



**Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council meeting:
19.00hrs At The Pavilion.
Tuesday 11th April 2023**

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Malcolm Watkins (in the chair), Liz Overstall, Sarah Eynon, Sally Probert, Alex Culpin and Anthony Ling.

Also: Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk) and Katrina Kalkwarf.

1. **To appoint a Chairman for the meeting** – Councillor Watkins was proposed by Councillor Eynon and seconded by Councillor Probert and was duly appointed as Chairman for the meeting.
2. **To accept apologies for absence.**
Councillors Peter Jinman, Will Lloyd, Steve Clayton and Scott Greenway. It was RESOLVED to grant Councillor Jinman a leave of absence due to his current ill health.
3. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation.**
 - 3.1 - Councillor Probert – Invoice submitted by Jamie Probert and Lengthsman issues plus a grant application from the Scarecrow Committee.
 - 3.2 - Councillor Watkins – All matters relating to the football club and the invoice for toilet cleaning.
 - 3.3 Councillor Culpin – The drainage work at Rowlestone.
4. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting** – 14th March 2023. Councillors agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting, and these were duly signed by the Chairman.
5. **Resolution Log** – The following issues were discussed.
 - 5.1 Work continues in identifying a contractor for the outstanding work on the recreation ground.
 - 5.2 No progress has been made in acquiring the Resilience Plan and the Clerk agreed to search through the legacy papers.
 - 5.3 The Clerk reported that he has spoken to the Ewyas Harold Parochial Church Council who seem receptive to hosting a bicycle rack in the Church Hall carpark but would confirm in due course.
 - 5.4 The Locality Steward offer of a meeting for Thursday 13th April 2023 is not convenient for the Lengthsman as it is too short notice.
 - 5.5 It was noted that some background information has been found regarding the history board and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk progresses this issue.
6. **Matters arising between meetings** – None were raised.



7. **Open Forum for Public Comments** – The Footpath Officer expressed frustration over the lack of engagement with the PROW team at Herefordshire Council. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk picks up this issue direct with Herefordshire Council. The Footpath Officer also provided a brief summary of work undertaken to date. It was also noted that as part of Earth Day on 22nd April 2023 it is intended to clear Rabbit Lane and also seek feedback on the footpaths from local residents. Councillors commented that Rabbit Lane is a BOAT and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk makes the Locality Steward aware that this event is taking place. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk makes some enquiries about the availability of way markers.
8. **To receive a brief report form:**
 - 8.1 **Ward Councillor/Parish Council Chairman** - The Chairman was absent from the meeting.
 - 8.2 **West Mercia Police** – West Mercia Police were not represented at the meeting.
 - 8.3 **Footpaths Officer** – No further issues were raised.
 - 8.4 **Tree Warden** – Councillor Overstall had nothing to report although it was noted that a jubilee tree has now been planted on the Common.
9. **Kemble Centre**
 - 9.1 The Clerk reported that correspondence from the Chair of Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall advising that they are negotiating with the ACCC with a view to them taking up a lease on the building. Despite this development Councillors were concerned that no further contact has been received from the ACCC and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks an update on their current plans.
10. **Memorial Hall** – In response to a request from the Chairman of Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall it was RESOLVED that the acting Chairman signs the deed of surrender to facilitate the break clause in the lease with the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadets association.
11. **Planning** - To consider comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council.
 - 11.1 Planning Consultation 230669 – Ewyas Harold Shop and Post Office. Proposed single storey front extension of the shop. Following discussion, Councillors voted to support the proposals set out in the application and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk notifies the LPA accordingly.
 - 11.2 Planning Consultation 230792 – Site at Long Meadow Industrial Estate, Ewyas Harold. Proposed erection of a light industrial unit (packaging and distribution of meat products) and reconfiguration of existing car parking facilities. Councillors were supportive of the proposals with the proviso that work is undertaken to reduce the noise emanating from the fans. Councillors were in support of comments registered on the LPA portal over the need for sensitive lighting. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk notifies the LPA accordingly.
 - 11.3 The Chairman referenced correspondence which expressed concern over the decision to uphold the appeal against the refusal of planning permission in respect of



Planning Consultation 214118. Councillors shared this disappointment but noted that there is no meaningful action which can be taken by the Parish Council and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk responds to the correspondent accordingly.

12. Recreation ground/pavilion

- 12.1 The Chairman referred to the quotation for work on the toilet block which will need to be supplemented by two further quotes. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk establishes whether there are any earmarked reserves for the proposed refurbishment.
- 12.2 The Chairman reported that the planning documentation for the MUGA is nearing completion. Councillors acknowledged that the plans would need to be signed off by the Parish Council whether that is at the next scheduled meeting or an extraordinary meeting.

13. Lengthsman

- 13.1 The Clerk confirmed receipt of the latest work schedule from the Lengthsman which he agreed to circulate after the meeting.
- 13.2 Councillors reviewed the recent drainage work at Rowlestone and noted that the drain is now working effectively. It was also noted that other work is needed at the location such as clearing grips and it was suggested that this may be a matter for the Lengthsman.
- 13.3 Councillor Probert reported a build-up of material on a pavement on the Pontrilas Road (A465) which is an obstacle to pedestrians. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks the approval of the Locality Steward for the Lengthsman to clear away the material. Councillors raised an issue concerning white lines on the A465 which have been covered by mud on the road.

14. Finance

- 14.1 The current bank balance is £104,551.74.
- 14.2 It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments.
- 14.2.1 Clerk's salary (March 2023) in accordance with his employment contract.
 - 14.2.2 Clerk's travel costs - £18.00
 - 14.2.3 Stationery - £15.52 (ex VAT)
 - 14.2.4 Postage - £8.20
 - 14.2.5 Recreation Ground signs – £16.60 (ex VAT)
 - 14.2.6 PAYE (March 2023) - £148.20
 - 14.2.7 J M Probert – Lengthsman - £400.00
 - 14.2.8 J M Probert – Bin Emptying - £100.00
 - 14.2.9 Brian Chance (Toilet Cleaning) - £210.00
 - 14.2.10 J P Contractors - £2,900 (ex VAT)¹
- 14.3 Councillors discussed the “outstanding” business rates noting that Herefordshire Council have no record of previous documentation resulting in a request for the Parish Council to resubmit an application for rate relief for 18 Horse

¹ Relates to work to be funded from the drainage grant provided by Herefordshire Council



Croft. There was a suggestion that some of the “missing” documentation may be stored in a locked cupboard in the library but currently there are no means of accessing the documentation. It was RESOLVED that action is taken to facilitate access either via the Lengthsman or a locksmith.

14.4 Financial Monitoring and Bank Reconciliation – The Clerk reported that at year end (2022/23) the Parish Council has £104,551.74 held in reserves.

14.5 Monies received: £118.46.

14.6 Grant requests for consideration – An application for a grant to support the Coronation Scarecrow Trail has been received. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to make a donation of £500. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk asks that the publicity for the event makes reference to the donation from the Parish Council.

15 **Roads** – Following discussion it was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes to the Highways Department at Herefordshire to raise concerns about the state of the A465.

16 **King’s Coronation** – The Clerk confirmed that arrangements are in place for the Wild Play event during the afternoon of the 6th May 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks publicity material from Wild Play to be circulated to the school and other groups in the village. The Clerk also referenced the draft risk assessment which has been requested by Wild Play and invited comments by close of play 14th April 2023.

17 **Clerk Correspondence** – The following pieces of correspondence was received for consideration.

17.1 A resident has asked the Parish Council to take action against the decision of the Secretary of State to uphold the appeal against the refusal of planning permission on Planning Consultation 214118. This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

17.2 A resident has raised two issues:

- Difficulty in accessing their property due to parked vehicles on the opposite side of the road. Councillors commented that this matter is beyond the jurisdiction of the Parish Council.
- Failure to seek permission for installing a gate at Oak Meadow. No action has been taken by the Parish Council to install the gate and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk replies accordingly in response to both issues raised.

18 **Informing parishioners** of the work of the GPC including social media. Councillor Culpin reported that a post has been published encouraging residents to raise concerns over environmental issues to their local MP. It was agreed to publish a post on:

- Details of the Wild Play event.
- Reporting process for footpath issues.
- Annual Parish Meeting on the 9th May 2023

Wynas Harold Group Parish Council



- 19 **To raise matters for the next agenda:** Correspondence from People and Planet Group.
- 20 **To note the date of the next scheduled meeting:** 9th May 2023 at the Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 20.35hrs

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Future parish council meeting dates for 2023:

9 th May 2023		
13 th June 2023		
11 th July 2023		
8 th August 2023		
12 th September 2023		
10 th October 2023		
14 th November 2023		
12 th December 2023		