

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
at 7.00p.m. via Zoom.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr E Aston	Cllr K Connor
Cllr G Barrow	Cllr S Bentley
Cllr R Wickson	Cllr A Glenholmes
Cllr M Ward	Cllr R Hartshorne
Cllr C Purves	Cllr S Walker
Cllr Y Homer	Cllr L Hughes
Cllr A Price	

**In Attendance:** Katrina Baker (Acting Clerk)

**385/11/20.C Apologies for Absence**

All Members were in attendance, although Cllr Price was experiencing difficulties connecting to Zoom.

**386/11/20.C Declarations of Interest**

Cllr S Walker	Personal & Prejudicial	Roden Solar Plant Application
Cllr S Bentley	Personal & Prejudicial	HR Committee recommendations
Cllr R Hartshorne	Personal	Roden Solar Plant

**387/11/20.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

It was proposed by Councillor Hartshorne and seconded by Councillor Barrow, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**388/11/20.C Public Participation**

One member of the public had requested the link to join the meeting, but as yet had not arrived. Members agreed that the meeting could be suspended during other business, if they were to arrive. It was therefore agreed to continue with the agenda items.

**389/11/20.C Urgent Items raised by the Chairman**

The Chairman took this opportunity to thank Heather and Richard for the Remembrance Display in Roden – it was much appreciated by residents and passers-by.

Due to the current situation, normal Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services had not been possible. However, wreaths were laid at Rowton (where there was a short service) and at the High Ercall Church.

A Parish Wreath was laid, with the Borough wreath, on Armistice Day and Councillor Bentley agreed to pay for the Parish Wreath.

**390/11/20.C Finance & Governance**

**a) HR Committee**

Councillor Connor, Chairman, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November – copies had been circulated to all members.

*The Acting Clerk and Councillor Bentley left the meeting. The following minutes were provided by Councillors.*

**b) Recommendations**

Councillor Connor updated Members on discussions that had taken place with regards to the post of Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer. It was proposed by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Ward that the draft job description and person specification be adopted by Ercall Magna Parish Council.

It was further proposed that the draft contract for Clerk / RFO be accepted for ten hours per week, these will be flexible to enable out of hours meetings and site visits, as required by the post. All were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that Ercall Magna Parish Council adopts the model contract, job description and person specification, as circulated, for the post of Clerk / RFO for 10 hours per week.**

It was proposed by Councillor Glenholmes and seconded by Councillor Hughes that Katrina Baker, who has been the acting clerk since July 2019, be asked to accept the position on a permanent basis with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

Members of the HR Committee had considered the Profile of the Council, and taking into consideration her qualifications and experience, it was proposed that the position be offered at SCP 26.

All other terms and conditions will be regulated as per The Green Book.

All were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that Katrina Baker be appointed as Clerk to Ercall Magna Parish Council with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**

*The Acting Clerk and Councillor Bentley returned to the meeting.*

**c) Payments**

There are no outstanding payments. The mandate form is nearing completion which, it is hoped, will result in online banking and BACs payments being available.

**d) Financial Update**

The Clerk had circulated the current Receipts and Payment Account, from the Scribe Package, which confirmed a balance of £64,515.00 at the end of October, however there are significant cheques not yet presented. The balance remains in a positive position for the time of year.

**e) External Audit Report**

PKF Littlejohn LLP had completed the End of Year Audit examinations and completed the AGAR. There had been a requirement to amend the figures within the Accounting Statement due to errors in allocations (salaries) and an amendment to the Asset Register to account for the new bus shelter.

There were no recommendations for consideration and the 'Completion of Audit' has been advertised on the website and in the noticeboards.

There had been no additional charges.

**f) Parish Strategy and Budget considerations**

Members were asked to consider any new projects that they wish to be considered through the budget process for 2021/22. Any suggestions must be sent to Katrina by the end of November please in order that a draft budget can be considered by the Finance & Governance Committee.

**391/11/20.C Planning**

**a) Report**

Councillor Connor presented the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 for information.

*Councillor Walker left the meeting.*

*Councillor Hartshorne declared an interest but would not take part in the discussion or decision.*

**b) Current Planning Applications**

**TWC/2020/0851 Mytton Solar Farm, Roden**

Councillor Connor gave a resume of the work undertaken in respect of the proposals, with meetings that had taken place and an attempt at a public consultation event which had not been successful due to the lack of information provided by the agent and having no-one in attendance to answer queries.

Members confirmed that they support the principle of renewable energy initiatives, however, the disproportionate scale and size would bring about adverse effects on the locality and neighbourhood.

Having considered the TW Local Plan and NPPF, Members believed that the Planning Authority could not guarantee that the policy criteria can be met.

A document has been produced, by a Planning Consultant, and this addresses all of the issues and concerns within the Planning Application. It was proposed by Councillor Connor and seconded by Councillor Aston that the Parish Council should jointly commission this consultation response and ask that it be submitted by the original closing date of 19<sup>th</sup> November. This would ensure that all the points raised would be considered during the process of the Case Officer preparing a recommendation.

Members also agreed that the Parish Council should submit its own objection too, this will relate to other matters such as the decommissioning process and costs, with the need for a legal agreement, but also for the community gain.

Members had previously called-in the application to be determined by the Planning Committee – a visit to see the site would be important, too.

All were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that Ercall Magna Parish Council will**

- **jointly commission the Simply Planning Consultant's Letter of Objection**
- **compile its own letter of objection to include the request for Section 106 / community gain**
- **include in its response, confirmation of the need for financial and legal agreements for the decommissioning of the land (after the 40 year period)**
- **Consider the Right of Way options over the land**
- **Consult further with Historic England, CPRE and Natural England**

The Agent had offered to attend a further virtual meeting with the Planning Committee, especially as there are many unanswered questions still outstanding, along with discussions regarding the de-commissioning and community gain elements of the application. A meeting will be arranged week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

*Councillor Walker returned to the meeting.*

**TWC/2020/0945 Poynton Green Farmhouse**

**RESOLVED that Ercall Magna Parish Council would have no objections to the proposed first floor front and side extensions.**

**c) Planning Decisions**

All decisions had been shared with the Members, for information. The most significant being the refusal of the Roden Hall application. The others were also in accordance with the views of the Parish Council.

**d) Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The Regulation 14 version is now with TWC and the Parish Council will be consulting with stakeholders in the coming weeks.

**e) TW Local Plan – Issues & Options Consultation**

The deadline for comments has been extended to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Members will take the opportunity to invite officers to the next meeting, for a presentation which will assist in their deliberations on the proposed Plan.

**f) Roden Hall – removal of trees with TPOs**

It is disappointing that significant work appears to have taken place within the grounds of the Hall. The Plan of the TPOs is now not clear and it was agreed that the TWC Tree Officer should be invited to visit the site and check out the current position as some trees are also in need of attention.

**392/11/20.C Police Matters**

- a)** The Police newsletter had been distributed. Whilst this is useful, it is no substitute for an officer attending a Parish Council meeting once in a while. The Clerk will continue to invite them to every meeting.

- b) The speed of traffic in Roden and particularly on the B5062 is again causing concern. This needs to remain a priority and should be brought to the attention of the Police and TWC. However, it was noted that there had been a significant police presence in Roden recently, which is welcomed.
- c) **Smartwater Kits – We Don't Buy Crime Initiative**  
It is important that local residents are aware of the scheme and use their smartwater kits to identify goods.  
The police are to assist with the distribution of the remainder of the kits. Letters have been produced and the police will send these out with the kits, to houses that have not yet collected and registered a kit.  
The purchase of additional kits for the new developments will be included in 2021/22.

**393/11/20.C Environmental Matters**

**a) Report**

Some work had been undertaken by Idverde over recent weeks, but it is still necessary to remind them of the need for the roads to be swept in Roden, High Ercall, Ellerdine and Rowton at the end of November / beginning of December.

**b) New Issues**

Councillor Walker agreed to deal with the ivy over the wall of The White House.  
The cul-de-sac in Talbot Fields is often missed by the road-sweeper.

**c) Verge Planters**

Members were keen to improve the verge planting schemes within the Parish and funding will be included for consideration in the budget.

However, members accepted an offer from Roden residents to set up a group to maintain the areas in their village. Relevant volunteer contracts, insurance and health & safety policies will be provided and the Clerk will liaise with local companies to enquire if assistance is available.

The order placed with Idverde for seeds, does not appear to have been completed.

**394/11/20.C Highway Matters**

**a) Report**

There is a slow response to reports for action, but at least some have now been completed – others will need to be chased.

**b) New Issues**

- Cul De Sac drain, Talbot Fields
- Rodington Road – drain still blocked
- Painted roundabout, Cotwall
- B5063, Walton Bends – potholes
- Trimming around road signs
- Potholes, junction of Marlbrook Way
- Solar SID lights (from Shawbury) not always working

**395/11/20.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

**a) All correspondence from the County Secretary had been passed to Members, for information, there had been no further requests for items to be added to the agenda.**

**b) Annual General Meeting**

It was confirmed that Councillor L Hughes and Councillor Barrow would represent EMPC at the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November and would be voting members.

**396/11/20.C Street Lighting**

A quotation for new lighting towards Marlbrook Way is awaited.

**397/11/20.C Village Halls**

**a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

The Village Hall and outdoor Gym area remain closed and only weekly safety checks mean that anyone is in the hall.

**High Ercall Village Hall**

Similarly, High Ercall Village Hall is closed, although some internal maintenance is taking place. Following the receipt of the Rospa report, the information has been shared with the Village Hall Committee. Ownership and Maintenance / Insurance responsibility will need to be discussed.

**398/11/20.C Information from Telford & Wrekin Council**

Councillor Bentley reported that the main Council Offices remain closed and officers are working from home, although the IT department is available between 8am and 10.30am for queries.

There are confirmed cases of Covid in a number of local primary and secondary schools.

Work on the A442 at Cold Hatton and Crudgington will be managed with night-time closures from 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020.

Concerns remain regarding the lack of enforcement action on the property in Ellerdine, which was subject to a fire some months ago. This important issue needs escalating to the Legal Department.

**399/11/20.C The Cleveland Arms**

Members will request of TWC a site visit to discuss with the tenant what he can and cannot do, so that the residents know that the building is structurally sound and safe. An update regarding the ACV will also be requested.

The hedge (boundary of the bowls field) needs cutting back to the boundary fence.

**400/11/20.C Correspondence****Rural Forum Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting had been circulated for information.

Following on from discussions, there will be a meeting of the rural parishes to discuss public transport issues. A presentation regarding the proposed Community Action Teams (TWC) gave cause for concern due to the high costs of any of the elements.

Members agreed to discuss this at a later date, in the meantime it is important that TWC (Idverde) undertake the work as included in the SLA /Contract.

**401/11/20 Councillors Reports**

None

**402/11/20.C Acting Clerk's Report****a) Census Day 2021 – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

It is important to encourage people to complete the forms.

**b) Bike Stand Locations**

All the sites have been agreed and installation should take place shortly.

**403/11/20.C Parish Matters**

- Energize – it was agreed that a Link Councillor would be useful, this will appear on the next agenda for consideration.
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee – include on the next agenda for consideration
- London Bridge Protocol – to ensure that EMPC is prepared.

**404/11/20.C Date of the next meeting**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

7pm

Via Zoom

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Signed .....Date .....

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed and signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020