

Minutes of the meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held on Tuesday 10th March 2015 at St Michaels Hall, Ewyas Harold at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr C Pogson (Llancillo) – Acting Chairman, Cllr L Overstall (Dulas), Cllr R Weaver, Cllr S Clayton (Rowlestone), Cllr J Wilson-Thomas, Cllr S Eynon and Cllr S Probert

In attendance: Ward Cllr G Powell, Clerk and four members of the public

Absent: Cllr E Murphy

1 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr P Jinman and the local policing team.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Applications

None.

3 To consider Minutes of the Previous Meetings

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 10th February 2015 and 19th February 2015, 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 Ward Councillor, Graham Powell provided a report including information on council tax for 2015/16, public realm works 2015/16, lengthsman scheme, core strategy, A465 temporary speed limits and the mobile infrastructure project. Cllr Powell would not be present at the April meeting and the parish council thanked him for all his work over the past few years.

4.3 There was no parish path officer report this month. Peter Overstall had tendered his resignation from the post after 10 years, but had kindly offered to stay in post until a replacement had been found. The parish council expressed thanks to Mr Overstall. The role would be advertised.

4.4 Comments from local residents: The recent community safety evening organised by the local policing team had been very useful and it was unfortunate that it had clashed with the parish council meeting. A question was raised regarding any proposals for the brook at the Kemble Centre and whether any work that could potentially exacerbate flooding issues was planned, such as narrowing. No narrowing of the brook was planned and any work carried out at the site would gain any relevant/required permissions. A blockage of a footpath through a wood was reported. Cllr Powell would take some photos and progress this and keep the parish council informed.

5 Clerk Update and to note Correspondence List

The clerk's update and correspondence list was noted. The Football Foundation had asked if an opening ceremony/event was planned for completion of the pavilion project. It was agreed in principle that this was a good idea and for the sports working group to come up with some ideas for consideration. The salt had finally been delivered for the winter maintenance self-help scheme, but the church was not happy with the quantity and Cllrs Weaver and Clayton were arranging for it to be moved to the recreation ground car park. New owner details had been requested by the electricity supplier for the Kemble Centre and the clerk would provide these and a meter reading after confirmation of supplier from Belmont Trustees. Cllr Wilson-Thomas would forward the clerk the meter reading. An ex-display kitchen for the pavilion could possibly be acquired by the events committee and members were in agreement with this in principle. Cllr Probert would speak to the events committee. The cricket club had raised concerns regarding the pavilion construction work and the proximity to the cricket nets, which had resulted in the cricket nets currently being unusable. Members felt it was unfortunate that the cricket club had not raised this issue previously and had been left until this late stage during construction when there was little that could be done. It was noted that the cricket nets were supposed to have been temporary/moveable, but they had been concreted in without parish council permission. The pavilion project would be of benefit to all and it was suggested that the cricket club propose a new location for the cricket nets and the parish council would consider this at their next meeting. Cllr Clayton had offered to keep the Belpha culvert grill clear for the present time. Councillors were happy with this and the lengthsman was aware.

Action

Clerk/LO

GP

**Clerk/
RW/SC/
JWT/SP**

6	<p>To consider comments on the Balfour Beatty Annual Plan for 2015/16 Resolved that there were no comments.</p>	
7	<p>To consider comments on the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment Resolved that there were no comments.</p>	
8	<p>To consider details of the new Lengthsman Scheme and decide whether to participate for 2015/16 Details of the new scheme were discussed. Funding from Herefordshire Council would be £3192 for 2015/16 at £120 per km based on 26.6km of C and U roads. The current grant for 2014/15 is £2547 at £90 per km. A grant of £50 per km was available for the P3 scheme, but the arrangement regarding unspent grant money for 2014/15 was unknown as yet. It was a requirement of the P3 scheme that the parish council has a parish path officer, but Balfour Beatty had confirmed the parish council would still be eligible as Mr Overstall had offered to stay in post until a replacement was found. Resolved to participate in the scheme, including the P3 scheme for 2015/16, but not the enhanced scheme (potholes). No match funding would be contributed by the parish council. The Annual Maintenance Plan was delegated to the clerk to draft, to be circulated and agreed by councillors prior to submission. Resolved that it would not be requested for B roads to be included. Resolved that as an administration fee is no longer included within the budget allocated by Herefordshire Council, this would be paid from parish council funds, with the clerk keep a record of the hours worked on administration of the scheme. Resolved to seek quotes for contractors for the scheme, including advertising locally.</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk Clerk</p>
9	<p>To consider email from resident regarding dog fouling in the village A resident had raised concerns about the amount of dog fouling around the village and members agreed that it did appear to have got worse recently. This was a persistent problem, not only for Ewyas Harold, but throughout Herefordshire. Resolved that Cllr Overstall would prepare another newsletter highlighting the problem and giving details of how to report it. There was little that could be done without details of the culprits, but if members of the public had names/addresses these could be passed either to the parish council or ward councillor and Cllr Powell would take action. If names/addresses weren't known but a regular location/day/time was, this could also be passed on as the Community Protection Team from Herefordshire Council were prepared to carry out patrols if these details were known and fines could be issued if necessary. Posters would also be put up.</p>	<p>LO/GP/ Clerk</p>
10	<p>Kemble Centre 10.1 The parish council had been advised against changing of locks as it would be expensive and the building was empty. Resolved Keys would be held by Cllr Weaver, Cllr Wilson-Thomas and the clerk. Cllr Weaver would carry out the weekly checks. 10.2 Clearing of the site had been taking place and would continue. There had been a big improvement and thanks were given to those who had been carrying this out. Resolved that CT Groundcare carry out one grass cut before the next meeting, with Ron to advise him when this is needed. 10.3 Interim use of the site as a car park was discussed and the insurers had provided advice. Concern was expressed over opening the site to the public with no barrier to the river. A bund had been created, but there was still concern regarding a potential hazard to children. Resolved that no action would be taken prior to the next meeting, but the clerk would seek advice from the insurers regarding whether a barrier/fence would be required next to the river. The clerk would also request the police visit in the evening due to the parking problems. 10.4 New plans for the site were discussed. These involved demolishing the existing building rather than refurbishing/extending and installing modular buildings. It had been advised that the revised plans could be undertaken for significantly less cost and would be more eco-friendly and cost effective to run. Kim Cooper was seeking advice from the Environment Agency on any implications of the site. Resolved that informal advice from a planning officer be sought before any decision was made.</p>	<p>RW RW Clerk GP/Clerk</p>

A resolution was passed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow completion of the agenda

11 Recreation Ground

11.1 The monthly audit checklist was not received, but a verbal update provided. No action was required.

11.2 There had been no further progress on the embankment slide and this would be deferred until the next meeting.

11.3 The annual play area inspection was considered. Herefordshire Council could undertake this through their independent inspector for £50.60 exc. VAT.

Resolved to instruct Herefordshire Council to carry out the inspection.

11.4 An update had been provided by Gwillam Darby Carr and the project was progressing to schedule. The clerk was preparing grant claims with the Football Foundation claim already submitted and the Inspired Facilities claim currently awaiting information from Gwillam Darby Carr.

11.5 The cricket club had requested additional grass cutting at their expense be undertaken and had provided a copy of the public liability insurance for the contractor proposed to carry it out.

Resolved that it was agreed for the cricket club to carry out additional grass cutting on this basis.

11.6 The grass cutting contractor, Highground Maintenance Ltd had confirmed that the cost would remain the same as 2014/15 for 2015/16 at £1864.92 exc. VAT.

Resolved that the contract be signed and issued for commencement on 1st April 2015, but request that they cut up to the edges of the field and dates of when cuts are carried out are included on the invoices.

RW

Clerk

Clerk

12 Finance

12.1 **Resolved** that the finance report be approved. Balances held at 24th February 2015 were £1,101.53 current account and £13,332.03 savings account. This includes grants held for the P3 Scheme, Lengthsman Scheme and other budgeted expenditure to 31st March 2015.

12.2 Overtime worked by the clerk during the previous month was 25 hours.

Resolved to pay the clerk 25 hours of overtime.

12.3 Grants for this financial year were discussed. The option of having a parish council grant policy and application form was raised for consideration.

Resolved that a grant of £100 be given to Rowlestone and Llancillo PCC.

Resolved that a parish council grant policy and application form would not be pursued.

12.4 **Resolved** that purchase of online storage provision be approved up to £4.00 per month as half of a total cost of £8.00 per month shared with Madley Parish Council.

12.5 **Resolved** payments for approval:

Pension £54.18 EE, £223.63 ER, PAYE £96.20 NI £32.52 EE, £28.22 ER

Stationery/Office expenses £46.73 Postage £14.88 Mileage £85.50 Total £147.11

Information Commissioner (Annual data protection registration renewal) £35.00

Herefordshire Council (Paper planning consultations 1/4/14-31/10/14) £28.00

Carla Boyles (Reimburse NDP postcard printing) £94.80

Eon (Pavilion electricity 7/1/15-11/2/15) £17.92

Carla Boyles (Reimburse NDP printing/postage) £240.30

Highground Maintenance Ltd (Recreation ground grass cutting) £186.49

St Michaels Hall (Hall hire 19/2/15 and 10/3/15) £34.00

HALC (Newsletter printing) £86.40

Clerk

Clerk

13 Matters for Next Agenda (no discussion)

None.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Next Meeting Tuesday 14th April 2015, venue St Michaels Hall, Ewyas Harold.