

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council
held on Tuesday 5th October 2004
In the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillor Mrs E Overstall (Dulas) in the chair
Councillor Revd L Rickards
Councillor G Sprackling
Councillor P Jinman
Councillor J Middle
Councillor P Sheen
Councillor Mrs M Williams (Rowlstone)
Councillor Mrs J Addis
Councillor W Preece (Dulas)
Councillor W Lloyd (Llancillo)
Councillor R Weaver
Councillor Mrs M Tovey
The Clerk

In attendance:

Councillor J. B. Williams (Herefordshire Council)
Mr John Boileau prospective Parish Councillor
1 member of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence** None
2. **Declaration of Interest** None declared

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the council held on Tuesday 7th September 2004 were approved without any amendments.

4. **Matters for report (Not covered by separate agenda items)**

4.1. **Access to Ewyas Harold Common**

Mr Rogers has sent the Council a copy of his letter to DEFRA dated 2nd August 2004 re his objection to the wildlife pond. In the accompanying letter he stated that he has sent a note setting out the background to the current situation to involved parties, and that a copy would be made available to the Council in time for its next meeting in October. This note is still outstanding.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.2. A465

Overhanging trees south of Pontrilas Garden Centre, as well as those opposite the blacksmith's shop in Pontrilas, have been reported to AmeyMouchel and they have agreed to inspect the sites.

The improvement work on the Rowstone junction and Llangua Bridge commenced in mid March 2004 has now been completed. Concerns were raised over the siting of the warning notices and the purpose of the red highlighted area on the bridge. Following the Joint Parishes Working Party on the A465 held on Monday July 19th a letter was sent to Mr Wheeler. The Highways Agency has responded to the points raised but several of the responses in the letter were challenged. Copies of the letter have been sent to members of the working party for discussion at their next meeting.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.3. Manhole Cover in road – U74428.

Mr Andrew Prior of Welsh Water has now confirmed that the records have been updated and that he has placed instructions for the necessary work to be undertaken. A copy of updated records has now been received and the Clerk has re-ordered the above work quoting the map references. It was noted that the updated records did not cover the whole of Ewyas Harold.

Resolved

That the Clerk would request complete records for Ewyas Harold Group Parish.

ACTION CLERK

4.4. Trees in Dulas Lane

The trees in Dulas Lane continue to lean over the lane. They have been inspected by a qualified arboriculturalist and one has been identified for pruning. No other action has yet been taken

Resolved

That this is noted.

4.5. Trappe House Pitch – slow road marking

At the site meeting with Councillors Mrs J Addis and R Weaver, Andrew Jenkins of HC Highways agreed that warning signs would be erected to warn drivers of the lack of a footway between The Poplars and Gilberts Wood. A request was made for the provision of a footway on the C1221 between Ambleside and the B4347, and on the B4347 between Gilberts Wood and The Poplars; Mr Jenkins asked that the Council to confirm this in writing to enable their inclusion on the ranking list. At the same site meeting Mr Jenkins agreed to investigate the hedge outside The Firs and also to undertake a survey of pedestrians and traffic in this area. Councillor Mrs J Addis stated that plans existed for a footpath at Rosedean and requested that these be retrieved from the Minutes.

Resolved

That the Clerk should write to Mr Jenkins confirming both the request for the footways, and also reminding him of the agreement to carry out the other points raised at the site meeting.

That the Clerk should search the archived Minutes for reference to the planned footpath at Rose Dene.

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CLERK

ACTION

4.6. Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk has received expressions of interest from Mr John Boileau of Monks Retreat and Mr Derek Harries of Cedar Mews. It was agreed that as both candidates were new to the area, a decision would be held over until next month so that all Councillors could make themselves more aware of the candidates. To this end it was suggested that it would be helpful to obtain a CV from each prospective Councillor.

Resolved

That the Clerk should write and ask for a brief CV from each candidate

ACTION CLERK

Post meeting note: Mr John Boileau has now withdrawn his application

4.7. Parish Plan Meeting

The next stage will to arrange a public meeting in Ewyas Harold.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.8. RoSPA Report

4.8.1. Fran White of HC has met with Councillor Middle and has submitted a written report of her suggestions for compliance with the report.

There was a discussion of her suggestions and it was agreed that;

Roundabout: the worn area around this should be filled with a rubber crumb.

Slide: It was proposed that, given its unsafe condition, this should be removed.

Proposed: Councillor J Middle

Seconded: Councillor Mrs M Tovey

Carried unanimously

Resolved

That the Clerk should obtain a quote for the supply of rubber crumb.

That the Clerk should obtain quotes for the safe removal of the slide and foundations, and that this quote should include the restoration of this area to a safe condition.

That Councillor Revd L Rickards should carry out a user survey of a suitable replacement for the slide.

ACTION CLERK, LR

4.9. Hill Lane

The Lengthsman (Martin Roper) has agreed to include removal of fallen and dangerous branches in his winter work so that this lane can remain walkable. Steven Charlton of HC has indicated that the likely cost of reinstating this adopted roadway would be approximately £30,000.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.10. Brown Sign Rowstone Church

It was suggested that, given it was a site of special interest, Rowstone Church should apply for Brown Sign status. The Clerk has obtained the application pack from Dave Osborne (HC) and passed on the paperwork to Councillor Berris Williams

Resolved

That this item be deleted.

4.11. Bridleway between Great Walk Mill Farm and E H Common (EH19)

Councillor Preece reported that the gate post at the Common entrance has dropped. The post needs securing and the gate re-hanging. The Clerk has reported this to the Footpaths Officer. No action has yet been taken

Resolved

That as this item has been outstanding for 3 months the Clerk checks the status with the Footpaths Officer.

ACTION CLERK

4.12. Footpath to Spring Field Cottages (? Continuation of EH19)

Councillor Preece reported that the steel reinforcing on the bridge over Dulas Brook is rusting and in need of repair. The Clerk has reported this to the Footpaths Officer. No action has yet been taken

Resolved

That as this item has been outstanding for 3 months the Clerk checks the status with the Footpaths Officer.

ACTION CLERK

4.13. Telephone Box in Rowlestone

Councillor Sheen reported that BT had placed a notice in the public telephone at Rowlestone announcing that it was to be removed. BT have sent notification the Council identifying that the consultation period will end on August 17th. The Clerk has written to BT objecting to the removal of this public payphone. Further letters of complaint have been received from residents. BT have acknowledged receipt and promised a response in the near future.

Resolved

That this item is moved to the supplementary list.

4.14. HC Policy on removal of ragwort from roadside verges

As the identified site was on the A465, Herefordshire Council have passed the complaint onto AmeyMouchel. The Clerk has been informed by the offices of Mr Peter Evans that throughout the year HC will send out teams to pull ragwort from reported areas. Trunk roads are the responsibility of the Highways Agency and failure on their part to take action should be reported to DEFRA. The Clerk has verified this information on the DEFRA website by consulting the Ragwort Control ACT 2003.

Resolved

That this item be deleted

4.15. Hedge at Elm Green Lane

The overgrown hedge outside Sunnymede, is being cut back. Councillor Mrs J Addis confirms that the work should be completed within the next week.

Resolved.

That this item be deleted.

4.16. Recycling

Councillor Mrs M Tovey raised the possibility of a mobile shredder so that residents could better compost their own garden waste. Herefordshire Council do not provide this service and Martin Roper is also not able to help. The Clerk has been informed by HC that they do not provide a recycling collection service.

Resolved

That this item be deleted.

4.17. Elmdale Sewers

Councillor Mrs J Addis reported a problem with the sewage drains in Elmdale. The Clerk has ascertained the responsibility for these drains lies with Herefordshire Housing and has reported the problem to them. They have agreed to inspect the drains and will make their findings known to the Council. No action has been taken.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.18. Potholes on Dulas Road

Councillor Preece reported a large pothole 200metres past the Belpha turning on the Ewyas Harold to Dulas road. The Clerk has reported this to Peter Evans of HC and the work has been completed.

Resolved

That this item be deleted

4.19. Dog Fouling

4.19.1. Notices have been requested for Callowside and Elmdale similar to those used in Pontrilas.

4.19.2. Following an article in the Herefordshire Times re designation of land to be covered by the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, it was suggested that approaches should be made to see if this Act could apply to the Recreation Ground and Memorial Ground.

Resolved

That the Clerk obtains costings for 3 signs

That the Clerk clarifies the designation of land under the Dogs Act.

ACTION CLERK

4.20. Llancillo Signs

The Clerk has contacted HC re the outstanding signs for Llancillo and they confirmed that they are still on order.

Resolved

That this is noted

5. Local Security Matters

Councillor Weaver stated that vandals were becoming active in the village, and that he had already had to prevent one youth from starting a fire.

Councillor Preece stated that round bales were being rolled in the fields, and given their weight these could present a serious risk of crushing.

The problem of proof over suspicion was discussed and it was agreed that using the anonymous Crimestoppers line, if people had suspicions, was an acceptable way to alert the authorities.

Resolved

That this is noted

6. Correspondence (Not covered by separate agenda items)

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|------|--------------------------|--|
| 6.1. | Community First | Details of Community Champions fund |
| 6.2. | Clerks & Councils Direct | September 2004 – Issue 35 |
| 6.3. | Welsh Water | Public record of sewers for Ewyas Harold |

Resolved

That this item was noted in 4.3

- 6.4. H C Policy + Community Parish Council Liaison Survey Results
- 6.5. H C Policy + Community Information re Community Regeneration Team
- 6.6. H C Policy + Community Herefordshire Art Week poster
- 6.7. H C Policy + Community Herefordshire Funding Fair information -27th October 2004
- 6.8. H C Policy + Community Playground inspection information
- 6.9. Herefordshire Partnership Quarterly Economic Report – August 2004
- 6.10. H C Policy + Community Herefordshire Citizen's Guide 2004-2005
- 6.11. H C Youth Service Team Details
- 6.12. Sylvia Haines Notification of her role as local news correspondent for Hereford Times
- 6.13. SLCC Notice of AGM – October 17th 2004
- 6.14. Fran White (HC) Confirmation of EHGPC's inclusion for playground inspections in 2005

Resolved

That this item was noted in 4.8

- 6.15. Paul Keetch MP Notice of mobile advice surgery – 28th September 2004
- 6.16. HC Environment Acknowledgement of Dulas Road pothole report

Resolved

That this item was noted in 4.18

- 6.17. HC Environment Licensing Policy Consultation (respond by 1st Nov. 2004)
Paperwork given to Councillor Mrs E Overstall
- 6.18. HC Environment Response to site meeting at C1221

Resolved

That this item was noted in item 4.5

- 6.19. Defra Clean Neighbourhoods Consultation Document

Resolved

That this is noted

- 6.20. HC Policy + Community Emergency Planning
Paperwork given to Councillor P Jinman
- 6.21. HC Policy + Community Forward Plan 1/10/04 to 31/1/05
- 6.22. HC Policy + Community Schedule of HC Meetings
- 6.23. HC Policy + Community Parish Magazines/Newsletters + Community buildings
contact details update form
Paperwork to be completed by Clerk

ACTION CLERK

- 6.24. HALC Booking form for PR/Communications 5th October 2004
- 6.25. HALC Booking form for Quality Parish Status 20th October 2004
- 6.26. HALC Booking form for Law + Procedures 23rd October
- 6.27. HALC Booking form for Code of Conduct 27th October 2004
- 6.28. HALC Information Corner -28.9.04
- 6.29. Wicksteed Leisure Guide to Disability Discrimination Act and Play Areas
- 6.30. Community First Newsline – Issue 54 August 2004
- 6.31. HC County Treasurer Request for precept 2005/2006 (deadline 7th January 2005)

Resolved

That items for consideration should be brought to the November Council Meeting.

- 6.32. SLLC Induction training for Clerks and Councillors in Wales
 6.33. West Mercia Police Newsbeat Sept 2004

Resolved

That copies would be sent to Councillors with the Minutes
Post meeting note: This newsletter was sent with the September minutes

7. Lengthsman Scheme

7.1. Lengthsman work undertaken in July to August

4/6/04	Grass cutting - Playing field area verges
5/6/04	Grass cutting - Priorsfield footpath area
10/6/04	Weedkiller to verges
12/6/04	Grass cutting - Memorial Hall to A465
18/6/04	Grass cutting - Playing field area verges
18/6/04	Weedkiller to verges
24/6/04	Grass cutting - Abbey Dore road to kiosk area
24/6/04	Weedkiller to verges
26/6/04	Grass cutting - Chapel Bank, Upper House
3/7/04	Grass cutting - Playing field area verges
8/7/04	Grass cutting
10/7/04	Grass cutting - MH to A465 (verges)
16/7/04	Grass cutting - Playing field area verges
7/8/04	Grass cutting – Priorsfield area
14/8/04	Grass cutting – various + trim yew tree at Trap House

Resolved

That this work is approved

8. Financial Report

8.1. Payments for approval

Abergavenny Chronicle – Events advert for 3/6/04	£	29.41
Clerk postage	£	6.94
Clerk travel	£	16.16
Martin Roper - Waste bags 3/6/04-26/8/04, bark for play area, clear graffiti and oil swings	£	391.99
Martin Roper Lengthsman work June to August 2004	£	364.53

8.2. Balances as at 24th September 2004

NatWest Current account	£	55.40
Alliance + Leicester	£	227.42
Unpresented cheques	£	nil
Cheques to be credited	£	nil
Business Reserve	£	9,880.82

8.3. Lengthsman Scheme

Balance (6 th September 2004)	£	955.31
Unpresented cheques	£	nil
Balance available but not yet claimed	£	2,122.50

Total still available in current year (allocation £4,245.00) £ 3,077.81

8.4. Payments received

Welsh Water Refund of overpayment £ 212.42

Resolved

That the financial statement is accepted and payments should be made except for that to the Abergavenny Chronicle. (The Clerk will ascertain what this invoice covers)

Proposed: Councillor Weaver

Seconded: Councillor Revd Rickards

Carried unanimously

9. Planning

9.1. **Application number DCSW2004/1891/F**

Notification of planning permission

Site Priory Vale, Prill Road, Ewyas Harold
Description Proposed porch

Resolved

That this noted

9.2. **Planning Viewing**

Councillor P Jinman pointed out that the office hours at the surgery had now been changed on Monday to Friday such that plans could be viewed from 8.30 to 18.30. He requested that Councillors avoided the busy surgery hours of 9.00 to 10.00 and 16.30 to 18.00.

Councillor Mrs E Overstall thanked Councillor Jinman for continuing to allow the Council use of these offices for viewing planning applications.

Resolved

That the Clerk indicates the new hours when sending out notice to Councillors of planning applications.

ACTION CLERK

10. Road Maintenance and Related Matters

10.1. **Potholes within Army Training Area**

Councillor Preece reported 2 potholes on the public road passing through the Army Training Area.

Resolved

That the Clerk would report this to Herefordshire Council.

ACTION CLERK

10.2. **Potholes outside Fire Station**

Councillor Mrs J Addis reported a pothole on the C1221 outside the Fire Station

Resolved

That the Clerk would report this to Herefordshire Council.

11. Footpaths

There were no issues raised under this section

12. Recreation Ground

12.1. Monthly Audit

There were no issues raised under this section

13. Parish Newsletter

13.1. Items for inclusion

Slide removal JM
Footpaths JA
Slide replacement survey LR
Village competition?
Police article on general safety awareness?

14. Matters for Further Discussion

14.1. Level of expenditure within HC

There was a discussion over the costs within certain departments of Herefordshire Council, together with the necessity of some of the literature produced.

Resolved

That Councillor Middle should bring specific concerns to the Council so that they could be discussed

ACTION JM

14.2. Memorial Hall Trustees

Resolved

Clerk to clarify the named Trustees and make this year's return to the Charity Commission

ACTION CLERK

14.3. Memorial Seat Request

Mrs Kay Whittal-Williams has made a request for the erection of a seat on the Recreation Ground in memory of her husband Ellis, a former Trustee of the Memorial Hall.

Resolved

That this request is agreed, and that Councillors Middle and Sprackling liaise with Mrs Whittal-Williams over the site and method of erection.

ACTION JM, GS

14.4. Flooding of Dulas Brook

Various items have been dumped or have fallen into the brook within Ewyas Harold, thus increasing the chance of flooding this winter. It was agreed that the Environment Agency were responsible for the brook and as such should be made aware of these obstructions.

A survey was undertaken by W Atkins in 2001 to look at possible improvements to the flow of the brook but their findings have never been made known to the Council

Resolved

That the Clerk would report the obstructions to the Environment Agency and also request information on the findings of the survey undertaken.

14.5. Powercuts

Councillor Jinman highlighted the continuing problem of powercuts within Ewyas Harold, especially the micro-breaks which were so damaging to sensitive electronic equipment. About 4 years ago there had been a meeting to raise these concerns with the electricity supplier but the situation did not seem any better today.

Resolved

That the Clerk would write a follow-up letter to the electricity supplier, requesting what actions had been taken, and drawing their attention to the current situation.

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Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Chairman

Date

NEXT MEETING Tuesday November 2nd 2004
Meetings for the remainder of the year and 2005
December 7th 2004
January 4th 2005
February 1st 2005
March 1st 2005
April 5th 2005
May 10th 2005 (not first Tuesday)
June 2nd 2005
July 5th 2005

April to July for confirmation at November Meeting