

## Ercall Magna Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Community Room, High Ercall School, Church Road, High Ercall and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.00 p.m. in Ellerdine Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:**

**High Ercall:** Cllr's Stephen Bentley, Beatrice Cains, Kevin Connor, Richard Hartshorn, Louise Hughes Scott Walker, Ray Wickson, Andy Williams, 8 Members of the public and the Parish Clerk.

**Ellerdine:** Cllr's Stephen Bentley, Kevin Connor, Ray Wickson, Andy Williams, 7 Members of the public and the Parish Clerk.

In the Chair: Cllr Ray Wickson

**AP/04/17.01 Welcome by the Parish Council Chairman**

The Chairman Cllr Ray Wickson welcomed everyone to both meetings.

**AP/04/17.02 Apologies for absence**

**High Ercall**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Chris Bartlett, Brian Newbold, Louise Oldfield, Chris Purves and Mel Ward.

**Ellerdine**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Chris Bartlett, Beatrice Cains, Richard Hartshorn, Louise Hughes and Mel Ward.

**AP/04/17.03 Report of the Chairman of Ercall Magna Parish Council**

Cllr Ray Wickson, Chairman of the Parish Council, gave the following report;

2016/2017 has been another busy and challenging year for the Parish Council, with planning issues coming to the fore. With the Greenhous Village site now operating, it still needs to be monitored to make sure the operation of the site has minimal impact on close residents and the increase in traffic numbers kept to an acceptable level.

The planning applications for the proposed Dementia Site in Roden and the Chicken Sheds adjacent to the village are still of concern. All of these concerns were reflected in the numbers of the public that attended meetings to voice their views.

With the reduction in services provided by Telford & Wrekin over the last twelve months and probably into the future, Councillors have still managed to ensure road and pavement sweeping together with gully cleaning have been carried out. The Parish Council may have to take on these services this year to ensure the Parish remains a tidy and nice place to live in.

It is pleasing to note that the new Parish War Memorial has now been dedicated. This Council supported this project and would like to extend its' thanks to Nick Turland for all the time and effort he put into its' completion.

Pot holes still remain a problem but, as this report is being written, most have been noted, filled or are being addressed. Street lighting is also an ongoing issue. Once a survey of the street lights is completed then the Council is looking at implementing a programme to replace the existing lights with LED lamps.

The Neighbourhood Plan is still being compiled and hopefully should be ready for public consultation early summer. The need for a Plan is necessary if, in the future, the Council and residents want to have some control and input on Planning Issues.

Over the last 12 months it has become apparent, that we as a Council together with our Ward Councillor are becoming more and more involved with complex issues that affect our Parish. I expect this to continue well into the future.

I would like to thank all our residents who have taken the time and effort to contact Councillors over the last twelve months raising issues that we may not have aware of. I would also like to thank all Councillors for their support and hard work.

We look forward to 2017/18 with interest and I am sure we will all raise to the challenge.

#### **AP/04/17.04 Police Matters**

##### **High Ercall**

There were none.

##### **Ellerdine**

Members of the public expressed concern over the number of burglaries in the area, lack of police patrols in the area and help in setting up more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.

#### **AP/04/17.05 Parish Accounts Year Ending 31st March 2017**

We started the year 2016/17 with balances of **£50,308.32**

Plus Income in the year of **£35,308.58**.

Minus Expenditure in the year of **£34,374.42**

Balance at the 31st March 2017 of **£51,242.48**

**Note:** These accounts have yet to be audited but balance and reconcile as at 31st March 2017.

The recommended general reserves should be a maximum of six months of the annual budgeted spend of £43,576.00 = **£21,788.00**.

Therefore the parish council have allocated **£29,454.48** to the following Ear Marked Reserves.

Devolved Services (from Local Government Grants) - **£9,230.00**

Neighbourhood Planning - **£2,015.00**

Street Lighting Upgrades to LED - **£13,209.48**

Improved Road Safety Signage - **£5,000.00**

**AP/04/17.06 Report of High Ercall Primary School**

Mrs. Sarah Roberts, Headteacher, had forwarded the following report.

**Numbers on roll**

The number of pupils on roll is 137. Our numbers continue to remain healthy, with most year groups full. We have had several new pupils into school through the year, which is always pleasing.

**Staffing**

Since last year our staffing has remained relatively stable, with all the teaching staff remaining in post across school. We completed a restructure of teaching assistant staff in the Summer term last year, to try to ensure that our staffing could be supported by the constraints of our budget.

Sadly this meant that we did need to reduce the number of Teaching Assistant hours across school, and as a result of this one member of staff decided to retire from her post. We have worked hard this year to ensure that we sustain the quality of education we have, even with some reduction in support staff hours.

**Curriculum**

We are continuing to offer a wide and rich curriculum for our children, with a focus on learning through experience and giving the children a breadth of opportunities. It is important to us that the children have opportunities to learn offsite. This school year has included visits to Arthog Outdoor Adventure Centre, Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, Chirk Castle and the Shrewsbury Museum and Art gallery. The children in Key Stage 1 had a fabulous day at the Shrewsbury Museum, following a term focusing on learning traditional rhymes and poems. There was a visiting exhibition which was perfect for the age of the children and enabled some wonderful role play and hands on learning! This term, we also held our own 'Eistedfodd – arts festival' this term. The children auditioned by performing either poetry, prose, singing, dancing or playing musical instruments. We then held a final in the hall with judges, to find our class and Key Stage winners across school. It was a great whole school event, which enabled the children to show their talents.

It is very important to us that the children are given opportunities to take part in sports activities with other children across the Local Authority. We have taken part in a range of different sporting events through the year including: dodgeball, cross country, archery, football – and more events are planned in the summer including tennis, athletics and orienteering.

There are always lot of photographs and notices about our learning on the school website and twitter.

**Extended schools provision**

As a parent of young children myself, I am passionate about supporting working families, and to this end we decided to extend our wrap around provision for families this school year. The breakfast club now regularly serves up to 30 children every morning, from 7.50am. Children are able to eat a healthy breakfast and play with their friends in a calm environment for the start of the day.

After school, we continue to offer the children a wide range of extra-curricular coach led activities including football, Cross Country, Running, Tag rugby, Computing club, Tennis, Karate, Gymnastics, Forest Schools and Music. We then offer our own 'Chill Club' which can run until 6.00pm if parents require. A range of activities is available for the children, including using the school grounds and outside areas.

As we start our third term of the provision, it is clear that it is a good service to offer parents, and one that we hope to be able to sustain. The numbers look healthy, and certainly it is a service I am able to offer parents as they look around the school.

### **Community Involvement**

We continue to enjoy welcoming our parents into school to share in our learning. Most recently, we held an e-safety awareness afternoon for all our parents. It was a very valuable session, as the safety of our children on line both at home and school is of paramount importance.

The children have also been working hard to support our two chosen charities this term. The children, through the school council, voted to support Guide Dogs for the Blind and Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. This term each class completed a charity event – from collecting 2p and 1p coins for a 'Copper trail' around school, through to wearing PJs for the day, or selling cakes and crafts. Altogether this term they have raised just under £500 to be shared between the charities, which is a brilliant amount.

Suzan Williams had continued to be a regular visitor to school, both as a Governor and friend. She has been leading assemblies in school, and will be supporting the older children as part of their transition to secondary school in September.

We're all looking forward to a busy Summer term of SATs, sports days, and trips to make pizzas and chocolate, and much more!

### **AP/04/17.07 Report of High Ercall Village Hall Management Committee**

Dave Heath, Chairman of High Ercall Village Hall, had forwarded the following report.

2016/2017 has been another busy and challenging year for the Village Hall. However, bookings were good, with more users booking regular sessions. We had some very good social evenings which seemed to have been well received and some of the acts have been booked again for this coming year.

Due to the current demise of the Cleveland Arms, villagers have appreciated the Hall being open on a Friday evening. The committee would still like input from residents of High Ercall of what they would like to see going on in the Hall.

The ongoing maintenance programme has resulted in the Bar Area being re-decorated, the car park entrance being re-surfaced and the introduction of bin collection as required. The committee is still looking at improving the toilet and kitchen facilities together with the possibility of a shower block being attached to the hall.

We would like to thank the Parish Council again for their support in cutting of the grass in the playing field area.

At the time of writing the balance of accounts is quite healthy with £4,106:47 in the Business Premium Account and £2,155:87 in the Current Account.

These figures were as at the April meeting. This is subject to audit as the books are now being checked. The committee look forward to another full year of activity and the challenges they present.

#### **AP/04/17.08 Report of Ellerdine Village Hall Management Committee**

Cllr Kevin Connor, representing Ellerdine Village Hall Management Committee gave the following report;

During this year, successful actions have seen positive developments in the transformation of Ellerdine village hall, not only in its use, but also in visible improvements to the functionality and appearance of the village hall and its environs.

The finances have had significant growth in income in the organization's financial year up to end September 2016, and new sources of income have made a difference. There has been substantial increase of activity and a number of successful events and bookings. This has given the committee the opportunity to spend money on much needed improvements. Despite the upturn in funds, the outreach service provided by Hodnet Surgery have not made any attempts for payment for the use of the facility over the last year. We shall be attempting to recover this loss of income.

#### **Bookings**

Cheri Williams has worked tirelessly to ensure that bookings have increased and has exploited opportunities to increase activity in the village hall. She actively deals with enquiries and process all bookings with a good procedure.

Between the end of June 2016 to beginning of May 2017 there has been a significant increase in bookings, especially private hire. For example last year there were 5 private party bookings, whereas this year there has been 15!

There have been attempts to bring in weekly classes, activities and clubs. Some have been successful, whereas others such as exercise classes have had sustainability difficulties.

Successes have paid off from marketing the facility and running successful events and increasing exposure has attracted more users. Engaging with the local community through positive word of mouth communication, use of social media and news pages in the parish magazine have drawn attention and increased attendance at events.

Our most successful, financially, fundraising events were the sell-out Motown night and the ALE'rdine beer festival which raised over £2000 net income. In addition the charity quiz nights have had ups and downs with good attendance at some and poor at others. However we feel that fundraising for other local charities positively supports the wider community and overall the quiz nights are a continuing success.

#### **Visible improvements (functional and cosmetic)**

Fitting of 6 infrared wall heaters – part funded by EMPC

New village hall sign

Landscaping and improvements at the front area

Guttering and downpipe replacement

Tarmac parking spaces and level access to entrance

Hanging baskets sponsored by Coppice Plants of Broseley  
5 new large tables - part funded by EMPC

### Other matters

A questionnaire was distributed during September 2016, with support provided by Shropshire RCC through village SOS funding. The aim was to investigate how the village hall and playing field can be improved and better used. There was a successful return rate of about 19%, which is above the average for this type of survey. Results show where improvements are most needed and what type of activities people would participate in.

As part of the management committee's ongoing review and revision of the village hall's governance procedures, in February there was a decision to transfer the title to the village hall and land from local holding trustees to the Official Custodian within the Charity Commission. Use of the Official Custodian is a free service recommended by the Charity Commission and offers 2 key advantages.

First, it removes the need, and expense, of generating new title deeds whenever there is a change to the holding trustees. Second, there is no risk that title to the property could remain vested in people who are no longer involved with the village hall, or may become difficult to trace. The outgoing holding trustees were thanked for their service to the community and the transfer process has been initiated.

### Future

Moving forward, the plans for the year ahead include spending Section 106 money (from the housing development opposite the hall) towards outdoor gym equipment and fundraising for improvements to the bar area and toilets. We will continue to seek more bookings and hire for sustainable activities and local clubs.

## AP/04/17.09 Report of High Ercall Exhibition Endowment

The meeting for 2016 was held on the 5th September 2016. All officers were re-elected.

### Accounts

#### Receipts

Balance in hand B/fwd. from 2015	£364.21
Charinco Investment Sept 2015 – June 2016	£351.56
Building Society Interest	£0.26
Transfer in from Charitable Trust of High Ercall Primary School	£300.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1016.03</b>

#### Expenditure

Clerk's Salary	£20.00
Postage	£8.10
Grants – 3 x £30 & 3 x 60	£270.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£298.10</b>

<b>Balance</b>	<b>£717.93</b>
Minus this year's expenses	£27.02
<b>Total Available for Grants in 2016</b>	<b>£690.91</b>

Six applications for grants were received, £80 each to 3 and £150 each to the other 3.

**AP/04/17.10 Report of High Ercall Consolidated Charities for the poor**

Cllr Scott Walker had forwarded the following report;

During the year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 there was only one grant of £50 distributed to parishioners. The balance sheet shows total assets of £5447.14 at the Leek United Building Society. Cllr Walker added that with a change of Vicar and other Members leaving it had been very difficult to find suitable applicants to come forward.

Agreed that in future more advertising about this, the Exhibition Endowment Charity and the John & Eliza Bourne Trust should be done.

**AP/04/17.11 Report of the John & Eliza Bourne Trust**

The incumbent and churchwardens of All Hallows Church, Rowton, act as trustees to the John & Eliza Bourne Trust, a charity originally established to help widows and widowers of the Rowton ecclesiastical parish, but amended in 1999 to extend to all poor and needy of that parish. Grants from the trust are made on the basis of written applications to the trustees.

Trustees: Revd. Suzan Williams, The Vicarage, Church Road, High Ercall, TF6 6BE.  
Mr Jeffrey Dale, New House Farm, Ellerdine, TF6 6RS

For the last financial year 21 payments of £130 were allocated bringing the total to £2,730 The balance as of the 26.01.17 was £7,787.28.

**AP/04/17.12 Report from Telford & Wrekin Council**

Councillor Stephen Bentley – Member for Ercall Magna Ward gave the following report;

We have had a busy year representing the local communities within our Ward. You may recall that our Wards were joined at the last boundary review and you now have two Ward Members covering the renamed Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward. Whilst this is a very big geographical area, it has some advantages in that we are able to combine resources and often put forward a stronger case to Telford & Wrekin Council, on your behalf.

Much of our time has been spent consulting regarding Planning Applications and representing the local communities at the various levels of discussion, even attending the Planning Committee Meetings on occasions to challenge officer recommendations or to support applications, especially when appropriate community gain has been included in the proposals. In order to represent your views, we appreciate it when you contact us and let us know your opinions and, more importantly, why you agree or disagree. Local knowledge is very important and together we can ensure that the decision makers base their decisions on facts.

We would like to congratulate Waters Upton on the production of their Neighbourhood Plan, we have now seen it successfully fight off inappropriate development proposals put forward by a developer.

The Steering Group of the Edgmond Neighbourhood Plan has now consulted on its initial draft and it is pleasing to know of the extent of the support that the community is offering. We will continue to support the work towards this Plan and now look forward to the next stage which leads onto the Independent Examination and Referendum. Congratulations on the work so far and very best wishes for the coming months. We are aware of the enormous amount of work on such a document and the Parish Council should be congratulated and must take encouragement from the help and support they are receiving from the community.

Ercall Magna continues to work towards their Regulation 14 Draft Plan, which has been produced in consultation with the community and businesses and is looking good for a Summer submission.

We would encourage other Parish Councils to consider the production of a Neighbourhood Plan as it will offer much needed guidelines for the future development of the rural villages and will offer what protection the community believes is necessary.

High on our agenda has been the condition of roads, footpaths, drains etc. We need to continue to stress to the Administration at Telford & Wrekin Council the importance of investing in our rural areas. We will continue to fight for a fair deal for the rural areas at every opportunity.

We look forward to representing you next year.

Councillor Stephen Bentley & Councillor Stephen Burrell  
Members for Edgmond & Ercall Magna Ward

AP/04/17.13

**Parish Matters**

**High Ercall**

One member of the public expressed concern over the amount of HGV car transporters coming through the village on their way in and out of Greenhous Village.

**Ellerdine**

One member of the public felt that given advance notice more members of the public would attend future parish council meetings if held in Ellerdine.

Another member expressed concern over the speed of traffic from the A442 to the junction to City Road especially now that more traffic is using this road to the new chicken farm.

Concern was also expressed over the state of some of the public footpaths especially those that have not been left open by landowners and others that do not join up to other footpaths or highways.

There were no other parish matters.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and reports and declared the meetings closed at;

**High Ercall** 19.38 p.m.

**Ellerdine** 20.00 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....



