

Minutes of a Meeting of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 16th February 2021 at 7.00p.m. via Zoom.

PRESENT: Cllr E Aston (from 450/02/21.C) Cllr K Connor
Cllr G Barrow Cllr S Bentley
Cllr R Wickson Cllr M Ward
Cllr C Purves Cllr S Walker
Cllr Y Homer Cllr L Hughes
Cllr A Price Cllr A Glenholmes

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
5 Members of the public

446/02/21.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A warm welcome was extended to the representatives of High Ercall Village Hall Management Committee and the Cleveland Phoenix Charity.

The Chairman reminded members of the protocol for a zoom meeting and the Councillors Standards in Public Life.

Members agreed that the meeting could be recorded, for the purpose of reference only and with restricted access to the Clerk and Members of the Council, on request.

447/02/21.C Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Hartshorne Work Commitments
Councillor E Aston Arrived (Minute 450/02/21.C)

RESOLVED that these apologies be accepted.

448/02/21.C Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Walker The Myttons Solar Plant Application

449/02/21.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January 2021

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th January 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

450/02/21.C Public Participation

David Haston, The Cleveland Phoenix Charity

I would like to start by providing an update to the Parish Council.

In light of the Parish Council's resolution not to register an intention to bid at the last Committee meeting, and after careful consideration, the Cleveland Phoenix Charity decided to register an intention to bid for the Cleveland Arms.

This was done on 3 February 2021.

T&WC subsequently requested an explanation as to how the CPC meets the statutory definition of 'Community Interest Group'.

CPC accordingly wrote to T&WC on 8 February 2021 setting out in detail why the Charity meets that definition, by way of reference to:

- Section 95(6) of the Act,;*
- Regulations 5 and 12 of the Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012;*
- the Explanatory Memorandum to the Regulations;*
- the DCLG publication Community Right to Bid; Non-statutory advice note for Local Authorities; and*
- relevant sections of the Charities Act 2011.*

Late on 10 February 2021, T&WC wrote to the CPC requesting further details from the Charity relating to its status and requesting details of its written constitution, Trustee appointments, meeting Minutes etc. These and other details have been provided to T&WC.

The CPC has not yet been informed by T&WC whether the moratorium has been triggered.

In the meantime, the CPC's application for Business Membership of the Plunkett Foundation has been approved and arrangements are being made for a specialist valuer recommended by the Plunkett Foundation to undertake an RICS Red Book open market valuation of the Cleveland Arms. Ideally, this would be undertaken with the benefit of access into the pub, however a valuation will still be prepared even if the owner continues to refuse access.

It is then intended that the owner will be approached to ascertain whether the sale of the Cleveland Arms, at or around open market value, would be contemplated. It is intended to do this irrespective of whether the moratorium is triggered by T&WC.

The external costs associated with membership and the valuation will be £1,440 including VAT.

As the CPC bid is for the benefit of the community within the Parish of Ercall Magna and as the Parish Council is not itself making a bid, we would be grateful if the Parish Council would consider providing funding for these specific costs.

Craig Bunyan, High Ercall Village Hall Management Committee

Craig updated the Members of the Parish Council on the views of the Committee in that as much as they wanted to retain the children's play equipment for the community, on investigation the Members believe the cost may be prohibitive.

Rights of Way – Stiles

A request was made that a repair or replacement stile is required, for safety reasons, at the location on the B5062 between High Ercall and Mill Bridge.

Councillor E Aston arrived.

451/02/21.C The Cleveland Arms

Members were grateful to Mr Haston and Mr Williams who had attended on behalf of the Cleveland Phoenix Charity and for the update regarding their submission of an 'Expression of Interest and Intention to Bid' on 3rd February.

Members thanked them for their work on behalf of the community.

The request for a grant to assist with the costs of the Membership of The Plunkett Foundation and the Valuation will be included on the next appropriate agenda for consideration.

452/02/21.C Play Areas, Ercall Magna Parish

Members had received a briefing note regarding the current status of the play areas and options for their future maintenance and upgrades.

Roden Play Area, Off Marlbrook Way

The recent RoSPA report had identified minor works that are necessary and confirmed that whilst the site is 'safe', it is in need of repairs or replacement to the surface.

Quotations for the resurfacing are around £25,000 with £5000 also required for other works, the sign, fencing etc.

This will be added to the Agenda for Finance & Governance Committee for further consideration.

High Ercall Play Area, rear of High Ercall Village Hall

The equipment is sited on land owned by the Charity and Managed by the Trustees (High Ercall Village Hall Management Committee) which is responsible for all maintenance of the land, village hall and car park. The Parish Council was appointed as the Custodian Trustee and has the very limited role of holding the property for the Charity. The Parish Council nominates annually, two Councillors to be Charity Trustees.

If the Village Hall Management Committee resolves not to take on the equipment, the Parish Council can consider doing this and an agreement will be necessary between the Village Hall and the Parish Council.

This will be added to the Agenda for the Finance & Governance Committee for further consideration.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Committee for attending and they left the meeting.

453/02/21.C Urgent Items raised by the Chairman

SALC Survey

The Chairman introduced the survey, which has been circulated to all Members. It has been compiled on behalf of TWC and SC and all members are encouraged to respond.

It was proposed by Councillor Purves and seconded by Councillor Ward, all were in favour and thus it was

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| RESOLVED that the Chairman has delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. |
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454/02/21.C Finance & Governance

a) Payments

Details of the payments had been circulated. The application for online banking, which now enables BACCs payments, has been completed and the first payments have been successfully transacted. This will require a change to the Financial Regulations, to include an auditable payment procedure. Thanks were extended to everyone involved in the process, which has been ongoing for some time.

b) Financial Update

The balance sheet, from Scribe, had been circulated to all members for information. The sheet includes un-presented payments, so this reflects the actual balance in the account.

c) Audit Training

Councillor Hughes had attended a recent training session, organized by SALC, on the Audit and the Councillors role. Copies of the presentation, along with useful reference material, has been circulated to all Members for consideration at the upcoming Finance & Governance Meeting, on 23rd February 2021. Although all the documents required are available, some amendments and updates will be needed in preparation for adoption at the Annual Meeting.

455/02/21.C Planning

a) Report

Councillor Connor reported that there had been no Planning Committee Meeting.

A letter has been drafted, to be sent to JBM, this includes details of the community benefit contributions that the Parish Council has suggested if the application is granted permission. However, the Parish Council remains clear that it does not support the application as the many points raised over a period of time have not been addressed or satisfactory answers provided. As yet, no date has been announced for the Planning Committee to determine the application and the Chairman suggested that a Planning Committee meeting should take place to formulate the PC presentation at the meeting and agree who would present the Parish Council objection. The two recent documents to be submitted onto the planning portal do not address the landscape or decommissioning queries.

Information regarding two aspects of work on the Development Site adjacent to Roden Nursery has been forwarded to the relevant officers at TWC for investigation. One is the disturbance of tree roots of TPO trees and the second is that the conditions of the Section 106 has not been completely met.

b) Current Planning Applications

There are no current applications for consultation. Any new submissions can be included on the Planning Committee Agenda.

c) Planning Decisions

Councillor Connor updated Members of the one planning decision which was not in conflict with the Parish Council opinion.

d) EMPC Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation

The consultation period ended and a number of responses had been received. The Statutory Consultees were broadly supportive of the policies included. All responses have been forwarded to the consultant and

we are awaiting the response from TWC so that the Parish Council can consider the comments and agree if any amendments are required as a result. If it is agreed that no amendments should be made, the Parish Council must include the reasons for their decision.

456/02/21.C Police Matters

- a) **Speeding through High Ercall and Roden**
This remains a concern for residents and will continue to be put forward for the Speed Camera Partnership and for TWC. It is important that the Section `106 funding for traffic regulation in Roden is used as soon as possible to bring about a road safety scheme in the village.
- b) **Police attendance at PC meetings**
Members agreed that it is disappointing that no attendance has been possible for many months, and that attending a zoom meeting, for 10 minutes should have been possible. This will be raised with the Chief Superintendent.
- c) **Smartwater**
The police are nearing completion of the distribution of the remaining kits. A plan of the Parish Boundary is to be provided so that a scheme for the erection of the We Don't Buy Crime signs can be completed.

457/02/21.C Environmental Matters

- a) **Report**
A number of local issues have been reported and addressed.
- b) **Potholes, B5062, outside of Dogs Trust**
Although a number of the potholes have been filled, the road remains in a poor condition and the road surface is breaking up. It appears that there may be a stream that flows under the road and therefore a complete section of the highway could need replacing.

458/02/21.C Highway Matters

- a) **Speeding**
Councillor Barrow confirmed that the speeding traffic through Roden has a detrimental affect on the Environment.
- b) **Mill Bend Bridge**
Councillor Walker explained that the recent works around Mill Bend Bridge has resulted in a change to the camber of the road, as well as raising the road and whilst this avoids the house being flooded, it has resulted in the water flowing across the highway before the bridge. Additional gullies have been included to assist in ensuring that the excess water can continue to flow.
- c) **A442 Cold Hatton**
The Clerk updated Members on the three phase scheme at Cold Hatton. Whilst Phase II has been completed, the company are to return to adjust the illuminated signs and sensors for maximum affect. The replacement central bollards from phase I are on order and phase III will be a complete review of the signage and road markings through to Crudgington.
- d) **Rural Transport**
The Chairman and Vice Chairman had attended a meeting with TWC and other rural parishes and were informed of the Transport Review currently taking place by an external consultant. It had been agreed that the rural parishes will receive a survey and the results will assist TWC in their consideration of new and innovative ways of addressing the transport issues for people in rural areas, this would take into consideration work, health appointments and shopping, but also to address the fears of rural social isolation. It was positive that TWC has acknowledged that a new innovative solution will be required and the officers appear committed to investigate this as part of the Review.

459/01/21.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) **Wrekin Area Committee**

The Minutes of the last meeting had confirmed that a resolution had been submitted to the Executive, regarding the sale and use of fireworks, and Chinese lanterns. This has now been included on the agenda for the MP meeting and has progressed further to the NALC Policy Committee.

There is to be a second meeting of WAC representatives with the Chief Executive and Leader. Any items for inclusion on the Agenda can be forwarded to the Clerk.

Thanks would be extended to TWC for the support for the communities, businesses and organizations through the pandemic.

460/02/21.C Street Lighting

No new issues

461/02/21.C Village Halls

a) **Ellerdine Village Hall**

The Hall remains closed under the Government Covid Regulations

High Ercall Village Hall

The Hall remains closed. The Management Committee will be meeting on Thursday, 18th February and will discuss the play area.

b) **The Parish Council and working with the Village Halls in the Parish**

It was agreed that this would be included on the agenda for the Finance & Governance Committee so that all Councillors are aware of their responsibilities and that any roles and responsibilities are clearly identified to avoid confusion.

Members wished to thank both Village Hall Committees for their sterling work throughout the pandemic and to thank TWC for the grants that have been made available to them.

462/02/21.C Information from Telford & Wrekin Council

Councillor Bentley expressed concern regarding the transfer of the High Ercall Playing Equipment and it was agreed that details of the initial funding agreement be ascertained before the Parish Council makes any decisions on future maintenance and responsibility.

It is likely that TWC will agree a 4.9% increase on the Council Tax, this will not be supported by the Conservative Group of Councillors as it is their belief that the residents need support at this difficult time and therefore any increase should have been kept to a minimum.

Discussions with Ch Supt J Baker have been very positive and there is to be a meeting, which Steve will attend, for him to give a presentation on the challenges for the police force in the coming years. He has confirmed, however, that he wants to focus on the rural areas wherever possible.

Information has been received regarding a boundary review including all Borough Wards. Members were concerned that this has not yet been announced and that it will have an effect on Parish & Town Council areas. This will be added to the agenda for the meeting with the Chief Executive and WAC.

There are many differences of opinion by communities at this time regarding any possible re-unification of Telford & Wrekin with Shropshire. This Boundary Review may link into this consultation as it will affect the overall numbers of Councillors significantly.

463/02/21.C Correspondence

All correspondence is shared with Members, there have been no requests for items to be included on the agenda for consideration.

a) **Rural Forum**

The minutes have been circulated, for information. Ercall Magna representatives had raised concerns regarding the gritting regime in rural areas and it had been confirmed that this will be reviewed.

b) TW Bus User Group

Please refer to the Minutes for further information regarding current bus timetables and the Transport Review.

464/012/21.C Councillors Reports

Councillor Homer had attended a training session for new Councillors. This was very useful.

Councillor Purves had attended the recent Climate Change PTC Working Group at which there was a presentation by CPRE. There had been an update on the County and TW Action Plans and Chris had been invited to give a presentation on adding cycle routes and joining communities. A suggestion that all PTCs have a Climate Champion is under consideration, with links to websites. There could be consideration of solar panels on local business roofs and poultry farms etc.

It was pleasing to hear about support for Quiet Lane Initiatives as they work well to reduce carbon footprints. EMPC has already identified Silver Hill and Poynton Road.

A link to the Parish Toolkit can be included on the website.

465/02/21.C Clerk's Report

None, all matters have been included on the Agenda.

466/02/21.C Parish Matters

Rights of Way

Members discussed the importance of Rights of Way and the support for a scheme that will enable more maintenance and a possibility of locating lost paths as well as the promotion of local routes. This links in well with the recent updates of the Definitive Map which is now available digitally. The Parish Council sub-committee will continue the work. This is Cllrs Purves, Connor, Ward and Hughes.

Flooding

TWC officers are working with residents in Coppice Drive and Crossfields to address the flooding issues.

Covid Testing

Whilst the Parish Council did not understand how the statistics are used to identify an area as 'high risk' they do wish to encourage people to use the free tests available.

467/02/21.C Date of the next meeting

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| 23 rd February 2021 | 7pm | Finance & Governance Committee |
| 16 th March 2021 | 7pm | Full Council |

Meetings will continue via Zoom for the time being.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their important contributions to the meeting, which he closed at 8.45pm.

SignedDate

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed and signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 16th March 2021.