



**Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council meeting:
19.00hrs At The Pavilion.
Tuesday 9th August 2022**

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Peter Jinman (in the chair), Sarah Eynon, Sally Probert, and Liz Overstall

Also: PC Jeff Rouse, Mark Hearne (Clerk) and three members of the public.

1. To accept apologies for absence.

Councillors Malcolm Watkins, Will Lloyd, Alex Culpin and Stephen Clayton.

2. To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation.

2.1 - Councillor Probert – Invoice submitted by Jamie Probert.

2.2 - Councillor Overstall – Invoice for reimbursement of fees incurred by handyman.

3. To consider minutes of the previous meetings – 12th July 2022. Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting subject to the following amendments:

3.1 - Councillor Overstall had submitted a tree warden report in support of the previous meeting, but this was not reflected in the minutes.

3.2 - The motor-cross event on the 7th August 2022 impacted on residents living in the parish of Dulas.

On this basis the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

4. Resolutions Log – The Clerk highlighted the following issues:

4.1 - Despite written requests and a subsequent telephone call to the Business Rates department in Herefordshire Council no response has been received in answer to the issue of outstanding business rates. It was suggested that a written log is maintained of contact with Herefordshire Council.

4.2 - Hereford Quarries have advised that it will require more than 3 hours to complete the route provided by the Parish Council. Following discussion, it was agreed to confirm the route noting the increased cost and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk notifies Hereford Quarries accordingly.

5. Matters arising between meetings

5.1 – Councillor Overstall returned to the issue of the motor cross event on the 7th August 2022 adding that Herefordshire Council's Environmental Health Department had provided some sound equipment to record noise levels which reached at least 70 decibels. Some residents are contemplating a formal complaint to Herefordshire Council. Councillor Probert commented that the event does contribute to the local economy with greater numbers of people visiting the parish.



5.2 – Councillor Overstall referenced a recent exchange of emails with the Locality Steward concerning the positioning of the flood measuring device in the Dulas ford adding that signage warning of the ford has been removed. Councillors struggled to understand the rationale offered by the Locality Steward and it was RESOLVED that the Chairman will speak to him about the issue.

6. To receive a brief report form:

6.1 West Mercia Police – PC Rouse reported little recorded crime in the area but raised the following incidents.

- 6.1.1 Reports of a person riding a mini moped without a helmet.
- 6.1.2 Minor criminal damage to toilets and swings in the recreation ground.
- 6.1.3 The Chairman reported that over a period of 3/4 days a large tractor had driven through the village at an excessive speed and at the same time deposited foul-smelling slurry onto the highway.

7. Open Forum for Public Comments – A member of the public asked for an explanation for the Parish Council's change of view over the proposed development south of Trappe Cottage. The Chairman commented that the second application was markedly different from the original iteration, and it was due to changes to the proposed landscaping, siting, footpaths and flood water issues that resulted in the Parish Council offering qualified support to the current proposals adding that Councillors have registered a continuing condition over highway safety.

8. To receive a brief report from:

8.1 Ward Councillor/Parish Council Chairman

8.1.1 The Chairman reported his frustration in his attempts to press the Environmental Agency, Welsh Water and Herefordshire Council to resolve outstanding issues affecting sewage, flooding and storm water. The Chairman has written to the Herefordshire County Engineer and Cabinet member concerned. A letter has also been sent to the Environmental Agency highlighting the fact that work has been ongoing for over 2 years and no plans for resolving these issues have been forthcoming. The Environmental Agency have responded indicating that they have prepared proposals for alleviating the risk of flood water. The Chairman has made a request for a meeting of all stakeholders to progress this issue. The local MP has also been updated on the issue. Councillor Probert asked if the water which is discharged from the sewage treatment plant is tested as there are occasions when a foul odour is evident. It was suggested that the issue should be reported to the Environmental Agency and Herefordshire Council with a copy to the Chairman.

8.2 Footpaths Officer – No further developments to report on the quest to identify a new footpaths officer and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks an update from Councillor Lloyd.



8.3 Tree Warden – Councillor Overstall reported that the recent lack of rainfall is a concern and watering the trees has been the priority over the last few weeks.

9. Kemble Centre – The Chairman reported that the grass has been cut. An update has been sought on the outstanding issues on parking and security over finance, but no response received to date.

10. Planning - To consider comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council as listed below.

10.1 Planning Re-Consultation 221273 – Land south of Trappe Cottage, Ewyas Harold. Proposed development of ten dwellings, garages and associated road and drainage infrastructure, hedgerow and tree planting and wildflower meadow. Councillors confirmed that their previous comments remain extant but agreed that the response to the re-consultation should include a statement asking for an assurance that concerns over traffic, water, sewage will be addressed. Councillors also raised concerns over highway safety and having had more time to consider the current design of the road infrastructure, they formed a view that, before any future development proceeds on this site, a fundamental highway reconstruction is commissioned, Councillors also recommended that the LPA undertakes a site visit at school start and finish times to view first-hand the dangers posed to motorists and pedestrians especially considering the other planned developments close by. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the LPA accordingly. There was a broader discussion on how the Parish Council can do more to demonstrate more effectively that it is wise to the challenges facing the parish and is actively engaged with all relevant stakeholders to facilitate solutions to these problems.

11. Recreation ground/pavilion

11.1 Councillors Watkins and Lloyd were absent from the meeting, but the Chairman reported that plans are now available which have or will be forwarded to Recreation Ground Working Group members. It was agreed that the Chairman would speak to Councillor Watkins about his concerns over the proposed siting of the MUGA.

11.2 Councillor Probert reported that the zip wire has lost tension and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk asks Councillor Watkins to arrange for Kompan to undertake the necessary remedial action.

11.3 In discussion, Councillors decided against installing an additional bin in the children's play area.

11.4 Councillors also agreed that the hedges surrounding the recreation ground will need cutting back in September and it was RESOLVED to invite Ray Pritchard to undertake this work.

11.5 Councillors have received a request to hire the cricket pitch for an hour every Tuesday and Thursday (18.30-19.30) for a fitness bootcamp. Councillors were supportive of the request and agreed an hourly rate of £4.00 (ex VAT) without the use of the pavilion and £8.00 (ex VAT) with the use of the pavilion. It was noted that this might be only a short-term arrangement given the proposed installation of the



MUGA. It was also noted that the applicant would need to be suitably insured and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk responds accordingly.

12. Lengthsman

- 12.1 The Chairman is continuing in his quest to arrange for Dave Roden to undertake the drainage work at Rowlestone.
- 12.2 An application has been received from the husband of Councillor Probert to become the Lengthsman but consideration will need to be deferred until the next meeting when it is hoped the Parish Council will be quorate for this specific issue.
- 12.3 Councillor Probert that she had attempted to log blocked drains on the main A465 and others close to the builder's merchants.

13. Finance

- 13.1 It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments.
 - 13.1.1 Clerk's salary (July 2022) in accordance with his employment contract.
 - 13.1.2 Clerk's travel costs - £18.00
 - 13.1.3 Postage - £8.16
 - 13.1.4 HALC Internal Audit - £264.00
 - 13.1.5 DM Payroll Services - £60.00
 - 13.1.6 Handyman Costs (Tree Guards) - £35.00¹
 - 13.1.7 CT Groundcare - £440.00
 - 13.1.8 Brian and Leslie Chance (Toilet Cleaning) - £476.28
 - 13.1.9 JM Probert - £100.00
- 13.2 Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to accept the renewal documents issued by the insurance company.
- 13.3 Councillors were supportive of a contribution towards the Clerk's storage costs but wanted to understand the storage capacity in the library before any decision is reached.
- 13.4 Monies received: N/K
- 13.5 Grant requests for consideration: None

- 14 **Community Resilience Plan** – It was noted that the plan will need to be re-allocated and this will be considered at a future meeting.
- 15 **Roads** – Councillor Probert reported that it has been a frustrating process in establishing a point of contact to help progress the proposals for improving road safety in the parish. The Chairman agreed to speak to Bruce Evans (County Engineer) in an attempt to break the logjam.
- 16 **Informing parishioners** of the work of the GPC including social media. It was RESOLVED that the following issues are published on social media.

¹ Cllr Overstall to be reimbursed for these costs

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- Reference to the work on plans to deal with flooding, sewage and storm water issues.

17 **To raise matters for the next agenda:** None.

18 **To note the date of the next scheduled meeting:** 13th September 2022 at the Pavilion.

The Chairman moved a resolution to exclude members of the public from the following confidential item.

19 **To consider an application to join the Parish Council** – Following discussion, the Parish Council voted to offer Mr Scott Greenway a seat on the Parish Council and it was **RESOLVED** that formal co-option will take place at the beginning of the September meeting.

Meeting closed at 20.30

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Future parish council meeting dates for 2022:

	Tuesday 13 th September	7pm
	Tuesday 11 th October	7pm
	Tuesday 8 th November	7pm
	Tuesday 13 th December	7pm