raise the amount of money they think we need locally for this essential service. We are keen to point out that only a third of the increase will actually go to the normal local services, while the rest seeks to cover the large demands of our ageing population. We will be spending more money on Children's Services, where today Ofsted have released a report that says our performance in this department is "inadequate". They accept that the new management team is very good and is implementing the right policies, but it will take some time for the service to be restored to its proper level of quality.

Beyond that we are keenly awaiting news on further government funding for big projects like the second Carrington Bridge, and improving the A38 through Bromsgrove. Some of this money has been promised.

This year should see the start of the new Worcestershire Parkway rail station at the intersection of the London line with that serving Birmingham and the south west. This will bring huge benefits in terms of connectivity and shorter travel times, leading we hope to a 2 hour trip to and from London every hour.

2017 will also bring superfast broadband to new areas. We will continue to press ahead with filling in the gaps so that everyone can have what is becoming to be seen as a necessity.

Meanwhile the Council is backing efforts to get better mobile coverage across the whole county, a campaign strongly supported by Harriett Baldwin our MP. This may mean higher phone masts and more of them but many will benefit from being able to use their mobiles from home and on the move.

2. Eastham Bridge – See above.

3. Tesco's in Tenbury - Tesco's are making rapid progress in the building of their supermarket. The company is anxious to get the store, 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 and the Public Realm work 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. This was delayed before Christmas by paperwork problems in Shropshire Council. While the signs say the work may take 8 weeks, I am confident it will be done much more quickly than that.

As soon as the contract covering the S278 work in Teme Street is signed between WCC and Tesco's, they should be able to start their Public Realm work that will run from the bridge to the Regal cinema.

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.

Clr Ken Pollock

District Cllrs Report

Firstly, I should like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to working with you in 2017.

West Midlands in the Halifax Quality of Life Survey 2016 - We are really pleased to hear that Malvern Hills has been ranked 24th in the quality of life index, out of a possible 50.

Visit <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/services/survey-reveals-best-place-to-live-in-uk> for more information.

Five Year Plan update: On 2 February 2016 it was agreed at Extraordinary Council that we would re-evaluate our Five Year Plan annually. In October 2016 we conducted a comprehensive consultation with over 300 local residents to gauge their views and perceptions on our priorities, particularly for our five year plan review and service planning.

We also consulted Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2016 and held a productive meeting with members and managers to look at the evidence of local needs as well as the consultation results. From this we have developed seven new actions for the plan, which we will be bringing to Council on 24 January for approval.

Four actions have also been completed or replaced with a more specific action and will be removed from the plan, these are: Increase 500 young people's awareness of issues relating to self-harm (delivered).

Launch an annual community recognition scheme to recognise and celebrate volunteers (amended).

Improve the marketing of our district to increase visitor numbers, including online and film resources and delivery of a new Teme Valley trail for drivers and cyclists (delivered).

Protect, enhance and promote our natural and built heritage (amended).

To view the plan visit <http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/five-year-plan>

District Councillor Caroline Paethorpe