

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Ewyas Harold Group Parish Council
held on Tuesday 7th September 2004
In the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Present

Councillor Revd L Rickards in the chair
Councillor G Sprackling
Councillor P Jinman
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 and Mr Derek Harries, prospective Parish Councillors
1 member of the public

1. **Apologies for Absence** Councillors P Sheen, J Middle, Mrs E Overstall

2. **Declaration of Interest** None declared

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the ordinary meeting of the council held on Tuesday 3rd August 2004 were approved with the following amendment:

Item 7.2 should read: “The owner at Stone House, Mr Wells, has indicated that he would maintain the area by the bridge if it is first tidied up. The Clerk is to request that Martin Roper add this one-off job to his winter schedule of Lengthsman work. Councillor Middle will discuss the necessary work with Martin.”

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

4.1. **Access to Ewyas Harold Common**

Following a letter from Herefordshire Council, which was read out at the meeting, the Clerk has discussed the Parish Council’s involvement with the County Solicitor, Marie Rosenthal. Her view was that the matter was a private issue between the commoners and the Lord of the Manor, but that the Council (in an advisory role) had a legitimate role to play in resolving issues within the parish boundaries.

Mr Rogers 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.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.2. A465 Speed Limit

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. See item 4.3*

Resolved

That this is noted

4.3. Joint Parishes Working Party on the A465

Report on meeting of the Joint Parishes Working Party on the A465 held on Monday July 19th. Councillor Mrs M Williams circulated a draft of a letter sent to Mr Wheeler of AmeyMouchel. *The Highways Agency have responded to the points raised and these were read out by the Clerk. As stated in item 4.2 there are still concerns over safety aspects of the completed work and several of the points in the letter were challenged.*

Resolved

That any response would be held over until Councillor Mrs E Overstall returned in her capacity of Chair of the working party. Also that this item should be linked with 4.2

4.4. Manhole Cover in road – U74428.

The Clerk has sent Welsh Water copies of all letters pertaining to the adoption of the sewers in 1988 to ensure that their updated records are correct. 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. *No action has yet been taken.*

Resolved

That this is noted

4.5. 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.

4.6. Trappe House Pitch – slow road marking

Councillor Mrs Addis requested that the possibility of the road at the top of Trappe House Pitch being marked with the letters ‘SLOW’ be looked into. HC advise that road marking are only used in support of traffic signs.

The Clerk has approached Andrew Jenkins in the traffic section of the Highways Department for advice. Mr Jenkins has provided the Clerk with a list of dates when he would be available to make a site visit. *These dates have been passed on to Councillor Mrs J Addis.*

ACTION

JA

4.7. Councillor Vacancy

The Clerk has received expressions of interest from Mr John Boileau of Monks Retreat and Mr Derek Harries of Cedar Mews, who both attended this meeting. It is hoped that a decision on this appointment will be made shortly.

4.8. Parish Plan Meeting

The Clerk has distributed the Dulas report with the August minutes. Councillor Revd Rickards reported that the next stage will to arrange a public meeting in Ewyas Harold.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.9. Overhanging Trees A465

The Clerk has spoken to Mark Potter of Berringtons, the Kentchurch Estate managers, on three occasions regarding overhanging trees south of Pontrilas Garden Centre on the A465. The work is still outstanding and the Clerk is waiting for Mr Potter to explain while the work has been delayed yet again. The problem has been passed on to AmeyMouchel who are responsible for trunk roads in Herefordshire

Resolved

That this item should be linked with 4.2

4.10. RoSPA Report

Councillor Middle reported that the only area that had been identified as high risk was the surface beneath the slide. Areas identified as low risk needed merely to be monitored and those identified as medium risk could be addressed if money became available. Fran White of HC has met with Councillor Middle and has submitted a written report of her suggestions. *Copies of this report were made available at the meeting. The Clerk has received notice that savings can be made if RoSPA inspections are organised through HC. In this case the inspector is accompanied by Fran White who can advise on appropriate actions.*

Resolved

That the Clerk should write to Fran White and register EHGPC's interest in the group scheme.

ACTION CLERK

4.11. Hill Lane

Following a letter of complaint sent to HC by Mr R Curtis over the poor condition of this lane, Councillor Mrs E Overstall received an email from Steven Charlton of HC, which effectively said that it would be too expensive to reinstate this roadway. 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.

Mr Charlton has indicated that the likely cost of reinstating this adopted roadway would be approximately £30,000.

Resolved

That this is noted

4.12. Speed limit reduction on B4347

Following the refusal of Herefordshire Council to agree to a reduction in the speed limit, the Clerk has written to state that given the strong public support for the introduction of a 30mph zone the Parish Council will continue to press for its introduction. *HC have noted this response but have re-confirmed their intention not to agree to the reduction.*

Resolved

That this item be moved to the supplementary list.

4.13. Overhanging Trees on A465 (Pontrilas North)

Councillor Middle reported branches overhanging the main road opposite the blacksmith's shop in Pontrilas. This has been reported to AmeyMouchel who have agreed to inspect the site.

Resolved

Link this item with 4.2

4.14. 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 is noted

4.15. 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 this is noted

4.16. 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 this is noted

4.17. Kemble Housing at Oakbrook Close

Councillor Mrs J Addis reported that one of the new properties built by the Kemble Housing Association for shared ownership had remained empty for 6 months. This did not seem to support the housing associations claim on their planning application that shared ownership was popular. The Clerk has written West Mercia Housing Group to express the Council's concerns over the empty property and to request that it be made available for rental. West Mercia HG have indicated that the sale is likely to be completed soon. *It appears that the property is now occupied*

Resolved

That this item be deleted

4.18. 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 is noted.

4.19. HC Policy on removal of ragwort from roadside verges

Councillor Preece raised the issue of land being invaded by ragwort from verges which were the responsibility of Herefordshire Council. The Clerk has written to HC on this issue

As the identified site was on the A465, Herefordshire Council have passed the complaint onto AmeyMouchel. Councillor Jinman was concerned that HC were aware of their responsibilities in such cases. Councillor Williams stated that a new appointment, Mr Peter Evans, had been made and that his brief was to deal with road matters.

Resolved

That the Clerk would write to Peter Evans to request that he explains HC'S policy on this issue. It was further decided that it would be appropriate for the Parish Council's other road concerns to be raised in this letter.

ACTION

CLERK

4.20. Water Leak on Rowlestone road outside Pontrilas Garden Centre

The Clerk has reported this problem to Welsh Water. *The work has been completed.*

Resolved

That this item be deleted

4.21. Hedge at Elm Green Lane

Councillor Mrs J Addis reported that the hedge outside Sunnymede, (Mr Neale) was dangerously overgrown. *The Clerk has sent a letter to the owner and the work is being undertaken*

Resolved.

That Councillor Mrs J Addis monitor the situation.

ACTION JA

4.22. Recycling

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

Resolved

That the Clerk write to see if a recycling collection service could be provided with the Parish Freighter visit.

ACTION CLERK

4.23. 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.

Resolved

That this is noted

5. Local Security Matters

There were no issues raised under this section

- 6.23. Winross Hacker Young Audited annual return for EHGPC
6.24. Herefordshire V A Together newsletter – Issue No 5
- 6.25. Herefordshire V A Notice of AGM – 24TH September 2004
6.26. Herefordshire V A Advance notice of Annual Funding Fair – 27/10/04
6.27. HC Solicitor’s Office Letter from County Secretary re E H Common
- Resolved**
That this item was noted in 4.1
- 6.28. Prime – Cleaners Information re service provided
6.29. SLLC The Clerk - Vol 34 August 2004
6.30. HC Solicitor’s Office Information requested on Dog (fouling of land) Act 1996
6.31. HC Policy and Community Local Area Forum Details
Poster given to Councillor Sprackling
- 6.32. HC Policy and Community Schedule of HC Meetings
6.33. HC Policy and Community Forward Plan 1st September to 31st December 2004
6.34. HC Policy and Community Herefordshire Partnership Newsletter – Issue 11
6.35. Highways Agency Response to letter sent by Joint Parish Council on A465
- Resolved**
That this item was noted in 4.3
- 6.36. Alliance + Leicester Welcome pack for new account
6.37. Office of Deputy Prime Minister Draft Code of Contact for Local Government Employees
6.38. Office of Deputy Prime Minister Review of political restrictions for Local Government Employees
6.39. Mr John Rogers Letter re Ewyas Harold Common + copy of letter sent to DEFRA
- Resolved**
That this item was noted in 4.1
- 6.40. CPRE Fieldwork – September 2004
6.41. West Mercia Police Newsbeat Sept 2004
- Resolved**
That copies would be sent to Councillors with the Minutes

ACTION CLERK

7. Lengthsman Scheme

- 7.1. **Lengthsman work undertaken in June**
Still to be advised

8. Financial Report

8.1. Payments for approval

npower – electricity bill for pavilion	£	24.92
Winross Hacker Young (Annual Return Audit)	£	141.00
Clerk postage	£	18.19
Clerk travel	£	26.72

Clerk salary (June-August)	£ 837.09
R T G Pitt – repair of pavilion tile	£ 30.00

8.2. **Balances as at 24th August 2004**

Current account	£ 482.11
Unpresented cheques	£ 373.71
Cheques to be credited	£ 15.00
Business Reserve	£ 4,663.32
Precept available but not yet claimed	£ 6,217.50

8.3. **Lengthsman Scheme**

Balance (6 th August 2004)	£ 1076.82
Unpresented cheques	£ 121.51
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**

Mrs S Whistance	Hire of pavilion	£ 15.00
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Resolved

That the financial statement is accepted and payments should be made
Carried unanimously

8.5. **Alliance + Leicester Account**

New account is now open

Resolved

That the Clerk transfer funds from the NatWest deposit account into the high interest A+L account after checking that the rates are still advantageous. Both accounts would continue to run in parallel until the Councillors were assured that the new account could successfully handle the Council's finances.

ACTION CLERK

9. **Planning**

9.1. **Application number DCSW2004/2638/L**

Site Llancillo Hall Farm, Llancillo, Herefordshire NP7 8HH
Description External works to main house courtyard comprising re-surfacing planters and screening
Application Type Listed Building Consent
Applicant Mr + Mrs Bailey, Llancillo Hall Farm, Llancillo. NP7 8HH

Ratification of decision previously notified

The Group Parish Council have no objections to this application

9.2. **Application number DCSW2004/2616/Q**

Site Building 10, Pontrilas Army Training Area, Pontrilas.
Description Conversion of existing store building to office accommodation. Provision of a lightweight pitched roof over the existing flat roof structure, and clad with tile effect steel roof panels together with associated works and services.
Application Type Crown Dev.
Applicant Ministry of Defence

Ratification of decision previously notified

The Group Parish Council have no objections to this application

9.3. Application number DCSW2004/2178/F

Notification of planning permission

Site Kingstreet Farmhouse, Ewyas Harold

Description Conversion of existing buildings to form warehouse + offices for film archive company

9.4. Application number DCSW2004/2256/L

Notification of Listed Building Consent

Site Kingstreet Farmhouse, Ewyas Harold

Description Conversion of existing buildings to form warehouse + offices for film archive company

9.5. Application number DCSW2004/2225/F

Notification of planning permission

Site The Coach House, Ewyas Harold

Description Remove existing conservatory + replace with brick built extension

9.6. Application number DCSW2004/2448/F

Notification of planning permission

Site 2 Caeflwyn, Ewyas Harold, Hereford. HR2 0JD

Description Demolish existing single storey extension. Proposed single storey extension and replacement of existing garage + store.

10. Road Maintenance and Related Matters

10.1. Potholes on Dulas Road

Councillor Preece reported a large pothole 200metres past the Belpha turning on the Ewyas Harold to Dulas road.

Resolved

That the Clerk would report this to Herefordshire Council.

ACTION CLERK

11. Footpaths

There were no issues raised under this section

12. Recreation Ground

12.1. Monthly Audit

- Councillor Weaver to arrange for Peter Dean to repair the broken clock.
- Refuse bin lid will be repaired by Martin Roper

- Platform either side of wobbly bridge required nails to be driven in. – this has been done.

12.2.Recreation Ground Notice

Temporary sign now in place. *Post meeting note : the Clerk has received quote for £35 for Perspex replacement.*

12.3.Bonfire Party

Councillor Rickards requested to use the field on November 6th for a bonfire party

Resolved

That this booking was approved

13. Parish Newsletter

There were no issues raised under this section

14. Matters for Further Discussion

14.1. Level of literature from HC

Discussion as to possible solution to excess paperwork did not lead to any satisfactory conclusions

14.2. Dog Fouling

Notices were requested for Callowside and Elmdale

Resolved

That the Clerk would order these from Herefordshire Council

ACTION CLERK

14.3. Signs for Llancillo

Councillor Lloyd asked whether there was any news on the outstanding signs for Llancillo

Resolved

That the Clerk would chase this up with HC

ACTION CLERK

14.4. Mr R G Michael

It was reported that sadly Mr Reg Michael had passed away on 30th August. He had been Parish Clerk for Ewyas Harold for 40 years until retiring in 1994

Resolved

That the Council would send a letter of condolence.

ACTION CLERK + GS

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Chairman

Date

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday October 5th 2004

Meetings for the remainder of the year and 2005

November 2nd 2004

December 7th 2004

February 1st 2005
March 1st 2005