

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

PRESENT: Cllr E Aston 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
Cllr R Hartshorne (Arrived 473/03/21.C)

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

468/03/21.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A warm welcome was extended to all guests.

469/03/21.C Apologies for Absence

Councillor R Hartshorne Arrived 473/03/21.C

RESOLVED that these apologies be accepted.

470/03/21.C Declarations of Interest

None

471/03/21.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February 2021

It was proposed by Councillor Connor and seconded by Councillor Price, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

472/03/21.C Public Participation

Rights of Way - Stiles

A reminder has been sent to the Rights of Way Officer at TWC regarding the dangerous stile reported at the last meeting.

Verge Planters

Offers of help with the replacement verge planters is much appreciated. A working group will be established to consider this further.

Safe pedestrian route - High Ercall to Walton

A request had been received with a suggestion to work with local landowners and TWC to create a safer route on the B5063.

Councillor R Hartshorne arrived

473/03/21.C The Cleveland Arms

The Cleveland Phoenix Charity is now a member of the Plunkett Foundation and they have instructed the valuation.

TWC has liaised with the owner and some work has taken place on the hedge (boundary of the bowling green). TWC has accepted that this has been done and no further action is to be taken until Autumn.

474/03/21.C Play Areas, Ercall Magna Parish

Roden Play Area, Off Marlbrook Way

It was proposed by Councillor Walker and seconded by Councillor Glenholmes that the recommendation from the Finance & Governance Committee be agreed. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will inform TWC that it will consider taking on the lease of Roden Play Area from April 2022, providing that funding for the complete resurfacing has been agreed.

High Ercall Play Area, rear of High Ercall Village Hall

Thanks were extended to High Ercall Village Hall Management Committee for the letter confirming its position regarding the future location of the play area to the rear of the Village Hall.

A copy of the details received from the Land Registry would be forwarded to the Management Committee Chairman with a request to keep the Parish Council informed of any developments.

It was proposed by Councillor Ward and seconded by Councillor Bentley that the recommendation from the Finance & Governance Committee be agreed. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will take on responsibility for the Play Area to the rear of the Village Hall from April 2021, subject to be being brought up to the recommended standard by the Local Authority.

This decision will ensure that the Section 106 funding from the Earls Keep development is available for the VH Management Committee to work with TWC to provide the enhanced provision of a track and associated work on the adjacent field.

The Clerk was asked to investigate in the Parish archives for details relating to Land Registry and Title Deeds for the field.

474/03/21.C Urgent Items raised by the Chairman

None

475/03/21.C Finance & Governance

a) Minutes

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 for information.

b) Recommendation

It was proposed by Councillor K Connor and seconded by Councillor Hughes that the recommendation, reference 24/21F be agreed, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Ercall Magna Parish Council will provide up to £1000 towards the cost of the valuation and administration of the Phoenix Charity in relation to the Expression of Interest as a ACV at the Cleveland Arms.

c) Payments

Details of the payments had been circulated. It was proposed by Councillor Connor and seconded by Councillor Purves that the payments be authorized and the Clerk and authorized Councillor arrange the BACCs payments.

Description	Statute / Law	Amount
Clerk's Salary - Feb / Mar	LGA 1972	£796.30
PAYE - Feb/Mar	LGA 1972	£234.90
Chairman's Allowance	LGA 1972	£312.50
Councillor Training x 2	LGA 1972	£60.00

Members also authorized the payment of the Scribe Accounts Package, £345.60 for the 2021/22 financial year which will be paid after 1st April 2021.

d) 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.

476/03/21.C Planning

a) Report

Councillor Connor presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February, for information.

Councillor Connor, as Chairman of the Planning Committee gave an update on the Solar Farm Decision made at the recent TWC Planning Committee which has been approved with 15 conditions.

b) Current Planning Applications

TWC/2021/0202 Outline Application at Roden Nurseries

Members had taken the opportunity to look at this application and to consider the proposal to remove the existing glasshouses and erect up to 10,000 sq m of employment floor space including access with other matters reserved.

Members expressed concern over any additional traffic that may affect the village and shared concerns over the recent planning committee meeting at which the officer described Roden as a light industrial area.

Members confirmed their opinion that there needs to be a planning policy for the rural area and that the cumulative effect of a number of nearby applications should be taken into consideration. However, it was agreed that the site is in disrepair and therefore could be unsafe. The removal of the glass houses would be welcomed. The Parish Council may consider a small rural business park, sympathetic to the area.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would respond to this outline application and would read

There is concern within the community regarding additional traffic movements, but this is to be addressed in the near future with the traffic calming scheme which TWC will bring forward using the Section 106 funding from the nearby poultry unit.

Roden is a picturesque village with much significant history. However, unfortunately, recent planning permissions have identified this as a light industrial area. There is a distinct need for a planning policy for the rural area.

Therefore, the response to this application is that the Parish Council supports the principle of a change of use, subject to conditions which include that the detail must take into consideration that this is a rural location and the site is significant as it is the entrance to the village.

The Parish Council is keen to liaise with the developers at an early stage and to work with them to ensure that the design, scale and materials used are sympathetic to the area and in keeping with the history of Roden village.

c) Planning Decisions

Councillor Connor updated Members of the one planning decision which was not in conflict with the Parish Council opinion. This related to application TWC/2021/0031, for change of use.

d) EMPC Neighbourhood Development Plan Update

All stakeholder comments have been forwarded to the consultant for analysis. This included a lengthy response from TWC, which had been circulated. Regulation 15 dictates that each comment received must be considered and the Steering Group should determine if any changes to the Plan are necessary as a result of the comment. If no changes are agreed, the reason must be included in the response document, which will accompany the Draft NDP when it is submitted to the Examiner. A Steering Group meeting will be arranged.

477/03/21.C Police Matters

a) Speeding in the Parish

Speeding remains a concern, throughout the Parish, as with many other rural villages. It is hoped that the scheme, to be funded with the Section 106 funding from the poultry unit in Roden will be in place soon. The Clerk continues to chase TWC for a proposal and timescale.

b) Newsletter

A copy of the recent newsletter had been circulated.

c) Smartwater

The Smartwater Signs will be on order and it is hoped that they will soon be available for erection around the Parish. Offers of help will be appreciated.

478/03/21.C Environmental Matters

a) Report

Flooding in Marlbrook Way had been reported to the Parish Council.

Flooding towards Mill Bend had returned, but cleared much quicker, this is likely to be due to the high water table and vast amount of rainfall in a short period of time.

b) Potholes, B5062, outside of Dogs Trust

Confirmation had been received that this area has been identified for a full road surface refurbishment.

479/03/21.C Highway Matters

a) Potholes

A number of local potholes have been reported via My Telford – this is the best way to report such issues, a photograph can be attached and the exact location identified on a map. The reporter gets a reference number which can be used to chase outstanding actions.

b) Top of Cotwall Bank

There have been a number of reports regarding the poor surface at this location. It is now causing a danger to road users as the mini-island is no longer visible and there is a conflict over priority of traffic at the junction.

c) B5062 through High Ercall

Pressure must be put on the Highways Authority to bring this road to the top of the priority list for the capital programme. It is some time since the site visit took place and the condition of the road through a village designated for future development and which has a conservation area, is totally unacceptable.

d) Rural Transport

The Chairman and Vice Chairman had completed the questionnaire as part of the TW Transport Review.

e) Safe route for pedestrians from High Ercall to Walton

It was agreed that a meeting of the Footpath and Rights of Way Committee should take place to discuss this further before any approach to the local landowners and TWC.

480/03/21.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 next meeting will take place on Thursday, 25th March 2021 – all Members are welcome to attend. The link will be available from the Clerk.

481/03/21.C Street Lighting

No new issues

An updated schedule has been received and will be circulated to all members, for information.

482/03/21.C Village Halls

a) Ellerdine Village Hall

The Hall remains closed under the Government Covid Regulations – it may be possible for some limited use after April 12th.

A request had been received for litter picks, hi-viz tabards, gloves and bags. This will be included on the next agenda for consideration when costs are available. Residents will be able to sign up as street champions when the restrictions are lifted.

High Ercall Village Hall

The Hall remains closed.

483/03/21.C Information from Telford & Wrekin Council

Councillor Bentley updated Members on the announcement that £50m is to be made available for highway improvements and shared his view that rural roads should be a priority.

He also informed Members of his view of the Planning Committee meeting, at which it was disappointing that the planning case officer had not taken the opportunity to engage with the Parish Council on behalf of the residents to confirm the points raised and to put minds at rest. He went on to express concern that the officer had referred to Roden as a light industrial area and this may result in more inappropriate applications coming forward. He will continue to represent the views of the community at every opportunity, especially so that the history of Roden is retained wherever possible.

484/03/21.C Correspondence

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

a) Rowton request for a defibrillator

Following receipt of the request, the Clerk had negotiated a sponsorship by BioTech4. In addition to this, Waters Upton Stores will contribute £100 for the installation costs. The defibrillator and cabinet will be sited in the centre of the village.

RESOLVED that Thornfield 001 Limited (Biotech4) will be thanked for their generous offer and that the Parish Council will take on the responsibility, insurance and maintenance in the future.

485/03/21.C Councillors Reports

Councillor Purves updated Members on his representation at the PTC Climate Change Working Groups. The Toolkit will be shared with all members. It is important that collaborative working leads this project and that all groups, organizations, businesses, drivers, residents etc. are involved in this subject. It is hoped that when face to face meetings are once again possible, an event in the village hall can take place to raise awareness and to offer practical advice.

486/03/21.C Clerk's Report

None, all matters have been included on the Agenda.

487/03/21.C Parish Matters

Poynton Road

Additional signs are required to support and promote the speed restriction and unsuitable for HGVs.

Roden – footpath sign

This will be checked for safety and accuracy.

488/03/21.C Date of the next meeting

20th April

7pm

Annual Parish Meeting

8pm

Full Council

The Annual General Meeting will take place in May, where elections to Committees will take place.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their important contributions to the meeting, which he closed at 9.00pm.

SignedDate

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed and signed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 20th April 2021.