



**Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council meeting:
19.00hrs At The Pavilion.
Tuesday 14th March 2023**

Minutes

Present: Councillors: Malcolm Watkins (in the chair), Liz Overstall, Sarah Eynon, Sally Probert, Will Lloyd, Anthony Ling and Stephen Clayton.

Also: Mark Hearne (Parish Clerk)

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. The Chairman extended his best wishes to Peter Jinman in his continued recovery from ill health.
2. **To accept apologies for absence.**
Councillors Peter Jinman, Alex Culpin and Scott Greenway
3. **To receive declarations of interest & written requests for dispensation.**
 - 3.1 - Councillor Probert – Invoice submitted by Jamie Probert and Lengthsman issues.
 - 3.2 - Councillor Watkins – All matters relating to the football club and the invoice for toilet cleaning.
4. **To consider minutes of the previous meeting** – 14th February 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 The Clerk reported that work is expected to start on the drainage work at Rowlestone during week beginning the 20th March 2023.
 - 5.2 Councillors noted that the current contractor had not undertaken any work since the previous meeting so it was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes thanking him for his previous service but it is important that the outstanding work is completed as soon as practicable and so the Parish Council will now look for an alternative contractor. The current contractor will be invited to submit any outstanding invoices.
 - 5.3 Councillor Probert is awaiting a response from ex Councillor Price on the Resilience Plan.
 - 5.4 The Clerk reported that the Footpaths Officer is due to attend a meeting organised by the PROW team at Herefordshire Council.
 - 5.5 The Clerk updated the meeting with regards the bike racks and reported that details of an alternative site will be forwarded to Herefordshire Council.
 - 5.6 Councillors expressed disappointment over the response from Balfour Beatty regarding the priority given to salting icy roads. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk conveys the views of the Parish Council in a further note to Balfour Beatty.



- 5.7 No progress in arranging a meeting between the Locality Steward and the Lengthsman. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk again writes to the Locality Steward and escalate the matter if required.
6. **Matters arising between meetings** – Councillor Watkins reported an issue concerning the collection of waste by Herefordshire Council while Prill Bridge is closed. Following discussion with Herefordshire Council suitable arrangements are in place until the road re-opens.
7. **Open Forum for Public Comments** – No members of the public were present.
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. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the local police regarding the circulation list for the newsletter.
- 8.3 **Footpaths Officer** – The Footpath Officer was not present, and no report has been submitted. Councillor Lloyd reported that he has spoken to Mr Peter Hughes who confirmed that he is content for the gates to be installed on his land (EH4), but no such authority has been forwarded to the Clerk. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk seeks a written assurance before the gates are purchased. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk again seeks remedial action on the dangerous PROW which was discussed at the December 2022 meeting. Councillors noted that there are other stiles which need attention.
- 8.4 **Tree Warden** – Councillor Overstall reported that she has planted a Cornus Mas tree at the Kemble Centre.
9. **Kemble Centre**
- 9.1 Councillor Probert referred to the meeting with the ACCC which took place on the 18th January 2023 during which the ACCC has indicated some flexibility in the provision of car parking at the Kemble Centre. At the meeting Councillors supported the ACCC's suggested three-phase approach to the works at the Kemble Centre and would explore the possibility of identifying a guarantor for each stage of the project. The Clerk received a response from the ACCC just prior to the meeting which did not suggest any progress has been achieved with regards to identifying a guarantor. Councillors were disappointed with the ACCC's comments, and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk writes seeking an update in time for the meeting in April 2023.
- 9.2 Councillor Watkins reported that action has been taken to eradicate the moles at the Kemble Centre.
10. **Planning** - To consider comments on applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council. No planning applications were submitted for consideration for this meeting.
11. **Recreation ground/pavilion**



- 11.1 Councillor Watkins reported that moles have been eradicated from the recreation ground.
- 11.2 Signage has been installed on the pavilion (do not kick balls against the pavilion) and on the recreation ground (dog fouling) but it was RESOLVED that a further supply of the latter signs should be ordered by the Clerk.
- 11.3 Councillor Lloyd reported that a draft letter updating the benefactor has been forwarded to Councillor Jinman for comment; a response is awaited. It was RESOLVED that the letter should be issued to the benefactor in sufficient time to allow a response in time for the April 2023 meeting.
- 11.4 Councillors considered the two tenders for grass cutting in the recreation ground for 2023/24 and a single tender for emptying the bins at the same location in 2023/24. Following discussion, Councillors decided to award the grass cutting contract to CT Groundcare. It was further RESOLVED to award the bin emptying contract to CT Groundcare for 2023/24 provided it adheres to the terms of the tender. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the contractors accordingly.
- 11.5 The Chairman reported that a contractor has been approached for a quotation for work on the new toilet block at the recreation ground but ideally would like to identify two other contractors.

12. Lengthsman

- 12.1 Councillors reviewed the report submitted by the Lengthsman and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk forwards a copy of the schedule to the Locality Steward highlighting those projects which need the attention of Balfour Beatty especially where safety issues apply such as the markers on the Dulas Road.
- 12.2 The Clerk reported that it is anticipated that the drainage work at Rowlestone is due to commence during the week beginning 20th March 2023. **(Post meeting note – the contractor advised that the work will not begin until the week beginning the 27th March 2023.**
- 12.3 Councillors noted that a meeting between the Locality Steward and the Lengthsman has not yet taken place. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk again contacts the Locality Steward to make the necessary arrangements.
- 12.4 The Clerk explained that Herefordshire Council have made an additional £2,500 available for Lengthsman activities provided an application is submitted by no later than the 31st March 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk invites the Lengthsman to draw up a list of projects.

13. Finance

- 13.1 The current bank balance is £108,893.22.
- 13.2 It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments.
 - 13.2.1 Clerk's salary (Feb 2023) in accordance with his employment contract.
 - 13.2.2 Clerk's travel costs - £27.00
 - 13.2.3 Postage - £5.44
 - 13.2.4 Recreation Ground signs – £69.31 (ex VAT)
 - 13.2.5 PAYE (February 2023) - £148.20
 - 13.2.6 Matthew King (Toilet Conversion Drawings) - £260.00



- 13.2.7 CT Groundcare - £90.00
- 13.2.8 JP Mole Control - £340.00
- 13.2.9 JM Probert- Lengthsman – £840.75
- 13.2.10 J M Probert – Bin Emptying- £100.00
- 13.2.11 Brian Chance (Toilet Cleaning) - £186.99
- 13.3 Request for a donation from Food for Families – It was RESOLVED to donate £500 to Food for Families. It was further RESOLVED that the Clerk offers further assistance in replying to Food for Families.
- 13.4 Financial Monitoring and Bank Reconciliation – The Clerk reported that based on the projected spend until the end of the 2022/23 it is expected that the reserves will be circa £103k.
- 13.5 Monies received: £630.06.
- 13.6 Grant requests for consideration: None
- 14. **Roads** - Councillor Lloyd reported that, despite communication to Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty, no progress has been achieved since the last meeting. It was suggested that Councillor Lloyd makes one final attempt after which the Clerk will escalate the issue.
- 15. **King's Coronation** – Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should support the King's Coronation and suggested that Wildplay may be an activity worth pursuing and Councillor Overstall agreed to make some enquiries. It was RESOLVED to include this on the agenda for the April 2023 meeting.
- 16. **Clerk Correspondence** – The following four pieces of correspondence was received for consideration.
 - 16.1 A resident has asked if the Parish Council is prepared to assume responsibility for the illustrated history board from above Mailes to the castle which is showing signs of serious deterioration. Councillor Probert agreed to visit the site to assess the situation and report back.
 - 16.2 A resident reported denuded "Give Way" sign and other road markings at the junction by Rowlestone Church. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk reports the issue via the Herefordshire Council website.
 - 16.3 The Ewyas Harold & District for People and Planet Group has asked if the Parish Council can shed any light on the work planned by Welsh Water in the village. Councillors were concerned over the performance of Welsh Water in the parish and it was suggested that local people should be encouraged to write to the local MP to register their concerns by including photographic evidence. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk invites Councillor Culpin to publish an appropriate note on social media. Councillors agreed that the response to the correspondent should make the point that the Parish Council is unaware of the intentions of Welsh Water but a collaborative approach may pay dividends with the first action to invite the water company to address a public meeting.

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16.4 In response to a request from the Ewyas Harold & District for People and Planet Group the Parish Council agreed to promote a repair café once it is established.

17. **Informing parishioners** of the work of the GPC including social media. Nothing further was raised.

18. **To raise matters for the next agenda:** No issues were raised.

19. **To note the date of the next scheduled meeting:** 11th April 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		