

Eardisland Parish Council

**Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 14th September 2023 at 7.00 pm
In Eardisland Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Maryan Hanson (Chair), Merry Albright, Shelley Connop, Rebecca Rhys-Evans and Richard Davies

In Attendance: 3 members of the public and Parish Clerk Amber Littleworth

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Richard Kirby and Cllr Jerry Blyth
2. **Declarations of interest** – There were none. Declarations of interests are not required when a report is being made by a third party and no decisions are being made by the Parish Council.
3. **Minutes of previous meeting** – APPROVED.
4. **Public Forum** –
 - 4.1 **West Mercia Police** – No reports to provide.
 - 4.2 **Ward Councillor** – Sends his apologies and provided an update via email
 - 4.3 **Local Residents** –
 - 4.3.1 The Chair of Environmental and Sustainability Group will provide an update at Item 11 on the Agenda.
 - 4.3.2 The Chair of Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee will provide an update of the Community Hub Grant at Item 13 on the Agenda.
5. **Financial Procedures** – The Bank balance as of 1st September 2023 was NOTED as £33,508.10.
 - 5.1 It was RESOLVED to make the following payments:
 - 5.1.1 HMRC penalty £200.00
 - 5.1.2 Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee £55.00
 - 5.1.3 Cubs & Wots invoice £112.50
 - 5.2 It was NOTED all the invoices paid between 13th July 2023 to date:
 - 5.2.1 Vodaphone Direct Debit £17.16 (incl 2.86 VAT)
 - 5.2.2 PIP Printing £192.42
 - 5.2.3 HALC £559.54
 - 5.2.4 Hitrees Ltd £900.00
 - 5.2.5 J Ross mowing £300.00
 - 5.2.6 Cubs & Wots £168.75
 - 5.2.7 Parish Clerk stationary expenses £22.50
 - 5.2.8 HMRC tax £229.82
 - 5.2.9 Community Heartbeat Trust £72.00
 - 5.3 Finance Group Working Party meeting to be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

6. Planning Applications

6.1 To comment on Applications to be determined by Herefordshire Council:

6.1.1 **P223881/F – Planning Permission:**

Land Adjacent to Arrow Lea Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BU. Proposed 4 No. self-build dwellings with garages.

The Parish Council's initial representations regarding this application was submitted on 9th January 2023. Further Reports have been. It was AGREED as there are new members of the Parish Council an Extraordinary Meeting would present an opportunity to provide their opinions. *The Clerk is to clarify with Herefordshire Council before the Extraordinary Meeting what exactly do the Parish Council make representations of.*

It was confirmed the Extraordinary Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7pm.

6.2 Determined by Herefordshire Council

6.2.1 **P231963/K - Works to Trees in a Conservation Area:** The Manor House Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BN - NOTED

6.2.2 **P231434/F – Planning Permission:** Lower Hardwick Farm Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9HF - NOTED

6.2.3 **P231687/K – Works to Trees in a Conservation Area:** Toad Hall Eardisland Leominster Herefordshire HR6 9BE - NOTED

6.2.4 **P232059/PA4 (Part 3) Class Q – Prior Approval:** Barn at Legions Cross Pembridge Leominster Herefordshire. - NOTED

It was NOTED that Herefordshire Council have never supported our tree application comments and this will be discussed at the next sub-group E&SG meeting.

7. **Lengthsman Scheme** – The Parish Council have agreed to match fund £2,436.00 for the Lengthsman Scheme bringing a total of £7,308.00 to use for highways and footpaths within the village. It was agreed by members of this Council this needs to be discussed in further detail to consider works to be carried out at the Extraordinary Meeting.
8. **Reducing C1063 from the roundabout to the Village a 40mph zone as requested by local Parishioner** – This is a time consuming, expensive process which the Parish Council have to fund themselves. There are approximately 7-10 properties are affected in this area. *Clerk will contact relevant parties to see what evidence is required to put a case to Herefordshire Council.* It was RESOLVED that a Working Group would then be set up. It was NOTED that Lawton's Cross roundabout has deteriorated significantly.
9. **To consider the state of the path leading from Village Hall Car Park to the Bowling Club on grounds of safety as requested by local Parishioner** – The elderly and those with mobility issues struggle to walk this route to the Bowling Club due to the uneven surface. It was DECIDED Councillors will consider the state of the pathway before the Extraordinary Meeting on 20th September 2023. A member of the public confirmed the footpath is on the definitive map. *Clerk will seek advice from Herefordshire Council to clarify the ownership of the roadway outside the Village Hall.*
10. **Ground opposite Glebe Cottages** – RESOLVED that the Clerk will write to the Executors to request the clearing of footpath and repairing of fence on safety grounds.

11. Environment & Sustainability Group –

11.1 New benches donated by parishioners -

E&SG provided style details for Council's consideration. The Parish Council RESOLVED that:

- a) The style with back rests would benefit the Village – provided that donators were happy with the same.
- b) They would have them manufactured locally and with local materials – *Clerk to obtain details of charity funded company.*
- c) The benches will remain in the traditional style by the War Memorial and opt for modern style near the Riverbank.

11.2 DEFRA Hedgerow Survey - closing date is 20th September 2023. It was RESOLVED that the Councillors respond individually given short timeframe.

11.3 Silt Removal – It was CONFIRMED that any millstream/river works were to Environment Agency rules.

11.4 Net Zero by 2030 –

- a) Moving to online banking
- b) Local Clerk
- c) Main carbon footprint – use of Village Hall – lighting and heating. Village Hall now has smart meter to gather evidence of energy and resources use during Parish Council meetings with the potential to warrant grants to allow Council to achieve Net Zero by 2030.

11.5 Grants Policy – Parish Council CONFIRMED we have one in place.

12. To consider switching banks to Unity Trust Bank – Clerk provided information regarding the benefits of this bank to include 10-day flexi switch over meaning the Council will still have access to funds, option to open a savings account with a 5% interest rate, option to include more authorised signatories, a fast access helpline with a cost of £6.00 a month. It was RESOLVED to move from NatWest to Unity Trust Bank and it was AGREED to open a savings account with £30,000.00 initially provided these funds are easily accessible. Members of the Council will confirm further signatories at the Finance Meeting. *Clerk to confirm with Emma Thomas, HALC whether there are options for an easy access savings account.*

13. Eardisland Village Hall Management Committee – The Chair of EVHMC confirmed the Community Hub Grant application was submitted on 31st July 2023. This Grant is still in the preliminary period and includes works such as building works new doors, new windows, wall insulation and roof insulation, solar panels with battery storage, refit the Meeting Room in full as a Community Hub to include sublets of healthcare groups, flood defence barriers to external doors, IT equipment, sound buffer panels, contingency costs and design fees – Total £177,500.00. *Chair of EVHMC will provide Clerk with an update by the end of September 2023.* It was CONFIRMED the Grant has been submitted by EVHMC with the support of the Parish Council.

14. Eardisland Village Hall Car Park – A member of the public stated the dead Elm trees surrounding the car park are a hazard and need to be removed. *Clerk to put Item on Extraordinary Meeting.*

A member of the public left the meeting.

15. Correspondence – A local resident reached out with concern about the speeding issues leaving/entering the village (noted this back in Item 8 above). The Council urge local Parishioners to continue getting in contact with concerns regarding this to collect as evidence. It has been NOTED the higher volume of HGV's in the centre of the village.

The Clerk is working towards getting approval from the Royal Palace to fit the Coronation signpost at the Recreation Ground.

16. Items raised for next Agenda –

- Environment Agency Flood Defence Scheme
- Fence around the playground
- To set up a Traffic Working Group
- Hedgerow/Trees around the Recreation Ground (*Clerk to get in touch with Dan Wenczech*)
- Village Hall Lease (*Clerk to seek advice from HALC regarding the legality of the document*)
- Terms of Reference (*Clerk to confirm with HALC whether subgroups need Terms of Reference*)
- Actions for village bins
- Herefordshire Council Grant of EV Charging Points
- Use of sprays in the village

17. Date of next meeting – 12th October 2023

The Chair closed the meeting at 20:54

Signed:

Date: