EARDISLEY GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 19th October 2026, 7.30pm, Whitney on Wye Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Alan Watkins (Chair), Phil Bayliss, Ian Bowman, Cobi Ferguson, James Forrest, Geoff Greenhill, Yvonne King, Andrew Layton, Nigel Meadows, Terry Morgan, Sue Prosser, Tony Raymond, Paul Whittall, Phil Whittall and Steve Whittall

In Attendance: **Parish Clerk:** Alison Morgan

Police Representative: None **Members of the Public:** 0

1. **Apologies** were received from Councillors Lloyd and Highfield.
2. No **Declarations of Interest** or requests for **Dispensation** were received.

3. **Open Discussion**:
   3.1. **Ward Councillor Address:** There was no report in Cllr Highfield's absence.
   3.2. **Police**: No new reports were received.
   3.3. **Public Participation**: No further matters were raised by members of the public. Matters raised by councillors included:
   - Recent incidences of hare coursing and a police incident at Lady Arbour Farm.
   - Lack of a school crossing in Kington, despite size of school & population.
   - Whitney Footpaths Officer approached the Network Rail foreman during recent structural works in Whitney to make them aware of the footbridge safety concerns.
   - The RBL tour of local memorials takes place on 7th November - schedule to be published and attendance encouraged; followed by Remembrance service in Kinnersley on 8th November 2026.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2026 were reviewed. The minutes were **APPROVED** and duly signed by the Chair; they will be available on the PC website shortly.

5. **Finance & Compliance**:

   5.1. **Bank Reconciliation:** The bank reconciliation report 01-30.09.26 was considered; Councillors resolved to **ADOPT** it for publication on the website as soon as possible.
   5.2. **Budget Monitoring**: performance against budget 01.04-30.09.2026 (H1) was reviewed; it was noted the status was much as expected for the half year point, with some expenses not due for collection until the latter part of the year. The budget and precept requirements for 2027-28 will be considered at the November PC meeting. The Finance & Compliance Working Group will meet in person beforehand to draw up recommendations.
   5.3. **Donation Request**: Councillors considered a request for a donation of £500 from Hay Dial-A-Ride towards the charity's running costs. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to reject the request as the service is used by only a small proportion of parish residents and similar services are available within the parish.
   5.4. **Recruitment**: The Clerk's resignation was noted and it was **AGREED** to approach HALC for assistance with finding a replacement; costs to be confirmed. Additionally, the vacancy will be advertised locally.

6. **Planning**:
   6.1. **Planning Applications**: The following applications were considered:
      6.1.1 **P26301/K – Works to trees – St Mary Magdalene Church, Eardisley HR3 6NT**: Proposed maintenance works to tree species Wellingtonia (Sequoiadendron giganteum) were evaluated; councillors agreed with the results of the tree survey. This application was therefore supported.
      6.1.2 **P262844/K – Works to trees – The Old Parsonage, Church Road, Eardisley HR3 6NJ**: Proposed work to reduce the tree line by 50% to the last cut points was reviewed and councillors resolved to support the application.
   6.2. **Bute Energy Park Application, Powys**: Councillors were made aware of this application which contains a possible transportation route through the parish. EGPC is not a consultee and councillors determined not to submit a representation at this stage.
   6.3. **Other Applications Received**:
      6.3.1 **P263065/K – Works to trees – Hawthorn Cottage, Church Road, Eardisley HR3 6NN**: Councillors agreed with the proposal to fell an overgrown silver birch and this application was supported.
      6.3.2 **Premises Licence**: **Little Quebb Farm, Eardisley HR3 6LP**: Councillors resolved not to comment on this application.

7. **Highways**
   7.1. **Highways Working Group (HWG)** :The following updates on non-agenda items were noted:
      - Seasonal growth will need to be addressed, including around splays – to be reviewed after hedge cutting. As in previous years, the footpaths contractor will be provided with an open Works Order to carry out small remedial works not covered by HC or the Lengthsman. Rubbish and debris reported in the ditch by Eardisley Autos which needs to be addressed to prevent flood water pooling on the road. Comments concerning pothole markings being washed away were noted. No update from HC PROW on reported footpath issue in Eardisley; acknowledgement from Network Rail, but no further update on the footbridge issue in Whitney.

   7.2. **Traffic Management Strategy**: Further recommendations were reviewed for easing traffic congestion in Church Road, Eardisley. It was **AGREED** the additional proposals will be collated & documented for approval by the PC prior to submission. Cllr Bowman will liaise with the Clerk to create a consolidated version.

8. **Environment**:
   8.1. **Flood Alleviation Scheme, Eardisley**: HC advised the scheme's cost estimates increased following further detailed modelling. Nevertheless, the Environment Agency (EA) indicated the scheme remains viable. The HC Flood Risk team is progressing necessary amendments prior to submitting the revised documentation for approval end entry into the EA programme.
   8.2. **Nature Recovery**: It was agreed a separate, public meeting should be arranged. The Clerk will liaise with the Cabinet Minister and Ward Councillor to ascertain possible dates.

9. **Dog Fouling Signs**: A resident reported an escalation in owners failing to pick up after their dogs in the Millstream Gardens/St Mary Meadows area. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** the PC will purchase four additional signs to be put up in perceived 'problem' areas around the parish. It was noted provision of dog waste bins and waste collection should need be considered as part of budget setting as this would represent additional costs that would have to be met through the precept, if implemented.

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10. **Payments Schedule**: *NB: all invoices listed have been examined, verified and certified by the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO). The schedule of payments was initialled by the Chair at the time of the meeting and is attached to these minutes, as required by the adopted Financial Regulations.*

10.1. The following bank transfers since the last meeting were **NOTED**:

Ref:	From A/c:	To A/c	Description:	Total (£)
10.1.1	Current A/c T1	Instant Access Savings	Transfer	18,000.00

10.2 The following receipts since the last meeting were **NOTED**:

Ref:	Payee:	To A/c	Description:	Total (£)
10.2.1	Unity Trust Bank	Savings A/c	Credit Interest	87.12
10.2.2	Herefordshire Council	Current A/c	Precept (2)	20,000.00
10.2.3	Herefordshire Council	Current A/c	Lengthsman Grant (Q1)	269.35

10.3 The following were **APPROVED** for payment:

Ref:	Payee:	Description:	VAT (£)	Gross (£)
10.3.1	Clerk – A Morgan	Expenses (Oct 26)	0.54	40.65
10.3.2	Clerk – A Morgan	Salary (Nov/Dec 26)	0.00	As per staff contract

11. To note **Correspondence**:
    - 11.1. Resident email re dog fouling Millstream Gardens/St Mary's Meadow
    - 11.2. HC PROW team – offer to train footpath officers in hedge trimming & grass cutting
    - 11.3. Police Crime Commissioner – grants of <£5,000 available for road safety initiatives
    - 11.4. HC statement on Five-Year Housing Supply
    - 11.5. HC Floodrisk – invitation to briefing session on Community Flood Planning (19.11.26)
    - 11.6. Network Rail – acknowledgement re footbridge issue (Whitney on Wye)

12. Matters for next Agenda – no discussion.
    - 12.1. Budget: to consider budget 2027/28 for approval.
    - 12.2. Precept: to consider precept levy amount for 2027/28 for approval.
    - 12.3. Item for a future agenda: to review community asset registration within the parish.

Please send AGENDA items to the Clerk by Friday 6th November 2026

clerk@eardisleygroup-pc.gov.uk

Next Meeting: Monday, 16th November 2026, 7:30pm, Whitney on Wye Village Hall

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