



**Minutes of the meeting of
Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council
held at the Pavilion, Ewyas Harold on Tuesday 8th September 2026 at 7pm**

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

In attendance: Emma Thomas – Clerk to the Council

Members of the public: 8

1. To accept any apologies for absence and note the reason

Apologies were RECEIVED and ACCEPTED from Cllr Stephen Clayton

2. To record any Declarations of Interest and consider any Requests for Dispensations

Cllr Malcolm Watkins DECLARED a NPI against item 10.2.5 and all matters relating to the Football Club and SIGNED the Register of Interest book.

Cllr Sally Probert DECLARED a DPI against items 10.2.4, 10.3.1 and all matters relating to the Lengthsman and SIGNED the Register of Interest book.

3. To consider approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 14th July 2026

The minutes were APPROVED and duly signed by the Chair.

5 members of the public and Cllr Liz Overstall joined the meeting

4. Open Session

4.1 To receive the views of residents on parish matters

The following issues were RAISED:

- What is happening regarding flood prevention measures?
- A variety of comments made regarding the Kemble Centre consultation process and other aspects of details surrounding the Kemble Centre such as electricity removal

4.2 To receive any reports related to parish matters

The clerk REPORTED that the SNT have sent their report which she read out – specifically it included the need for parishioners to ensure their belongs are securely locked due to a recent spate of thefts in the area. Parishioners were encouraged to report anything suspicious to the police team. She further REPORTED that the PFO has raised some issues that will be discussed under item 8.1.

4.3 To receive a brief report from Ward Cllr Matthew Engel

Cllr Engel had sent his apologies.

5. Kemble Centre

5.1 To consider an update on the installation of a carpark and community space on the Kemble Centre site and next steps

The clerk REPORTED that the application for prior notification of proposed demolition of the building has been granted.

5.2 To consider the quotes to remove the asbestos and demolish the building and next steps

The clerk REPORTED that three quotes had been received to demolish the building and remove asbestos. It was RESOLVED that Golden Valley Construction should undertake the demolition at a cost of £12,350. It was NOTED that removing the rubble now would be less of a hazard during future flooding and cause less dust during demolition.



5.3 To consider removing any items from the building prior to demolition.

It was REPORTED that the altar and sconces could hold a value both financially and in terms of 20th Century Art. It was NOTED that Herefordshire Museums are happy to come and take a look at the items if wanted. It was RESOLVED that the clerk should invite them to do so. It was further NOTED that the Parish Council would like to remove the stained glass for use later if possible.

5.4 To consider removing the electricity cables from the site.

It was REPORTED that to remove the cables from the site and disconnect the supply will cost in the region of £800.00; to reconnect a supply at a later date or to move it now would cost up to £1500.00. National Grid had advised that it would be best to remove it and reinstall later when needed and the correct location was agreed. It was RESOLVED to do so.

6. Flooding

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

It was REPORTED that work to clear the culvert by Pontrilas has been undertaken by the EA. The tree in the Dulas Brook by the recreation ground has also been cleared. PFR survey results are being returned to homeowners and funding for a PFR project funded by the EA has been requested for the area. Dates for the Flood Warden Training have finally been released and the clerk will arrange for this to take place as soon as possible.

It was RESOLVED that plans for the bund at the back of Brook Cottage be approved so that works could commence, assuming the correct H&S is in place.

A discussion followed about the poor standard of works undertaken by the EA at Pontrilas, and the general lack of any other relevant action on the ground being undertaken since last November. Parishioners were encouraged to complain to Jesse Norman MP

12 members of the public left the meeting

7. Recreation Ground/Pavilion/MUGA

7.1 To consider general maintenance works and next steps

It was REPORTED that general maintenance is on-going. It was queried whether the verge by Priorsfield could be mowed. It was NOTED that it is already on the list.

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

It was RESOLVED to defer this item while quotes and plans are sought.

7.3 To consider purchasing a noticeboard and new sign for the entrance to the MUGA

It was NOTED that the sign has been ordered as per the July minutes. It was REPORTED that an A3 post-mounted green magnetic noticeboard would cost in the region of £520. It was RESOLVED to purchase one for installing by the MUGA for any information that needs putting out throughout the year.

7.4 To consider installing signs on the bins and defibrillators

It was REPORTED that 15 self-adhesive signs for the bins and defibrillators would cost £106.80. It was RESOLVED to purchase these.

8. Lengthsman, Footpaths and Highways

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

It was REPORTED that the SID has now been installed in Ewyas Harold. It was NOTED that the clerk had instructed the Lengthsman to carry out some hedge-cutting. It was REQUESTED that the clerk seek quotes to decrease the height of the large hedge by the recreation ground. Cllr Sally Probert will let the clerk know the exact location. It was NOTED that all highway markings throughout the village are now very worn. The clerk will chase up whether a full speed reduction treatment is ear-marked for the village and if not log the need for the lines to be refreshed.



8.2 To consider applying for a second PRow Grant for £5000.

It was NOTED that the first PRow grant had been completed and claimed. A further application for £4789 has been prepared for submitting. It was RESOLVED to do so. The PFO has also emailed in two issues with bridges in the Parish. The clerk will seek a quote from the lengthsman to mend the footbridge on RW1 and add this to the PRow application. She will log the bridge on the RW4 with Herefordshire Council

8.3 To consider the request to install white entrance gates in Rowlestone.

It was RESOLVED that no suitable place could be found in Rowlestone to install gates. It was RESOLVED to seek quotes to install gates in Dulas. Cllr Malcolm Wakins will provide the exact location to the clerk who will seek quotes for consideration in October. It was NOTED how impactful the white gates and SID's in Ewyas Harold have been. It was REPORTED that the planters approved at the July meeting to go by the white gates were the incorrect size. It was AGREED that further quotes should be sought by Cllr Will Lloyd for consideration in October.

8.4 To consider installing new "Ewyas Harold" signs by the white gates.

It was RESOLVED to defer this while quotes for the signs are sought by Cllr Sally Probert.

8.5 To receive an update on the "no through road" sign and yellow hatching requested next to the village shop and next steps.

The clerk REPORTED that she has not received an update from Herefordshire Council and is chasing up a further response to this.

8.6 To note the increased Drainage Grant allocation to include £3033.39 of maintenance tasks and instruct the Lengthsman to complete them.

It was REPORTED that this extra grant still leaves a shortfall of £946.61 to cover all 5 tasks applied for. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council would fund these costs.

9. To consider the quote to replace the sign at The Castle to be paid for using the donation of £500.00 from the Ewyas Harold Twinning Group.

It was REPORTED that the cost to replace the existing artwork with an identical post-mounted copy would cost £166.15 plus installation. It was RESOLVED that this should be ordered and installed. It was NOTED what a good service has been provided by Signs and Labels in assisting the Council with all manner of signage requests.

10. Finance:

10.1 To consider the September 2026 finance report, summary and bank statements. – Appendix 1a and 1b

The clerk REPORTED that unallocated funds still remain very low. The report was independently verified by Cllr Lucy Sevenoaks and signed as evidence of budget monitoring and bank reconciliation.

10.2 To consider the following payments to be made:

- 10.2.1 Clerks September Salary
- 10.2.2 Clerks September Expenses £118.95 – Previously circulated
- 10.2.3 HMRC PAYE £554.14
- 10.2.4 Mr. J. Probert – Lengthsman, PRow, Play Area Checks, Legionella checks, installation and bin emptying - £7810.80
- 10.2.5 Mr. B. Chance – Toilet cleaning - £405.00
- 10.2.6 D & J Sanders – August Mowing - £243.00
- 10.2.7 Connexus – Community library 2024; 2025 and 2026 £300.00
- 10.2.8 Ray Pritchard – Hedge cutting £524.40
- 10.2.9 PKF LittleJohn LLP – External Audit - £504.00
- 10.2.10 Royal Mail – Kemble Consultation returns £26.80

The above invoices were APPROVED for payment by BACS

10.3 To note payments made between meetings

- 10.3.1 Sally Probert – fire alarm break glass - £8.99
- 10.3.2 Clerks August Salary
- 10.3.3 HMRC PAYE – August £554.34
- 10.3.4 J and D Sanders – July Mowing - £594.00
- 10.3.5 BeSecure – Supply and fit the CCTV router £393.00
- 10.3.6 Hallmaster Ltd – MUGA booking system - £195.00

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10.3.7 Glasdon UK Ltd – Bin for Recreation Ground - £258.50

The above payments were NOTED

10.4 To note receipts received.

10.4.1 Football Club – July/August 2026 - £100.00

NOTED

10.5 To note the following direct debits taken

10.5.1 Nest Pension - £114.06

10.5.2 Bank Charge x 2 £14.00

10.5.3 SSE Energy - £45.16; £63.75; £43.70 and £74.87

10.5.4 Herefordshire Council – Waste Collection £205.14

NOTED

10.6 To note the external audit report from PKF LittleJohn and any issues therein App. 2

The external audit report was NOTED. There were no matters raised.

10.7 To consider the dates of publication of the Notice of Conclusion of Audit

It was RESOLVED that the Notice of Conclusion of Audit should be placed on the boards from the 9th – 30th September inclusive.

10.8 To consider the insurance renewal quotes and next steps

Two insurance quotes had been received. It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Zurich at a cost of £4054.34 for a LTA ending October 2028. It was NOTED that a quote for continued cover of the Kemble Centre is awaited. It was RESOLVED that this could be arranged and paid between meetings.

11. Correspondence: To consider correspondence received between meetings

- PFO – Current status of RW9 diversion
- Locality Steward – update
- Parishioner regarding an update on the TRO submitted for Rowlestone
- HALC – 10 things you need to know in July and August.
- Parishioner regarding a question submitted to HC Full Council Meeting on the 24th July 2026
- 3 parishioners regarding the Kemble Centre
- Ewyas Harold Primary School regarding parking issues outside the school
- Herefordshire Council – Wildfire ready discussion.

The above correspondence was NOTED. It was AGREED that the clerk should write to the Ward Cllr regarding using the army to fight wildfires.

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

The following items were NOTED:

- A newsletter for parishioners to include the urgent need to homeowners to look to protect their own properties as little help appears to be forthcoming from agencies. Cllrs Liz Overstall and Tony Ling AGREED to put a draft together.
- Write to Ewyas Harold Fire Station thanking the crew for their dedication over a difficult summer of wildfires. It was NOTED that the clerk can do this without the need for approval and will do so.

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

NOTED

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

14. To consider awarding the clerk the NALC approved national salary increase backdated to 1st April 2026

It was RESOLVED to award the clerk the above salary increase and back date it to the 1st April 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.36pm

Signed: _____ Dated: _____