Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Ewyas Harold on Tuesday 8th April 2025 at 7pm

Minutes

Present: Councillors Malcolm Watkins (Chair), Sally Probert, Sarah Eynon, Alex Culpin, Debbie Sissons and Will Lloyd.

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk to the Council

Members of the public: 2

1. **To receive apologies for absence**
   Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllrs: Liz Overstall; Lucy Sevenoaks; Stephen Clayton and Tony Ling

2. **To receive any declarations of interest and written applications for dispensation**
   The following Declarations were made:
   Cllr Sally Probert DECLARED a DPI against items 6.1, 9, 12.2.6 and 12.4.1 and a NPI against item 8.3
   Cllr Malcolm Watkins DECLARED a NPI against item 12.2.5 and any item involving the football club.
   Cllr Sarah Eynon DECLARED a NPI against item 6.1.

3. **To consider minutes of meeting held on the 11th March 2025 including the confidential minutes**
   Both sets of minutes were considered, APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

Ward Cllr Matthew Engel joined the meeting

4. **To receive the views of residents on parish matters**
   The following items were RAISED:
   - What will the telephone box be used as? *A well-being hub run by the She-wolves.*
   - Is there lighting in the telephone box? *Not at present.*
   - The Parish Council should put updates of work they are doing in the local news. – *NOTED*
   - The bus shelter could be moved next to the Kemble Centre to ease issues with elderly and disabled using the service - *NOTED*

5. **Reports**
   - **5.1. Ward Councillors report**
     The Ward Cllrs report included the following items:
     - The GemFest Licence application has been withdrawn
     Would the Cllrs like a public meeting regarding flooding with Cllr Nick Mason? It was AGREED that in the first instance it would serve the purpose better to have a meeting with just Cllrs. It was NOTED that there are several good programmes regarding flooding being put in place at present by Herefordshire Council.
   - **5.2. PCSO**
     Not present
   - **5.3. Footpaths officer**
     Not present although it was NOTED that she has recently booked on some PFO training being offered by Herefordshire Council.
   - 5.4. **Tree Warden**
     Not present

Cllr Sally Probert left the meeting

6. **To consider the following planning application for determination by Herefordshire Council**
   6.1 250544 - Down House, Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire, HR2 0EY
   Erection of a new, self/custom build, dormer bungalow.
   It was RESOLVED to support the application as it is an infill site, and the height and design are in keeping with the surrounding area. It was requested that the developer is mindful of residents at the build stage as access to the site will be difficult. It was queried if it would be possible to limit the working hours to assist with this.

Cllr Sally Probert re-joined the meeting along with one parishioner

7. **Kemble Centre:**
   7.1. To consider an update from the Kemble Centre working group and next steps
   It was REPORTED that an advert asking for EoI in the use of the Centre had gone out on social media on Abergavenny Voice and it had been requested that it went out on Your Herefordshire.

   It was NOTED that a quote to draw up a feasibility study to redevelop the site has been received. The cost would be £1250. It was RESOLVED to proceed with this quote as it was the only one received and this study is needed in order to be able to put out a full consultation package to parishioners.

   It was AGREED that a questionnaire should be drawn up in preparation for the consultation as it was hoped this could progress in June. The Clerk will respond to the one applicant who has expressed an interest in using the building to update them of the situation.

Ward Cllr Matthew Engel left the meeting

8. **Recreation Ground/Pavilion**
   8.1. To consider general maintenance works to the Pavilion and next steps
   It was REPORTED that maintenance is on-going. The gate closers have been repaired; The playground cleaned and the grass-mowing contractor started. It was AGREED that the area is looking good.
   8.2. To consider an update on the MUGA (Multi-use Games Area) and next steps
   It was NOTED that an email had been received and that revised quotes and a start date were being drawn up.
   8.3. To consider installing a sign acknowledging investment in gym equipment by Parish Council and She Wolves
   It was RESOLVED to defer this item until the next meeting.
   8.4. To consider booking the annual play inspection at a cost of £62.50
   It was RESOLVED to book the play inspection and request it take place in September/October

9. **Lengthsman**
   9.1. To consider the lengthsman's report and agree any work to be carried out by the lengthsman
   It was NOTED that the Lengthsman has undertaken a lot of work over the past month – including installing finger-posts; repairing stiles; mending bins as well as cleaning the play area. It was AGREED that the Lengthsman should put a note on the bin by Trappe House requesting that it is not damaged.
   9.2. To note any tasks given to the Lengthsman by the clerk between meetings
   None
   9.3. To confirm that an additional £16,534 has been allocated for the Drainage Grant 2024-25 as per the works sheet and instruct the Lengthsman to undertake the works.
   It was RESOLVED to instruct the lengthsman to complete the works by the beginning of June.

Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

10. Footpaths: to consider an update on footpaths and the PRoW grant and next steps

It was REPORTED that four new stiles had been installed along with a finger post. The gate has also been ordered from Pontrilas Timber as the clerk has confirmation that this cost can be reclaimed under the Lengthsman scheme.

A further 2 stile kits and three self-closing gates, along with the final fingerpost, will be ordered tomorrow.

11. Highways:

11.1 To consider an update from the Highways working group and next steps

It was NOTED that a response from Ed Bradford – Head of Highways had been received. The main road through the village is due to be cleansed and all drains jetted. It was NOTED that Traffic Management have contacted the clerk and would like to meet to discuss highway safety measures wanted. Cllr Lloyd will email the clerk suitable dates.

It was REPORTED that a pilot scheme to provide communities at known risk of flooding with flood resilience equipment has been set up. It was RESOLVED to submit an Expression of Interest in joining this pilot. Cllr Watkins will provide the clerk with details of equipment needed.

12. Finance

12.1. To consider the current bank balances

Bank balances as at 31st March 2025 were NOTED as – Current Account: £9705.61
Savings Account: £71,397.27

It was further NOTED that the 2024-25 accounts and AGAR papers are with the Internal Auditor.

12.2. To approve payments to be made:

12.2.1. Clerks March and April Salary
12.2.2. Clerks March Expenses £82.97 – previously circulated
12.2.3. HMRC PAYE – March £150.20 and £306.08 - April
12.2.4. Nest – Clerk Pension - March £22.56 and April £73.68
12.2.5. B E Chance – Cleaning toilets and supplies February and March 2025 – Feb £180.00 – March £195
12.2.6. J M Probert – Bin-emptying March 2025; Lengthsman gully clearing; Footpath post installation and stile repairs; Wash bus shelter and play area; Gate post at Rec Ground; concrete Memorial Bin £2111.00

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

12.3. To note payments made between meetings:

12.3.1. Unity Trust Bank – February and March service charge – £6 per month
12.3.2. Clerk – Laptop as agreed 14th November 2023 £660.89
12.3.3. Herefordshire Sandblasting – Telephone box final payment £1659.18
12.3.4. ICO direct debit - £47.00
12.3.5. Herefordshire Council – Waste Collection - £197.60

The above payments were NOTED

12.4. To consider any grant requests or be advised on any upcoming grant requests

12.4.1 School PTA – Minibus

IT was RESOLVED to defer this item until the information requested has been received.

13. Policies

13.1 To consider adopting the Reserves Policy – Appendix 1

It was RESOLVED to adopt the reserves policy. Moving forwards this will be updated when the budget and precept are considered as well as at the May meeting.

Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

14. To consider an update on the website, email and social media

The following items were NOTED for putting out on social media:

- Works undertaken by the Lengthsman – to include the play area being cleaned; stiles mended
- £16,000 of drainage grant money being awarded
- Gym equipment is in place and ready for use.
- The Parish Council is lobbying for highway safety and flooding resilience improvements.

It was AGREED that Cllr Alex Culpin would also put information into the local newsletter – "Good News".

15. Correspondence: To consider correspondence received between meetings

- Confirmation of change of clerk details from ICO - NOTED
- Notification of Girls Football Roadshow organised by Ewyas Harold Football Club – date TBC - NOTED
- NALC – Notification of S137 figure for 2025-26 as £11.10 per parishioner - NOTED
- Response from HC Planning Enforcement regarding works at PATA - NOTED
- Parish Council Summit agenda – Herefordshire Council - NOTED
- Update on the NPPF, Local Plan and NDP – Herefordshire Council – NOTED
- Works to Dulas footbridge due to take place this summer – NOTED
- Response to the length of time taken to fix potholes and highway surfacing from Head of Highways – HC – NOTED – the clerk will respond with specific examples.

16. To consider granting Cllr Liz Overstall an extended period of absence from Council meetings until September 2025.

It was RESOLVED to grant Cllr Overstall an extended period of absence until September 2025.

17. To consider items for the next meeting (no discussion)

None

One parishioner left the meeting

18. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting: Friday 2nd May 2025, Ewyas Harold Pavilion – to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meetings starting at 6pm

NOTED

Two parishioners left the meeting

A resolution was passed to exclude the press and public from the following confidential item

19. Clerk Employment

19.1 To sign the clerk's Contract of Employment

The clerk's Contract of Employment was signed – see Confidential Minute

19.2 To sign the direct debit mandate for the Clerk's Pension

The NEST Pension Direct Debit mandate was signed.

The meeting closed at 20.18

Signed: [redacted] Dated: 2-5-25