

**Minutes of the meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2014
in St Michael's Hall, Ewyas Harold at 7.15pm**

Present: Cllr J Webb (Dulas)-Chairman, Cllr R Weaver, Cllr P Jinman, Cllr M Wrigglesworth, Cllr S Eynon, Cllr S Probert, Cllr E Overstall (Dulas), Cllr S Clayton (Rowlestone)

In attendance: CCllr G Powell, Clerk and five members of the public

1 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Wilson-Thomas, CSO F Witcher.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Applications

None received.

3 To consider Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th December 2013 and the extraordinary meeting held on 22nd December 2013, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Open Forum

4.1 No report from the local policing team.

4.2 A report was received from Ward Councillor, Graham Powell. Cllr Powell gave information regarding broadband and mobile news, 2014/15 budget exercise, local schools, the Herefordshire Council waste contract and details of the works to Newmarket Street, Hereford.

4.3 Comments from local residents: Highway issues raised, including Dulas Bridge and Cwm Pitch. Request from resident that water standing between the gate from Priorsfield and the stile is considered when Pavilion improvements take place as the water is taking progressively longer to drain away.

5 Clerk Update

5.1 A request had been received from Savills to attend the next meeting to discuss a proposed residential development in Ewyas Harold by Kentchurch Court Estate. They would also be carrying out public consultations at a later date. It was agreed for them to attend the February meeting.

5.2 Updates were given on highway defects and Dulas bridge. The clerk had been unable to locate the spare 'dogs on lead' signs. The criteria for a 30mph zone had been circulated to all members.

6 To consider applications to co-opt for current Councillor vacancies

No further applications had been received at present. Carey Godwin had confirmed that she had withdrawn her application.

7 To consider venues of future meetings

Possible options included St Michaels Hall at £17 for a two hour meeting, the school at £15 per hour, Horsecroft community room at £10 per hour and the memorial hall at £22 for a meeting.

Resolved to use St Michaels Hall for the February, March and April meetings. This would be reviewed at the April meeting as, dependent on work to the pavilion, meetings would then either be held at the pavilion or could be held at Rowlestone and Dulas.

8 Neighbourhood Plan

8.1 Sam Banks at Herefordshire Council had confirmed that funding held by them for EHGPC and Abbeydore & Bacton GPC was £2500 each of front runner funding. Kentchurch was not eligible for the funding due to being in a different ward. EHGPC and ABGPC could agree to allocate some of this funding to Kentchurch. ABGPC had agreed to allocate £500 of their money and had requested

Action

Clerk

Clerk

EHGPC consider doing the same. Funding would then need to be claimed from the Council by the relevant parish clerk.	
Resolved to allocate £500 of the £2500 front runner funding held by Herefordshire Council to Kentchurch Parish Council.	Clerk
8.2 The report from the steering group meeting on 9 th January 2014 had been circulated. The steering group had recommended that, following a presentation, Kirkwells planning consultants be engaged as consultants on the Neighbourhood Development Plan subject to providing a breakdown of their costs and a Locality grant to cover these costs being applied for and approved. The grant would not cover items such as printing, mapping and consultation costs, although the money held by Herefordshire Council could be used for these. Allocation of these costs between the three parish councils would need to be agreed.	
Resolved to appoint Kirkwells as planning consultants for the Neighbourhood Development plan, subject to provision of a breakdown of costs and obtaining a Locality grant to cover all costs relating to Kirkwells.	Clerk
9 Recreation Ground	
9.1 The monthly audit report was received. Issues raised related to the recent heavy rain.	
9.2 The Sports Working Group were due to meet the following week. The planning application for the pavilion improvements had been submitted on 23 rd December 2013, but the planning department currently had a backlog to deal with. Queries relating to the SWG terms of reference, the key holder agreement and insurance were raised.	
Resolved that the SWG terms of reference and recreation field key holder agreement be reviewed and details of the insurance policy be looked into. This would be put on the next agenda.	Clerk
10 To consider quotes and appoint a contractor for the Lengthsman Scheme	
Balfour Beatty had confirmed that one or two man contractors were both acceptable for the lengthsman scheme, providing the relevant risk assessments had been carried out. The lengthsman contract contained a clause to indemnify the parish council against all claims arising out of the highway maintenance work undertaken by the lengthsman. Therefore the three quotes received were discussed. A fourth quote could not be considered as it was conditional upon obtaining both the lengthsman and grass cutting contract, which was not being considered at present.	
Resolved to offer the contract to Terry Griffiths for the period until 31 st March 2014. Any specific lengthsman issues requiring attention to be forwarded to the clerk as soon as possible.	Clerk
Resolved to get the contract signed by the relevant parties and for the clerk to calculate the number of maintenance days to be programmed in before 31 st March 2014 from the remaining budget.	Clerk
11 To receive the Parish Path Officer's report	
There was no report this month.	
12 To consider comments on draft Woodland Management Plan for Rowlestone Court	
There were no comments to submit.	
13 To consider any action required on Highways issues following recent bad weather	
Several issues had already been reported by both the clerk and Cllr Powell. Balfour Beatty had already inspected the issue with Dulas bridge and water coming through the stonework and had responded that while work needed to be done, it was not urgent. The parish council and members of the public disagreed with this view and it was requested Cllr Powell escalate this matter. Cllr Powell had also requested that all drains in the parish be inspected. It was requested the clerk report a BT pole that has been erected into a drain at the end of Fedw Drive, Rowlestone, request	Clerk

the Locality Steward attend a parish council meeting, once appointed and send a letter of thanks to Mr Gardiner who had undertaken a lot of maintenance work etc. during the recent bad weather and this was much appreciated.

14 **To consider a response to NALC feedback questions on Precepts**

Resolved to submit answers that government should not cap precepts and that precepts should remain a local matter.

Clerk

15 **Finance Report**

15.1 An internal auditor for 2013/14 was required. Sue Probert from Garway had offered to undertake this, has relevant experience and is independent of the council.

Resolved to appoint Sue Probert for 2013/14 and issue a letter of engagement. An honorarium for the post of £50 per year was agreed.

Clerk

15.2 The precept for 2014/15 and budgets were discussed. The Finance Working Group had met in December and detailed proposals were given to all members.

Resolved that the precept be set at £20,000 for 2014/15 and budgets agreed as attached as Appendix 1.

Clerk

15.3 Payments approved:

PAYE £0.00 NI £0.00 employee £0.00 employer

Stationery/Office Expenses £58.92 Postage £12.00 Mileage £62.10 Total £133.02

Brian Ball (P3 Works) £257.50

Beacon Legal Consulting Ltd (FOI Review) £75.00

Black Hill Web Design Ltd (Training session and web hosting) £159.00

HALC (2 x CiLCA training sessions) £144.00

C Boyles (Printing of plans for planning application) £55.68

St Michaels Hall (Hall hire 14/1/14) £17.00

16 **To note Correspondence list**

17 **Matters for Next Agenda (no discussion)**

None.

A resolution was passed that the public be excluded from the following item due to its confidential nature

18 **To consider action required to progress proposed purchase of St John Kemble Catholic Church, Ewyas Harold**

Cllrs Webb and Jinman had attended a meeting with the agent and discussions were ongoing. Cllr Jinman had more background work to carry out on proposed uses of the site and would report back to the next meeting. It was acknowledged that it would be difficult to work within the timescale imposed.

Resolved for Cllr Jinman to carry on investigating uses in contact with the agents and trustees as appropriate and keep the clerk and chairman informed.

PJ

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 11th February 2014 at St Michael's Hall.