

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 19th September 2023 at 7.00p.m. in High Ercall Village Hall.

PRESENT:

Cllr K Connor	Cllr G Barrow
Cllr R Wickson	Cllr S Bentley (and TWC)
Cllr L Hughes	Cllr E Aston
Cllr S Noyes Thomas	Cllr C Grant
Cllr R Hartshorn	Cllr C Purves

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
Cllr G Thomas (TWC)
Mr E Griffiths
R Bruckshaw (until 0089/09/23.C)

0087/09/23.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

A planning application for Oakdene Cottage had been received since the agenda was published, members agreed that it could not be considered at this meeting as not all Councillors had had an opportunity to view the details.

Public Session

Mr E Griffiths attended to update Members on information relating to his Planning Application (TWC/2023/0367) for a poultry unit at Grange Farm, Ellerdine.

Councillor Bentley left the meeting – he is a member of the Planning Committee at TWC

Mr Griffiths explained that he was shocked and dismayed at the view of his neighbours against his application. He informed the Members that he has been speaking to the local residents and sent individual letters. Out of 120 objections, he noted that 34 of them were local and he would continue to liaise with them all. He confirmed that there will only be two (rigid) lorries and no articulated lorries and the days and times can be agreed in advance.

New leaflets are available explaining the system (Kipster), which will be the first in the UK. A Heritage Impact Assessment is to be completed. He has noted the concerns regarding visibility and can drop the site by a further 2m if required. He confirmed that neighbours did not understand that these are farm birds and will be on site for two years.

He informed Members that the Planning Officer had requested more clarity which the company is happy to provide.

The Chairman enquired if the application is to be amended in accordance with the additional information provided as the current application is different to what was shared tonight. Alternatively, the application could be withdrawn and re-submitted in order to give the local residents and Parish Council an opportunity to comment on the amended details that have been provided. Mr Griffiths stated that he would not be amending the application or withdrawing it but would ask that the Parish Council considers the information.

It was also suggested that he could consider holding an event in a Village Hall to explain the project to the local communities.

The Chairman thanked Mr Griffiths for attending and he left the meeting.

0088/0/23.C Apologies for Absence

Councillor Taylor Holiday

RESOLVED that the apologies as listed be accepted.

Absent

Councillor S Walker

0089/09/23.C Vacancy

One application had been received for the vacancy for a Parish Councillor in the High Ercall Ward. Copies of the application had been shared with Members. Mr R Bruckshaw had an opportunity to add further information and to ask any questions of the Councillors. Members had an opportunity to ask questions before Mr Bruckshaw left the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Wickson, seconded by Councillor Hughes, all Members agreed that Mr Bruckshaw is a good candidate, with local knowledge and is community-led and were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that Mr R Bruikshaw be co-opted to Ercall Magna Parish Council.

Councillor Bruckshaw read and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, which was witnessed by the Clerk, as the Proper Officer of the Council.

A Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests will be completed – this will be sent to Telford & Wrekin Council and will appear on the website.

0090/09/23.C Declarations of Interest (for items on the Agenda) or Dispensations

The following declarations of interests were recorded:

Councillor Wickson	High Ercall Village Hall, Education Trust and Royal British Legion
Councillor Connor	Ellerdine Village Hall and Royal British Legion (with dispensations)
Councillor Noyes-Thomas	High Ercall Village Hall and TWC/2023/0645
Councillor Bentley	Member of TW Planning Committee
Councillor Hartshorn	TWC/2023/0621
Councillor Aston	TWC/2023/0617

0091/09/23.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th July 2023

It was proposed by Councillor Wickson and seconded by Councillor Barrow, with one abstention, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0092/09/23.C Chairman's Report and Correspondence Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Plan Referendum

Further to the announcement which the Chairman had circulated to all Members following the successful referendum, the Chairman thanked all concerned throughout the process. TW Cabinet will formally 'make' the Plan at its meeting in October after which it will form part of the TW Local Plan until 2031. The policies included represent the will of the residents and will be used to determine planning applications. 301 votes were cast (representing 21%) of the electorate, with 76% voting in favour of the Plan. It would be interesting to know why some residents had not voted in favour of it. It was also considered appropriate that a review commences in 2025/26 to be in a position to re-consider the Plan in accordance with the timescales for the review of the TW Local Plan.

0093/09/23.C Finance & Governance

a) Financial Report and Update

Councillor Hughes, Chairman, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September for information.

b) Recommendations

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

RESOLVED that a CCLA Investment Account be opened for the Community Benefit and Free Reserve funds – the interest is currently 5.17% and this will enabled the Parish Council to meet the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority.

c) Payments

It was proposed by Councillor Hughes and second by Councillor Wickson that the following payments be authorized in accordance with the Council’s Financial Regulations. All were in favour.

Clerk’s Salary - September	LGA 1972 s112	£600.00
PAYE – September	LGA 1972 s112	£150.00
External Audit Fee	LGA 1972 s151	£378.00

d) Financial Report

As at the 31st August 2023, the current account had £84,603.04 and £15,054.26 in the Savings Account.

0094/09/23.C Planning

a) Report

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August, for information.

Councillor Wickson thanked Councillor Connor for the excellent response to application TWC/2023/0583. It is very important that the Parish Council continues to recommend refusal.

b) Updates

TWC/2023/0270	Land adjacent to Roden Hall	Granted
TWC/2023/0308	RAF Site, Cotwall	Granted
TWC/2023/0555	19 Park Lane (TPO)	Granted

TWC/2023/0367

Following the presentation by Mr Griffiths within the public session, Members considered the information that had been shared.

It is not possible for the Parish Council to reconsider its view of a Planning Application, unless the amendments are formally submitted to the Planning Authority. If the amendments are significant, a new application would be recommended as this would give residents and the Parish Council an opportunity to submit any new comments. Mr Griffiths stated that he did not intend to offer the amendments or withdraw the application to submit a new one and therefore the response of the Parish Council remains as originally submitted.

c) New Planning Applications for consideration

*Councillor Bentley left the meeting as a member of Planning Committee
Councillors R Hartshorn and Noyes-Thomas declared an interest and left the meeting*

TWC/2023/0617 4 Nursery Gardens

Tree Works

Councillor Aston declared an interest

As background information, some tree works has taken place on the site without permission and the Tree Officer has visited to offer advice and an enforcement notice has been served. It should be remembered that a breach of planning condition or unauthorized work on a TPO tree is a criminal offence and should be avoided.

The Parish Council supports the application to carry out necessary works to enhance and protect the tree. However, conditions must be applied and the work monitored by the Tree Officer, to ensure that the work is carried out appropriately by a qualified tree surgeon.

**TWC/2023/0621 Agricultural Building adjacent to 9 Roden Lane
Change of Use (to Storage Class B8)**

The Parish Council supports the principle of change-of-use but would request that consideration be given to the inclusion of rooftop solar panels. A request would be included to plant trees for screening to make this aesthetically pleasing.

**TWC/2023/045 Stackstones, High Ercall
Felling of one Robinia Tree**

The Parish Council would have no objection due to the poor condition, however, they would request that a replacement tree is planted.

All Councillors returned to the meeting.

- d) **Other Planning Matters**
- i) **Planning and Training Events**
Thanks were extended to Members who have attended various sessions provided by TWC on a variety of planning topics. The parish training register should be kept up to date.
 - ii) **Enforcement Matters**
Members confirmed their frustrations that the local enforcement orders remain uncompleted and the Parish Council has received no recent updates, regardless of requests. The concerns will be sent to the Head of Planning.
 - iii) **Enforcement Policy**
It was noted that the Enforcement Policy (on the TW website) is dated 2015 and appears to be out-of-date. The Clerk will request an update.
 - iv) **Guide to Protected Trees**
Thanks were extended to the Tree Officer for providing a copy of this important document. The Planning Officers will be asked if all residents receive a copy if they have protected trees in their grounds.
 - v) **Conservation Area Management Plan**
This is an essential document, to link with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the TW Local Plan. Councillor Hughes agreed to liaise with the Conservation Officer at TWC to bring forward a much needed and essential review of the current CAMP.

0095/09/23.C Environmental Matters

- a) **Updates and New Issues**
 - i) **Ward Walk**
The Clerk had been invited to join Councillor Bentley on the recent Ward Walk, and an opportunity was taken to show the poor state of areas within the Parish that have not received appropriate road sweeping or environmental maintenance.
New reports, with photographs, have been sent to the Senior Management Team and it is hoped that actions will be taken and we will see Idverde in the villages in the near future.
 - ii) **Kerbside Sweeping**
There are extensive areas that are in need of sweeping.
 - iii) **Marlbrook Way Pavement**
Councillor Hartshorn will provide the My Telford reference for the Clerk to chase up urgent work outside number 38.
 - iv) **Park Lane Sign**
This will be reported as missing.
 - v) **Fly Tipping**
It is important to continue to report all fly-tips on My Telford, so that TWC is aware of the extent of the issue in rural areas.

0096/09/23.C Highways & Transport Matters

a) Reports and Updates

With in the Ward Walk previously mentioned, all the points outstanding from the Highways Liaison Meetings have been raised. A copy of the minutes were provided.

b) Changes to the Secondary School Transport Provision

The combining of the school bus with the service buses has not been successful and has left some young people unable to get to school, or stranded at the end of the school day.

Councillor Bentley, with the Parish Council and parents have been campaigning for improvements, especially due to the safeguarding issues.

Some changes to the timetables have been implemented which is hoped will assist, and a chaperone is travelling on the service bus – but this is unlikely to be continued.

This, and other local transport issues, were raised at the recent TW Bus User Group Meeting. TW no longer attend this forum which is disappointing. Instead the BUG has a representative on the new Enhanced Partnership Forum. Councillor Lee Carter is the Cabinet Member with responsibility for transport, but appeared to know little about the serious issues at the meeting. Representatives of the service providers were in attendance and there appeared to be a commitment to resolve this as soon as possible to ensure the safety of the children.

Further issues have been experience since the meeting, and all the information has been passed to the Transport Team with a request for urgent action.

c) SIDs

Whilst the sites included from the original scheme are working well and the data gathered will be very useful, it is frustrating that after over 4 years, the outstanding sockets have still not been installed by Balfour Beatty.

This project is to be totally funded by the Parish Council and therefore the Clerk was instructed to ask that this be completed within a month, otherwise the Parish Council will look for an alternative company to complete the project.

The conflicting information received from Highways Officers regarding the new site in Shrewsbury Road has been taken up with the Manager and Dean Sargeant and hopefully will be resolved very soon. The quotation is required in order to apply for the grant from PCC.

d) Roden Safety Scheme

It is unacceptable that the revised scheme is still not available, it was originally promised in July. A recent email from Chris Pearson has stated that it will be available in October.

Councillors for the Roden Ward confirmed some of the community concerns that had been raised within the consultation which have resulted in the delay. Councillor Thomas agreed to support the Parish Council in the request for no further delays.

The Clerk will request that the two agreed SID sockets be installed, so that our SIDs can be used in the interim.

e) Other Matters

A copy of the minutes of the Highways Liaison Meeting will be re-sent to the officers with a request for an update, this will be copied to Councillor Thomas and Councillor Bentley, as Ward Members.

0097/09/23.C Play Areas

Roden

No Issues reported

High Ercall

The climbing frame is awaiting repair and has been closed for safety reasons.

0098/09/23.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils

a) Regular updates are provided to all members and contain useful information.

b) The AGM is on 3rd November at The Wroxeter Hotel. The Inspirational Speaker is Darren Edwards and his story is well worth hearing.

c) Details of future events and surveys have been included in the regular bulletins which are shared with all Members.

0099/09/23.C Street Lighting

The Clerk will report that many street lights are hidden by overgrown trees and hedges – local landowners are asked to check that lights on their property are not overgrown, others will be reported to Eon.

0100/09/23.C Correspondence

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity.
- b) Roof Top Solar – CPRE
Members discussed at length the entire topic relating to solar panels (on roofs and ground), all green energy initiatives, energy assessments, wind options, car charging and the inadequacies of the National Grid.

RESOLVED to write to Mark Pritchard MP to offer support and also to write to TW Local Planning Authority to request that a policy be introduced to request that all developments consider green energy options as a condition of any planning consent.

- c) TW Parish & Town Council Conference
Since the meeting, this event has been cancelled.

0101/09/23.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council

a) Councillor Bentley – Ercall Magna Ward

A lot has been going on in recent weeks.

i) Ward Walk

As previously mentioned, this enabled areas of the Parish to be highlighted to Simon Wellman, a Director of TWC where there has been lack of action over many years.

ii) School Transport

This situation should never have happened, as he raised concerns about the issues in July when the changes were announced. Steve will continue to represent the children and their parents, whilst ensuring that the rural areas retain the much needed service bus. However, the safety of the children must be the priority.

iii) Shrewsbury Road and Silver Hill

A site visit established information relating to the differences between the temporary repairs and permanent repairs – the key point being that if temporary repairs are carried out, this means that follow up work will be programmed. Shrewsbury Road has been highlighted and will be considered for the Capital Programme where a fixed date will be made available.

The initial work on Silver Hill has been carried out and quotations are awaited for the additional work that has been requested to try to slow down the traffic as it approaches the B5062. Parking in Silver Hill is to be avoided.

iv) A442 Cold Hatton to Long Lane

A meeting had welcomed the Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner to the Ward and Councillor Connor had joined to hear about a principle of a scheme for the road from the TW boundary at Sandyford to the Long Lane boundary. This was the first meeting at the early stages of discussion.

b) Councillor Gareth Thomas – Wrockwardine Ward

Gareth gave a short report on recent work. He is a member of the Boundary Review Committee and will keep the Parish Council informed throughout the stages, which haven't started yet. This will be in preparation for the 2027 election.

He has decided to identify a key road in each village in his Ward where speed is an issue and will be looking at the Poynton to Roden road.

He will also support the Parish Council with other matters raised.

0102/09/23.C Reports

Councillors' Reports

Councillor Barrow had represented the Parish Council at the recent Helicopter Liaison Meeting held at RAF Shawbury. These meetings are now hosted by RAF, rather than Shropshire Council, but there will only be two per year.

RAF Shawbury is the Training Centre for the helicopter pilots for the Country and therefore very busy. There has to be night flying, as part of the course, but dates are always publicized in advance.

