

Minutes of the meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held on Tuesday 11th February 2014 in St Michael's Hall, Ewyas Harold at 7.15pm

Present: Cllr P Jinman-Chairman, Cllr R Weaver, Cllr S Eynon, Cllr S Probert, Cllr E Overstall (Dulas)

In attendance: CCLr G Powell, CSO Witcher, Clerk and 23 members of the public

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| 1 | To accept Apologies for Absence
Cllr J Wilson-Thomas, Cllr J Webb (Dulas), Cllr S Clayton (Rowlestone). | Action |
| 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 14 th January 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated to Members, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. | |
| 4 | To consider applications to co-opt for current Councillor vacancies and to note resignation of Michael Wrigglesworth
No applications had been received – this would be deferred to the next meeting. Michael Wrigglesworth's resignation was noted and the vacancy was being advertised. It was requested the clerk write and thank Mr Wrigglesworth for everything he has done in his time on the council. | Clerk |
| 5 | Open Forum
5.1 CSO Witcher gave an update on incidents in the area. Anyone wishing to receive the neighbourhood policing team bulletins should email goldenvalley.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CSO Witcher left the meeting.
5.2 A report was received from Ward Councillor, Graham Powell. Cllr Powell gave information regarding ditches, drains and culverts, local schools, Herefordshire Council 2014/15 budget and the consultation on polling stations. Cllr Powell was asked to find out who is responsible for flood warning signs.
5.3 Comments from local residents: Request for recreation field car park barrier to be kept closed when not in use and a request for pavements in the village to be widened. | |
| 6 | Nick Rawlings and Alice Hayter, Savills – pre-planning introduction to proposals for a residential development in Ewyas Harold by Kentchurch Court Estate
Mr Rawlings outlined the proposals for a possible housing development. It would be East of Callowside, around 2 hectares (5 acres), mixed residential development, around 40 properties of various types and tenures. Around 14/15 would be affordable. This is very early stages and they are awaiting various reports that have been commissioned, to look at transport, flood and drainage issues, landscape framework, percolation testing etc. Kentchurch Court Estate wants to engage the community and public consultation would be held before any application is made and the intention is to work alongside both the emerging Neighbourhood Plan and Herefordshire Council's Core Strategy. Cllr Overstall raised concerns relating to highway safety at Trappe House Corner. 17 members of the public left the meeting. | |
| 7 | Terry Griffiths, Lengthsman – introduction and discuss priorities for the lengthsman scheme
Terry Griffiths did not attend the meeting. It was requested that the clerk arrange a meeting with him to look at priorities. A list of major issues, beyond the lengthsman remit would be compiled for Cllr Powell. | Clerk |
| 8 | To consider Community First Membership
Community First had queried whether the membership held was for the parish council or the memorial hall as each would require its own membership. The membership had been used previously to assist with grant applications. The current membership runs until 1 st April 2014 and members were asked whether they wished to continue.
Resolved to respond to Community First to say that the membership is being considered, but as custodial trustees of the memorial hall, thought it unreasonable that the membership could not be used for GPC and memorial hall. | Clerk |

9	To consider publication of the Newsletter	It was proposed that the newsletter be published again to keep the public informed of parish council activities and other relevant information. Cllr Overstall was happy to continue to do this, but requested contributions of content from members.	LO
		Resolved to continue the newsletter, co-ordinated by Cllr Overstall. A draft would be on the agenda to be agreed at a GPC meeting and after approval, would be published.	
10	To consider response on Herefordshire Council review of polling districts and stations	Cllr Powell would seek clarification of the Rowlestone polling station and subject to there being no change to the existing polling stations, no response would be submitted. Since the meeting Cllr Powell has confirmed there is no change.	GP
11	Recreation Ground	11.1 The monthly audit report was received. Issues raised related to damaged swings and fencing. It was requested the clerk obtain quotes for replacement fencing for the length between the cricket pavilion and the stile. Members were requested to forward on details to the clerk of contractors to be contacted for a quote. Some work had been undertaken by the cricket club recently and a request had been received by the clerk for permission for the cricket club to put chicken netting up along the top fence to prevent balls being lost. This request was agreed but it was requested the clerk clarify with the cricket club that any works must be approved by the GPC and carried out by contractors with appropriate insurance cover.	Clerk
		11.2 The Sports Working Group will be meeting on the 3 rd March 2014. Members expressed concern that the GPC was not being given sufficient information from the sports working group. The terms of reference for the SWG were also discussed.	
		Resolved that a site meeting be arranged within the next 10 days for the parish council to be given a briefing by the sports working group.	Clerk
		Resolved that the SWG terms of reference be amended to include provision of facilities/access for the disabled and that the scope for improvements be extended to the whole recreation ground.	Clerk
		Resolved to suspend standing orders to allow completion of the agenda	
		11.3 A revised Key Holders Agreement was discussed and advice from Came & Company received.	
		Resolved that the Key Holder Agreement include a statement that the key holder confirms that approved vehicles/drivers of vehicles accessing the field have valid/adequate insurance cover in force.	Clerk
		11.4 A funding application had been submitted to the Fields in Trust Inclusion Fund for disabled parking bays and an extension to the path at the recreation ground. Due to only having one week notice of the deadline for the grant, the clerk had submitted an application in consultation with the Chairman and Sports Working Group. Copies of the application had been circulated to members.	
		Resolved that the application was approved by GPC. Should the application be successful location of parking bays etc. would be discussed.	
		11.5 The Football Foundation funding application was not ready for agreement by GPC. The two expression of interest forms that had been required to release the application form had been completed and the application form received.	
		11.6 The draft grass cutting specification and tender document had been circulated to members for consideration.	
		Resolved that the specification and tender document were approved. The contract would be for an initial one year period, with the option to extend to three years. Grass would be cut to 35mm for the football end of the field and 20mm for the cricket end of the field, with grass clippings to be removed and cutting not to take place in poor weather.	Clerk
		Resolved for the clerk to put the grass cutting contract out to tender, to be considered at the March meeting. Due to the specification being more detailed to meet the needs of the sports clubs, if the quotes received were more than budgeted, other options may need to be considered.	Clerk
12	To receive the Parish Path Officer's report	The report was received and noted.	
13	To consider action regarding the Red Telephone Kiosk and Village Sign in Ewyas Harold	The WI had requested that the parish council replace the broken glass and repaint the kiosk and replace the	

vinyl village sign that has faded. The clerk had made enquiries and BT confirmed that they are responsible for and maintain this kiosk. With regard to the village sign, concern was expressed by councillors that the sign had faded very quickly and perhaps an alternative solution could be found.

Resolved to contact BT and request that the telephone box be repaired and repainted.

Resolved for councillors to think about alternative options for the village sign for the next meeting.

Resolved for the clerk to respond to the WI with this information.

Clerk
All Cllrs
Clerk

14 **Update on Dulas Bridge following recent inspection with Balfour Beatty**

A site meeting had been held with an inspector, Rob Poulton, from Balfour Beatty and video clips and photographs of the problem had been provided. Mr Poulton agreed there was an issue that needed resolving. As the bridge was classed as a culvert, it had not been included on their inspection schedule previously. He has now made recommendations within Balfour Beatty as to remedial action required and in his opinion once this had been done, it was a job that could be maintained by a two man lengthsman team. He also recommended that Balfour Beatty replace the post and rail steel parapets on the bridge as they were unsafe. Cllr Powell would request an update on this.

GP

15 **Community Library**

15.1 Herefordshire Housing had provided a quote to install shelving and locks to the cupboard at the community library to enable the community technology equipment and some parish council paperwork to be stored there. The quote was for £126.92 plus VAT.

Resolved to accept the quote and arrange for the work to be done.

15.2 The community library volunteers had provided an update to say they are hoping to buy a new desk, erect more shelves and find ways to encourage people to visit the library. The GPC would be kept updated.

Clerk

16 **Finance Report**

16.1 The finalised budgets, as agreed at the January meeting, for 2014/15 were noted.

16.2 Payments approved:

PAYE £0.00 NI £0.00 employee £0.00 employer

Stationery/Office expenses £36.85 Postage £7.20 Mileage £65.70 Total £109.75

Terry Griffiths (Lengthsman Works Jan 2014) £280.80

C Boyles (Reimbursement for portable backup and laptop charger) £72.97

St Michaels Hall (Hall hire 11/2/14) £17.00

NPower (Pavilion electricity 22/10/13 - 3/2/14) £101.89

Dore Community Transport (Donation for 2013/14) £50.00

Rowlestone Village Hall (Donation for 2013/14) £50.00

Further to problems with Natwest Bank, the cheque to Beacon Legal Consulting Ltd had bounced and needed to be reissued with reimbursement of a £4.00 charge. Natwest had confirmed this was their error and would refund the £4.00. It was agreed to send a letter of complaint requesting compensation.

17 **To note Correspondence list**

18 **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

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

It was proving difficult to progress this as information requested was slow in being received.

Resolved for Cllr Powell to pursue an alternative option and he would report back to the GPC.

GP

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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