



**Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council meeting:
19.00hrs At The Pavilion.
Tuesday 8th November 2022**

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Peter Jinman (in the chair), Sarah Eynon, Sally Probert, Will Lloyd, Alex Culpin, Malcolm Watkins, Liz Overstall and Scott Greenway.

Also: PC Jeff Rouse, PCSO Peter Knight, Mark Hearne (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. **To accept apologies for absence.**
Councillor Stephen Clayton.
2. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation.**
 - 2.1 - Councillor Probert – Invoice submitted by Jamie Probert and Lengthsman issues.
 - 2.2 - Councillor Watkins – Invoices for toilet cleaning and all matters relating to the football club.
3. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting – 10th October 2022.** Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, and these were duly signed by the Chairman.
4. **Resolutions Log –** The following issues were raised.
 - 4.1 – It was noted that Mr Steve Lloyd has begun work on the outstanding tasks on the recreation ground.
 - 4.2 – The Chairman reported that there has no progress on the drainage work required at Rowlestone but will continue to press Balfour Beatty as necessary.
 - 4.3 – The Clerk reported that there has been no progress in identifying a new Footpaths Officer and Councillor Culpin agreed to place an advertisement on social media.
 - 4.4 - No response has been received from Herefordshire Council on the possible outstanding Council Tax liability despite several requests by the Clerk.
 - 4.5 - There was discussion on the Resilience Plan, and it was RESOLVED to review the current version of the plan at a subsequent meeting.
 - 4.6 – The Clerk referenced the outcome of the gap analysis of the Parish Council's policies which was circulated prior to the meeting.
 - 4.7 – The Clerk confirmed receipt of the RoSPA inspection report on the play equipment and agreed to circulate a copy to Councillors.
 - 4.8 – The response from the ACCC regarding the Kemble Centre will be discussed later in the meeting.
5. **Matters arising between meetings –** None were raised.



6. **Open Forum for Public Comments** – The Chairman invited Mr Tony Ling to introduce himself before his application to join the Parish Council is considered later in the meeting.
7. **To receive a brief report form:**
 - 7.1 **Ward Councillor/Parish Council Chairman**
 - 7.1.1 The Chairman reported that the impression given in an article in the Hereford Times was that the road closure on the B4347 from Springetts Lane will be more extensive than is actually the case. It was agreed that the letter from Balfour Beatty announcing the road closure is published on the Parish Council's Facebook page.
 - 7.1.2 A Golden Valley Business Summit is due to take place on the 8th December 2022 in the Memorial Hall. It was agreed to circulate details to Councillors. There was a brief discussion on the process for applying for business grants which broadened to cover the Digital Household grant. It was agreed that details of the Digital Household grant will be published on the Parish Council's Facebook page.
 - 7.1.3 Along with most other local authorities Herefordshire Council is facing extreme budgetary pressures in 2023/24.
 - 7.1.4 It is anticipated that it will take 7-10 years to complete the proposed Eastern Bridge unless supplementary sources of income are identified.
 - 7.2 **West Mercia Police** – PCSO Knight advised that there is little reported crime in Ewyas Harold but in the Golden Valley more generally there has been a spike in rural thefts and urged members of the public to report any suspicious behaviour to the police. PCSO Knight added that property marking which is free of charge is still available. Speed enforcement has been undertaken in the village on numerous occasions in recent weeks but no offences have been recorded. PC Rouse mentioned the Community Speed Watch initiative might be something for the Parish Council to consider. It is hoped to appoint a new PCSO in December 2022 (vice Fiona Witcher), but PCSO Knight advised that he will be leaving shortly to take up a secondment opportunity with the Rural Crime Team, but his duties will be covered during his absence.
 - 7.3 **Footpaths Officer** – Councillor Probert suggested that the proposed advert for a Footpaths Officer on social media should be clear on what the role involves including the scope for a job share arrangement. Councillor Watkins suggested that the Lengthsman could bridge some of the gap until a new Footpaths Officer is appointed. Councillor Lloyd highlighted a problem on a PROW leading from the school and agreed to forward the details to the Clerk. Councillor Overstall referred to the continuing issue with depth markers at Dulas Brook and agreed to forward a photograph to the Chairman.
 - 7.4 **Tree Warden** – Councillor Overstall confirmed that she still has trees available and would like to plant them as soon as practicable at the Kemble Centre and also supported the suggestion to plant some on the recreation ground. The Chairman mentioned the Jubilee tree which is due to be planted on the Common.



8. **Kemble Centre** – The Chairman referred to the recent response from a new ACCC trustee which offered some positivity and a commitment to work collaboratively with the Parish Council to resolve the outstanding issues (additional car parking & funding) which, for Councillors, are immutable. Despite the recent correspondence, Councillors expressed some frustration over the delays in progressing the issues. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk writes to the ACCC asking for details of the change of trustees and, in so doing, welcome their change of position on additional car parking. Further, the note must make the point that the Parish Council is willing to work with the ACCC to consider options for securing the requisite funding, but all future negotiations must be completed by end of February 2023.
9. **Planning** - To consider comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council.
 - 9.1 - Planning Consultation 214118 – Woodview Cottage, Ewyas Harold. Following discussion, Councillors agreed that their previous representations remain extant and will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate and, as such, there was no requirement to submit any further comments.
10. **Recreation ground/pavilion**
 - 10.1 The Chairman confirmed that the agreed plan for the MUGA have been circulated to Recreation Ground Working Group members, but it was agreed to provide this information to all Councillors who will have a week to offer views on what is being proposed. The next step in the process is a public consultation which will provide an opportunity to show the proposed location for the MUGA supported by a fact sheet.
 - 10.2 Councillor Watkins advised that Mr Steve Lloyd has begun work on the outstanding tasks on the recreation ground.
 - 10.3 Nick Cooper-Tompkins has been asked to cut the hedges behind the pavilion and at the play area.
 - 10.4 A bench has been installed by the Lengthsman by the zip wire, but it was suggested that he is invited to quote for laying some gravel at the site to combat the muddy conditions.
 - 10.5 The recreation ground is being affected by moles and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact JP Mole Control to undertake the necessary remedial work.
 - 10.6 Councillor Watkins commented that, given the length of time it is taking to tackle the jobs on the recreation ground, it may be prudent to build a pool of suitable contractors who can be approached for such tasks and any suitable nominations should be forwarded to the clerk
 - 10.7 Councillors agreed that it was no longer necessary for the toilets to be locked and unlocked daily and it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk notifies Mr Brian Chance.
 - 10.8 Councillors discussed the proposed extension of the car park and the installation of a new toilet block but agreed that the priority remains the installation of the MUGA after which attention can turn to these other projects. It was noted that Herefordshire Community Foundation have allowed the Parish Council to use the £10k grant to offset some of the costs already incurred on the zip wire which frees



up the same amount to be spent on other projects. Councillor Eynon suggested that some of the money might need to be spent on work on the play equipment following the recent RoSPA inspection.

11. Lengthsman

- 11.1 The recently appointed Lengthsman has already undertaken work in the parish, but initial feedback suggests that his contractual hours (2 days per month) may not be sufficient. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk invites the Lengthsman to comment on the possibility of additional days being made available during the remainder of 2022/23 noting that the budget for next year has already made provision for extra hours. As a general point, it was also recognised that the Clerk remains the conduit through which the Lengthsman is tasked.
- 11.2 A blocked drain adjacent to the doctors surgery needs some attention and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue via the Herefordshire Council website.
- 11.3 Councillor Lloyd reported detritus on the pavement on Dark Lane which is a safety hazard to pedestrians, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue to Herefordshire Council.
- 11.4 Councillor Overstall raised the issue of the bike racks explaining that they must be installed before the 30th November 2022 if the Parish Council is to receive grant funding for the cost of the equipment from Herefordshire Council. Councillor Overstall agreed to seek an extension to the grant process. It was noted that the Lengthsman has already incurred costs in preparation for delivery of the bike racks.

12. Finance

- 12.1 The current bank balance is £120,296.37
- 12.2 It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments.
 - 12.2.1 Clerk's salary (Oct 2022) in accordance with his employment contract.
 - 12.2.2 Clerk's travel costs - £27.00
 - 12.2.3 I-Bridge - £7.50 (ex VAT)
 - 12.2.4 CT Groundcare - £410.00
 - 12.2.5 Brian and Leslie Chance (Toilet Cleaning) - £465.00
 - 12.2.6 J M Probert (Bin Emptying) - £100.00
 - 12.2.7 J M Probert (Preparation and Installation of Bench) - £120.00
 - 12.2.8 J M Probert – Lengthsman (including materials) - £477.00
 - 12.2.9 HALC Training - £200.00 (ex VAT)
 - 12.2.10 HFAS Service Charge - £105.00 (ex VAT)
- 12.3 It was RESOLVED that the Clerk proceeds with the purchase of two bike racks which were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 12.4 Councillors approved remedial work recommended by HFAS at a cost of £50 and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk makes the necessary arrangements.
- 12.5 Councillors discussed the draft budget and precept 2023/24 agreed by the Finance Committee. The Chairman explained that, given the high level of reserves, it is proposed to leave the precept unchanged at £46,200 which was agreed by the Parish Council, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk informs Herefordshire Council accordingly. In terms of the budget for 2023/24 the Clerk highlighted his salary will



increase following the recent LGA pay award. Increased provision for the Lengthsman, utilities and insurance has been included in the budget which has been partially offset by the reductions in the cost of cleaning the toilets. Councillors agreed to remove the budget earmarked for the Kemble Centre (£10k) as there was sufficient provision already included in the reserves. On this basis, Councillors agreed to approve the budget as discussed.

- 12.6 Financial Monitoring and Bank Reconciliation 2022/23 – The Clerk explained that based on the spend to date plus an estimate of future expenditure/receipts it is expected that the reserves at year end will be in the region of £108k.

12.7 Monies received: £1,069.55

12.8 Grant requests for consideration: None.

13 Roads

13.1 Councillor Overstall reported damage to the noticeboard in the centre of the village. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk asks the Lengthsman for a quote to undertake the necessary repairs.

13.2 Councillor Lloyd reported that a response has finally been received from Herefordshire Council who has referred the Parish Council to the Commissioning Model which sets out the options and costs for road improvement measures. Before any work can commence the Parish Council would need to pay a fee of £1k which would be used to fully scope the works and the suitability of the proposed site before providing a possible design. It was RESOLVED that Councillor Lloyd provides background details to the Clerk who, in turn, will seek clarification from Balfour Beatty on how long the results of the scoping survey would remain valid. It was further RESOLVED that, if the Parish Council receives a favourable response from Balfour Beatty, the Clerk proceeds with commissioning the survey before the next meeting.

13.3 Councillors agreed that the Parish Council proceeds with joining the Community Speed Watch scheme and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk liaises with the local police to make that happen.

13.4 Councillor Overstall reported that the warning posts along the Dulas Road have fallen over. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk asks the Lengthsman to undertake the necessary repair work.

13.5 It was noted that “Road Closed” signs and cones are no longer at the rear of the Kemble Centre but would need to check if a set is still available from Collins Design Build. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts Balfour Beatty to ask them to return the “missing” sign.

14 **Clerk Correspondence** – No correspondence has been received for consideration.

15 **Informing parishioners** of the work of the GPC including social media. It was suggested that the following should be publicised:

- Advertisement for a Footpaths Officer
- Risk from rogue traders.
- Road closures

Wynas Harold Group Parish Council



- Digital Household Grant.
- Community Speed Watch
- A word of thanks to the vaccination clinic
- A link to Neighbourhood Matters
- The absence of Parish Council held sandbags.

16 To raise matters for the next agenda:

17 To note the date of the next scheduled meeting: 13th December 2022 at the Pavilion.

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

18 To consider the co-option of a prospective new Parish Councillor – Following discussion, Councillors unanimously approved the co-option of Mr Anthony Ling.

Meeting closed at 21.28

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Future parish council meeting dates for 2022:

	Tuesday 13 th December	7pm
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