Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council
Held at the Pavilion, Ewyas Harold on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Malcolm Watkins (Chair), Sally Probert, Tony Ling, Sarah Eynon, Liz Overstall Lucy Sevenoaks and Will Lloyd.

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk to the Council
PCSO Margaret Andrzejewska – Golden Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team
Rev. Luci Morriss – Black Mountain Benefice

Members of the public: 5

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
Apologies were RECEIVED and accepted from Cllr Debbie Sissons – unwell.

2. **To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any Requests for Dispensations**
Cllr Sally Probert DECLARED DPI's against items 8, 10.2.5 and 10.2.6 and SIGNED the Register of Interest book
Cllr Malcolm Watkins DECLARED NPI's against items 10.2.4 and all matters relating to the football club and SIGNED the Register of Interest book.

3. **To consider approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9th December 2025**
The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

4. **Open Session**
   - **4.1 To receive the views of residents on parish matters**
   The following issues were RAISED:
   - Thanks to the installer of the new car park barrier – it looks good.
   - How can the MUGA be booked? - *It can't at present – the Clerk will give all details via FaceBook when available.*
   - What is the Council doing with regards actions following the recent floods? *To be covered in item 6.1*
   - Rev. Luci Morriss introduced herself – and requested that any discussions on rural isolation and loneliness include herself as she is working on this aspect of life in the area.

Ward Cllr Matthew Engel joined the meeting

   - **4.2 To receive any reports related to parish matters**
   The following reports were RECEIVED:
   Police:
   - There has been a spate of recent shed burglaries in the area.
   - A recent warrant for an arrest due to drugs related offences was successful.
   Ward Cllr Matthew Engel:
   - The preferred contractor for the new Public Realm Services contract will likely be M. Highways Ltd. It was REQUESTED that Cllr Engel feedback to Full Council that processes need to change to make a difference to the management of these services – under BBLP they have been poor.

5. **Kemble Centre**
   - **5.1 To consider an update from the Kemble Centre Working Group and next steps**
   It was REPORTED that the clerk has requested further quotes for demolishing the building and installing a car park on the site. These have been received. It was NOTED that the cost of demolition is dependent on whether there is asbestos in the building. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should seek quotes for this and request the survey is completed as soon as possible. Once these costs are known the Working Group will meet to discuss next steps.

6. Flooding

6.1To consider an update from the Flood Working Group and next steps.

It was REPORTED that the clerk has been seeking and collating old flood investigation documents for the Working Group to use. She has also been chasing the Environment Agency and Herefordshire Council for updates on tasks promised for completion at the Flood Mary event in December. Further to this she has arranged for the road closure training to be organised for Flood Wardens and the Flood Action Plan for the area has been started and will continue to be worked on for approval by the PC shortly.

Cllr Malcolm Watkins REPORTED on what the Flood Working Group has been doing and requested approval from the Council for the following:

1. The clerk to write to all the residents and businesses owners recently affected asking for an indication of the insured and uninsured losses as the FIWG need to begin to formulate a cost implication of the recent flooding.
2. To contact Pontrilas Sawmills and ask them if they would be able to clean the ditch around the back of the Pontrilas Builders Merchants which is on their land.
3. To continue to seek out any formal reports/maps on flooding and drainage that have been done in the past – Cllrs were REQUESTED to check any information they may hold too.

It was RESOLVED to approve the above with the proviso that the question about the impact of future flooding on businesses and homes be added to the form sent out.

It was NOTED that HC and the EA will be writing to landowners shortly to discuss riparian responsibilities. It has been AGREED that before sending this letter it will come to the clerk to forward to the FIWG to approve.

It was queried when the thoughts of the Dulas Flood Working Group would be linked to that of Ewyas Harold. The clerk confirmed that this would take place once a more coherent list of actions are being put together but that all thoughts should be sent to her to begin to collate.

Sincere thanks were expressed for the work being undertaken by the FIWG. The level of detail and effort being put into working on flood alleviation is impressive and much appreciated.

It was queried by a parishioner whether the clerk could contact Welsh Water to request that non-return valves are fitted to the six properties that share the waste drain with Rossdale. She AGREED to ask.

6.2 To consider organising a sandbag store for use by parishioners.

It was REPORTED that not all parishioners able to collect aquasacks from the PC had yet done so. It was RESOLVED that this should be put on social media again, along with a link of where they can be purchased and a YouTube video showing how to use them. It was further RESOLVED that the consideration of the installation of a sandbag store be deferred until all aquasacks have been handed out.

Ward Cllr Matthew Engel, Rev Luci Morriss and three parishioners left the meeting

7. Recreation Ground/Pavilion/MUGA

7.1 To consider general maintenance works and next steps

It was REPORTED that the new barrier is in place and looks good. It was NOTED that further works to improve the grass edges and gravel section should be considered once the weather is drier. It was NOTED that the toilets will remain locked until CCTV is in operation due to the recent spate of vandalism. It was NOTED that the footpath alongside Priors Field needs clearing – the clerk will ask the Lengthsman.

7.2 To consider a booking system for the MUGA

It was AGREED to defer this item while a suitable system is found.

7.3 To consider signage needed for the MUGA area
It was REPORTED that temporary signage is ready to go up and that Cllr Will Lloyd will open and lock the MUGA between the hours of 9 – 5 daily until CCTV is installed and a booking system in place. It was NOTED that the tennis nets will be put away for now.

7.4 To consider the quotes for installing CCTV on the recreation ground
It was REPORTED that meetings with two companies have been set up and quotes should be arriving shortly.

7.5 To consider quotes received to refurbish/upgrade the play area
It was NOTED that Sovereign Play will be coming out and give initial thoughts on what upgrades can be achieved to start the process. It was REQUESTED that they look at possible matting by the gym equipment too when they come out.

Two parishioners left the meeting

8. Lengthsman, Footpaths and Highways

8.1 To consider the lengthsman's report and agree any work to be carried out.
It was NOTED that the lengthsman has recently completed maintenance days; footpath works and ditching, alongside the installation of the new carpark barrier.
Cllr Sally Probert REPORTED that she had met with the Locality Steward to discuss the condition of the pavements along the Pontrilas Road. The Locailty Steward agreed that they are in need of repair/replacement and have sent them to the Asset Management Team to consider. The need for a drain outside the garage where water pools has also been sent for consideration. Other issues such as drainage, trip hazards and potholes have been marked for repair.

It was REPORTED that there is soil on the highway on the Dulas Road as well as leaning trees. The clerk will report this to BBLP and the landowner. Potholes outside Mailes Butches were also REPORTED for logging.

8.2 To receive an update on the installation of white gates and SID's in and next steps
It was AGREED to defer this item.

8.3 To consider an update on installing highway safety signs on Dark Lane
It was NOTED that a sign has been installed. It was RESOLVED that signs should also be installed on the Dulas, Prill and Wern Ddu Roads. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Sally Probert should purchase 12 more signs at a cost in the region of £182.

8.4 To consider submitting a TRO to reduce the speed on Wern Ddu/King Street to 30mph.
Issues with the current speed limit from a parishioner were NOTED. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should submit a TRO application to reduce the speed along this stretch of highway from 60mph to 30mph.

9. To consider the defibrillator checks and next steps
It was RESOLVED that all Cllrs would check the defibrillators when passing and email the clerk so the check could be NOTED.

10. Finance:

10.1 To consider the January report, summary and bank statements. – Appendix 1a & 1b
The clerk REPORTED that over £32,000 of grant money has been received so far this year. This has been spent on drainage, Lengthsman and footpath tasks as well as emergency flood equipment. The four overspent budget headings were NOTED along with the reason for the overspend. The report was APPROVED and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation by Cllr Lucy Sevenoaks.

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10.2 To consider the following payments to be made:

10.2.1. Clerks January Salary
10.2.2. Clerks January Expenses £33.50 – Previously circulated
10.2.3. HMRC PAYE £320.63
10.2.4. B E Chance – November and December toilet cleaning and supplies £328.02
10.2.5. J M Probert – Lengthsman tasks; bin-emptying; Play Area checks, PRoW and carpark works Dec 2025 £6854.34
10.2.6 Sally Probert – Highway signs for Dark Lane as agreed £91.07
The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

10.3 To note the following direct debits:

10.3 1 Nest – Pension – £76.04
10.3.2 Bank Charge – Unity Trust - £6.00
NOTED

10.4 To note the following receipts:

10.4.1 Football Club – December £50
10.4.2 Reserve account quarterly interest £398.37
10.4.3 Herefordshire Council – Lengthsman Grant £1665.00
10.4.4 Herefordshire Council – Drainage Grant £8659.09
NOTED

10.5 To consider putting the following contracts out to tender for the coming financial year:

- Lengthsman
- Mowing
- Toilet Cleaning
- MUGA Maintenance
- Legionella Checks
- Play Area Checks

It was RESOLVED that the contracts above should be put out to tender, with responses due prior to the next meeting so that the Finance Working Group could finalise the budget for approval. It was NOTED that Toilet Cleaning; Legionella checks; MUGA maintenance and Play Area checks could be quoted for as a combined contract if wished.

11. Correspondence: To consider correspondence received between meetings

- Inappropriate notice on noticeboard – Parishioner
- Flooding meeting updates/feedback from parishioners, HC and EA
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) consultation. Ends at 11:45pm on 10 March 2026.
- The preferred contractor for the Public Realm Services contract for HC is M. Group Highways Ltd.

The items above were NOTED

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

Draft budget and precept

13. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting: Tuesday 10th February 2026, at 7pm at Ewyas Harold Pavilion

NOTED

The meeting closed at 9.06

Signed: [redacted] Dated: 10-2-26