Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held at the Pavilion, Ewyas Harold on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Malcolm Watkins (Chair), Tony Ling, Will Lloyd,, Lucy Sevenoaks and Sarah Eynon

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk to the Council

Members of the public: 1

1. **To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason**
   Apologies were RECEIVED and accepted from Cllrs: Sally Probert and Alex Culpin

2. **To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any Requests for Dispensations**
   Cllr Malcolm Watkins DECLARED an NPI against 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 10th March 2026**
   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 item was RAISED:
     - Recent correspondence with the clerk regarding the increase in precept this year.
     - Would it be possible to have a cricket team in Ewyas Harold?
   - **4.2 To receive any reports related to parish matters**
     A brief report from the Police was NOTED
   - **4.3 To receive a brief report from Ward Cllr Matthew Engel**
     Cllr Engel had sent his apologies. His written report was NOTED.

Two members of the public joined the meeting.

5. **Kemble Centre**
   - **5.1 To consider an update from the Kemble Centre Working Group and next steps including putting out the "Future of the Kemble Centre" consultation material.**
     The consultation material was CONSIDERED. It was RESOLVED that all parishioners over the age of 16 could respond; all members of a household should respond at the same time if possible and that each household will be designated a number (for use by the clerk only) to monitor the number of responses being returned from each household. It was RESOLVED that this should be posted to all Parishioners using second class post at a cost of £780 plus paper and envelopes. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should purchase an up-to-date list of addresses from Hoople at a cost of £30. It was further RESOLVED that responses to the clerk would be via drop boxes at the village shop; Mailes Butchers; primary school; surgery and The Temple Inn (subject to agreement with the owners) or via email or post. Cllr Sarah Eynon AGREED to organise the drop boxes. The clerk will email her a poster to display on them. It was RESOLVED that a Freepost address should be set up at a cost of £400 plus return costs of £2.00 per letter. It was queried whether the Freepost address could be used for future consultations too. The clerk will find out. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should send the consultation papers out as soon as possible with a return date of about three weeks after the postal date.

6. Flooding

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

It was REPORTED that members of the Flood Working Group had met with the EA and Herefordshire Council to discuss works along the Brook. The outcome was generally felt to be disappointing and support lacklustre. A further meeting is planned and pressure will continue to be applied by all involved.

It was REPORTED that the following day the clerk had done a walk with the Wye and Usk Foundation and Herefordshire Council to discuss Natural Flood Management options in the Dulas Brook. The potential outcomes from this were felt to be positive although unlikely to be quick.

It was further NOTED that the Environment Agency had secured funding for the Property Flood Resilience surveys to be undertaken on all properties that flooded in November 2025. Those affected should have been contacted by now. It was AGREED that the clerk should find out how many properties have taken up this offer.

It was further NOTED that the clerk continues to follow up discussion with Herefordshire Council and Welsh Water regarding blocked pipes along the Pontrilas Road.

7. Planning

7.1 To consider the following planning application for determination by Herefordshire Council

260687 - Land East of Trappe Cottage, Ewyas Harold, Herefordshire,

Detached dwelling without complying with the self-build planning condition accompanying permission ref 242900 (Retrospective)

It was RESOLVED to support this application

260562 - Kingstreet Farm, Ewyas Harold, Hereford, Herefordshire HR2 0HB

Steel framed agricultural building to cover existing cattle handling system

It was RESOLVED to support this application

8. Recreation Ground/Pavilion/MUGA

8.1 To consider general maintenance works and next steps

It was REPORTED that legionella prevention works had now been completed and the toilets repaired. Thanks were given to the Lengthsman for the latter. It was NOTED that the Pavilion door needs repairing. It was AGREED that the clerk should write to the neighbouring landowner to request that the fallen tree in the Brook is moved and made safe.

8.2 To consider the problem of littering at the Recreation Ground

It was REPORTED that a considerable amount of litter is being collected by Cllrs and parishioners from around the Recreation Ground. It was AGREED that a post should go out on Facebook requesting people tidy up after themselves, and that the school should be asked to follow this up with pupils. It was NOTED that the litter picking group have volunteered to litter-pick the Recreation Ground when they do the wider area. The Parish Council gratefully accepted this offer and gave thanks for the efforts being put into keeping the parishes clean by this group.

8.3 To consider a booking system for the MUGA

It was RESOLVED that the MUGA would no longer be locked at dusk. The booking system was deferred to the next meeting.

8.4 To consider the quotes for installing CCTV on the recreation ground

It was REPORTED that two quotes had been received. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from BeSecure at a cost of £3715. This includes a camera by the vehicle entrance gate; four further cameras and annual maintenance in the second year. It was REQUESTED that BeSecure also install the socket needed in the loft. It was NOTED that 35% needs paying upon acceptance of the order.

8.5 To consider quotes received to refurbish/upgrade the play area

It was AGREED that further quotes were needed.

9. Lengthsman, Footpaths and Highways

9.1 To consider the lengthsman's report and agree any work to be carried out.

It was NOTED that the final PRoW works had been completed, as well as repairs to the toilet and general maintenance in the parishes. It was further NOTED that both the clerk and Lengthsman are undertaking training in order to be able to map and alter drainage assets in the parishes. At present this mapping package is free. The clerk REPORTED there may come a time when the PC wish to upgrade to the paid service.

9.2 To receive an update on the installation of white gates and SID's and next steps

It was REPORTED that all landowners had now given consent for the white gates to be installed. It was RESOLVED that the clerk will now submit the licence necessary for the installation and obtain updated quotes for approval at the next meeting. Cllr Will Lloyd AGREED to check the plan and confirm that the planned situation of the gates is correct.

9.3 To consider the Drainage Grant application and approve tasks to be included

The suggested tasks submitted by the Lengthsman were CONSIDERED. It was RESOLVED that all tasks should be submitted for grant funding. It was further RESOLVED that Cllr Malcolm Watkins would contact the lengthsman to quote for new drainage installations to take place in Gilberts Wood and be included in the application.

9.4 To consider the ProW Grant application and approve tasks to be included

The suggested tasks submitted by the Lengthsman were CONSIDERED. It was RESOLVED that all tasks should be submitted for grant funding.

9.5 To consider the pre-order consultation of the proposed public path diversion ProW RW 9 (Part)

It was RESOLVED to support the planned diversion.

One member of the public left the meeting

10. Finance:

10.1 To consider the following payments to be made:

10.1.1. Clerks April Salary
10.1.2. Clerks April Expenses £69.06 – Previously circulated
10.1.3. HMRC PAYE £554.14
10.1.4. J M Probert – Lengthsman tasks; bin-emptying; Play Area checks, ProW Grant tasks and toilet repairs March 2026 £1525.40
10.1.5 Adam Evans Plumbing – Legionella prevention works £288.00
10.1.6 J and D Sanders – Mowing March 2026 - £468.00

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

10.2 To note the following direct debits:

10.2 1 Bank Charge – Unity Trust - £7.00
10.2.2 SSE Energy - £3.12
10.2.3 SSE Energy - £218.87
10.2.4 Nest Pension - £140.67 and £76.04
10.2.5 ICO £47.00

NOTED

10.3 To note the following receipts:

10.3.1 Football Club – March £50
10.3.2 Herefordshire Council – final Lengthsman Grant Claim £341.00

NOTED. It was further NOTED that all remaining grants have been claimed but not yet received.

10.4 To note that the accounts and audit papers 2025-26 have been completed and delivered to the Internal Auditor

NOTED

10.5 To confirm that the energy contracts with SSE Energy have been changed to a one-year fixed contract.

It was REPORTED that it was necessary to change the contracts to a 1-year fixed term as the previous rates were due to increase to an unacceptably high level prior to this meeting. Cllrs AGREED that the contracts had been changed to a suitable rate.

11. Correspondence: To consider correspondence received between meetings

- SNT Golden Valley – 2026-27 priorities
- Herefordshire Council – acceptance of TRO application – Wern-Ddu Road
- Herefordshire Council Notice of diversion of PRoW LY6 (Part) Llancillo
- Zoll – Safety Notice – Zoll Powerheart G5 AED – Rowlestone
- Confirmation of landownership and management of trees
- Food For Families – thank you for the donation
- Baroness Taylor of Stevenage – response to Empowerment Bill query
- Ellie Chowns MP – response to Empowerment Bill query
- Herefordshire Council – dumping hedge trimmings in Dulas Brook enforcement
- HALC – Ten things you need to know in March
- Parishioner x 2 – query regarding Council tax increases.
- Parishioner – Can the litter-picking bags be left at the Kemble Centre for collection by BBLP?
- Parishioner – Can they assist with NFM measures on their land by the Dulas Brook?
- Herefordshire Council – Planning application 260907 – extension granted until 13th May 2026

The above correspondence was NOTED. It was RESOLVED that the police priorities for 2026-27 should be speeding through the village; anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Recreation Ground and rural theft. It was AGREED that the litter-picking bags could be left at the Kemble Centre. Cllr Malcolm Watkins took the Zoll defib safety leaflet.

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

None

13. To note the date of the next scheduled meeting: Tuesday 12th May 2026, at 7pm at Ewyas Harold Pavilion to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meetings

NOTED

The meeting closed at 19.56

Signed: [redacted] Dated: 12-5-26