

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council held on Thursday 30th October 2014 in St Michaels Hall, Ewyas Harold at 7.15pm

Present: Cllr J Webb (Dulas)-Chairman, Cllr P Jinman, Cllr S Eynon, Cllr S Clayton (Rowlestone), Cllr S Probert, Cllr C Pogson (Llancillo)

In attendance: The Clerk

1 To accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Weaver, Cllr J Wilson-Thomas, Cllr E Overstall (Dulas) and Cllr G Powell.

2 To receive Declarations of Interest & Dispensation Applications

None received.

3 To consider joining the Balfour Beatty Winter Self Help Scheme

Details of the scheme were discussed. Mr Cooper-Tomkins had confirmed he would be happy to spread grit etc. as and when required for an hourly rate of £15 per hour. The clerk already held a copy of his public liability insurance. The clerk had requested an additional grit bin to be located in the St Michaels Hall car park.

Resolved that the clerk request EHGPC join the scheme. The grit/salt would be stored in a shed at St Michaels Hall, Ewyas Harold and the areas that would be treated would be determined by local need when required, but would focus around the school, village shops and doctors surgery.

A resolution was passed to exclude the public from some of the discussions on the following items due to their confidential nature

4 To consider further information relating to the Purchase of St John Kemble, former Catholic Church, Ewyas Harold and exchange of contracts

There had been considerable delay in receiving answers to the queries raised with the solicitor, despite chasing. Answers to the queries had now been received which stated that: 1) There was no template for contacting neighbours regarding boundaries and he recommended this be ascertained by speaking to the neighbours. Cllr Jinman had made some enquiries relating to this. 2) There are no other restrictions on the use of the land other than as a burial ground. A restriction that it couldn't be used for a trade or business had now expired. 3) It was not intended that a schedule of fixtures and fittings would be included as he had assumed the property was empty, but he would clarify. 4) The overage schedule's wording relating to use of the site had been queried and the intended use by the GPC explained. He had proposed an amendment of the wording to reflect this. 5) Two signatories would be required but they did not need to be named. 6) He was awaiting confirmation that no VAT was payable, but thought this would be rare.

Resolved that the GPC was satisfied with the ownership of the boundaries and the answer to all queries raised.

Resolved for exchange of contracts to take place before the deadline of 12th November, with two parish councillors to sign. The contract would be required by 7th November to enable this to take place and the clerk would ensure the solicitor is aware of this. The clerk would check if a deposit would be required and ensure everything was in place to draw down the PWLB loan when required.

5 Pavilion Project at the Recreation Ground

5.1 The tender evaluation report was discussed and a meeting had taken place with the preferred contractor and details of what was included in the tender had been confirmed. It included connection to the mains drainage and storm water drainage to be via the pipe under the recreation ground, into the brook, which the Environment Agency had confirmed was acceptable. It had been

Action

Clerk

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Clerk

Clerk

confirmed that the contractor was aware the parish council required the project to be undertaken for the tender cost and no more and the timescales relating to the grants could be met. The contractor was keen to be involved in this community project.

Resolved that the contractor be appointed, as per the confidential file note accompanying the minutes, subject to the registration of the parish council for VAT and Option to Tax the recreation ground being undertaken.

Clerk

5.2 Further advice regarding the VAT status of the project and on the parish council as a whole was discussed. The advice received verbally had indicated that registering for VAT and Opting to Tax the recreation ground was the option necessary for the GPC to take to enable the VAT to be reclaimed on the project.

Resolved for the clerk to request the advice given be put in writing, for which payment of up to £250 exc. VAT was authorised.

Clerk

Resolved that the GPC register for VAT and opt to tax the recreation ground.

Clerk

5.3 The draft stewardship agreement had not been received from Gabbs, despite chasing. They had however indicated a licence appeared to be preferable and requested some further information. This information was included in the documentation already provided to Gabbs.

Resolved that the clerk hand deliver a hard copy of the information already supplied to Gabbs and confirm via email that this had been delivered and the document was required as soon as possible.

Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.20pm