

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.00p.m. in High Ercall Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr K Connor  
Cllr R Wickson  
Cllr L Hughes  
Cllr S Noyes Thomas  
Cllr R Hartshorn  
Cllr S Walker  
Cllr S Bentley (and TWC)  
Cllr R Bruckshaw  
Cllr C Grant

**In Attendance:** Katrina Baker (Clerk)  
Two members of the public  
PCSO I Collumbell

**0126/11/23.C Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**Public Session**

There were no matters raised.

**0127/11/23.C Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Barrow	Health Matters
Councillor Taylor	Alternative Engagement
Councillor Aston	Family Commitments

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

**RESOLVED that the apologies as listed be accepted.**

**0128/11/23.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/2023/0583
Councillor Bentley	Member of TW Planning Committee
Councillor Grant	High Ercall Village Hall
Councillor Hughes	EM CAMP and TWC/2023/0583

**0129/11/23.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**0130/11/23.C Chairman's Report and Correspondence**

**a) Remembrance 2023**

The Chairman had attended the Remembrance Services at High Ercall Memorial on 11<sup>th</sup> November and at Rowton and High Ercall churches on 12<sup>th</sup> November – all were well attended.

Thanks were extended to Ray Wickson and Members of the RBL. The wreaths were purchased from the Chairman's Fund.

Councillor Bentley thanked Councillor Wickson for laying the TW wreath at Rowton as he could not attend this year as he was attending alternative service at the same time.

Thanks were recorded to Heather and The Team for putting up the poppies in Roden and for the display.

**b) Community Governance Review**

The consultation period has been extended to 18<sup>th</sup> December which gives more time for local residents to have an opportunity to consider the options and respond individually. It would also be useful for the Parish Council to understand public opinions to assist in formulating a suitable response.

A copy of the Community Governance Review presentation (to WAC) is available and a flyer will be created to be distributed in Roden and Poynton inviting local residents to attend a meeting at Park Timber in the village on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7pm.

It is important that people know about the review and how they can respond if they wish to.

**c) Chairman's Network Meeting (SALC)**

This is a useful forum with interesting topics. Neighbourhood Planning was discussed.

There was an exchange of views regarding cross-parish working and partnerships.

Councillor Bentley reminded Councillors that any local council without a Neighbourhood Plan will be vulnerable especially with the planned changes in delegated authority to officers and the pending Local Plan Review.

**0131/11/23.C Finance & Governance**

**a) Financial Report**

There remains a balance of £125,321.89 in the two accounts.

The income from the community gain has not yet been received. The CCLA application will be completed – there is no requirement to wait for this funding, it would be advisable to open the 'savings account' in preparation.

**b) Payments**

<b>K Baker</b>	<b>Salary October 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>PAYE October 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£150.00</b>
<b>K Baker</b>	<b>Salary November 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>PAYE November 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£150.00</b>
<b>Vision ICT</b>	<b>.gov.uk Domain</b>	<b>LGA 1972</b>	<b>£78.00</b>
<b>TWC</b>	<b>RoSPA reports</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£200.00</b>
<b>Rowton PCC</b>	<b>Churchyard Grant</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£360.00</b>
<b>Npower</b>	<b>Street Light Power</b>	<b>Parish Council's Act 1957</b>	<b>£1378.63</b>
<b>Nobridge</b>	<b>Grass cutting contracts</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£3131.56</b>
<b>Vision</b>	<b>Hosted email – October 2023 – September 2024</b>	<b>LGA 1972</b>	<b>£21.60</b>

It was proposed by Councillor Wickson and seconded by Councillor Hartshorn, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the payments, as listed, be authorized and paid by BACCs**

**c) Grant Application**

**Ridgeway Retirement Living – Christmas Celebrations**

It was proposed by Councillor Bentley, seconded by Councillor Walker, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that £100 be granted, under Section 137 of the LGA 1972, towards the Christmas Celebrations for residents at The Ridgeway.**

**d) Finance & Governance Committee**

A meeting of the Committee will take place on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm at High Ercall Village Hall. This will be an opportunity for Members to consider the current financial position and recommend a budget, and precept, for 2024/25.

**0132/11/23.C Planning**

**a) Report**

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, presented the Minutes (218-255) of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November, for information.

**b) Updates**

TWC/2023/0694                      Application Withdrawn

TWC/2023/0583                      Land rear of Sharcott, Stackstones and The Grove

Following the TWC report included on the e-planning portal, it had been necessary for the Parish Council to respond in order to ensure that factual comments were available to the Planning Officer. This had been an opportunity to confirm that the Parish Council had called-in this application for determination by the Planning Committee and that a representative would attend the Planning Committee meeting to speak against the application as it is contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan and TW Local Plan.

**c) New Planning Applications for consideration**

None

**d) Other Planning Matters**

**i) TW Local Plan Consultation**

Members are reminded to take a look at the proposals and to keep in mind the policies within the Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Plan. This will appear on the December agenda for consideration.

**ii) Enforcement Issues**

Members continue to question the delays regarding outstanding enforcement matters. This will be raised with the Planning Authority and an urgent request for updates be submitted.

**iii) Emergency Planning**

Councillors Hughes, Wickson and the Clerk had attended the first (of four) Emergency Planning Sessions organized by SALC. This focused on resilience. Other sessions will be around asset and facility mapping, the role of Parish & Town Councils and volunteers and the final session will be a face-to-face exercise bringing a project forward for consultation.

Councillor Purves is to attend future sessions and it was suggested that the Environmental Working Group could come together in the New Year to work with community groups to create a Plan. TW will assist in the writing of the Plan, Councillor Hughes has already created a draft for consideration.

**iv) High Ercall Conservation Area Management Plan**

TW had identified the need for the CAMP to be updated and Barbara Johnson had visited High Ercall, with Councillor Hughes, to walk around the boundary and note sites and buildings of interest. A draft revised MP will be prepared before discussions with the owners of properties affected. This may include a re-designation of the boundary and a formal consultation around the village and with Heritage England. According to TWC, it is anticipated that this process could be complete in 6 months.

**0133/11/23.C Environmental Matters**

**a) Updates and New Issues**

**i) Overgrown Roadsigns**

A programme to cut back and ensure visibility will continue.

**ii) Kerbside Sweeping**

The entire Parish will require leaf clearance and kerbside sweeping in the near future. The footpath on Shrewsbury Road from Talbot Fields to Park Lane has been reported as in urgent need of clearance for the safety of pedestrians.

**0134/11/23.C Highways & Transport Matters**

**a) Reports and Updates**

None

**b) SIDs**

Due to the volumes of traffic on the B5062 and B5063 it has been necessary to change the batteries more often.

Councillor Wickson will be added to the APP to assist in the monitoring of the SID sites in the Parish.

A recent update from TWC has suggested that the remainder of the SID sockets for the initial project, and the new one in Shrewsbury Road, should be in place by the end of November.

The sites have been selected by TWC – the messages included will be checked at various locations around the Parish.

**c) Other Matters**

**Rural Lanes**

In recent weeks there have been serious concerns for safety due to the amount of mud on the rural lanes. It is clear that not all landowners and contractors clear the road sufficiently and other vehicles and pedestrians find using the highway difficult. It has also resulted in additional flooding (particularly in Ellerdine).

These issues are reported to TWC but do not get a quick response or any action. It was therefore agreed that the Parish Council should enquire about the cost for additional roadsweeps which could be called-on when situations are particularly dangerous.

**B5062 – Silver Hill junction**

There are two drains near to the Silver Hill junction on the B5062 where drain covers are not fitting correctly and this causes regular noise issues. The one has previously been invested by TWC and the second will be reported for urgent action.

**0135/11/23.C Play Areas**

**Roden**

No Issues reported. Thanks were extended to a local resident who undertakes the weekly inspections. The 2023 RoSPA Inspection report is due.

**High Ercall**

The climbing frame is awaiting repair.

The 2023 RoSPA Inspection report is due.

**0136/11/23.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

- a) Regular updates are provided to all members and contain useful information.
- b) The AGM took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November, by zoom, and was well attended. Two motions were agreed.
- c) Councillor Wickson updated members on other matters, as Chairman of SALC, which included
  - How Martyn's Law might affect organizations where a number of people are gathered. This could affect the Village Halls.
- d) Wrekin Area Committee AGM minutes have been circulated. There was a presentation on the Community Governance Review (copies of the presentation have been circulated). A Climate Change Motion was pass and will appear on the next Agenda for EMPC to consider.

### **0137/11/23.C Street Lighting**

Councillor Wickson offered to meet the contractor on site when they arrive to cut back overgrown hedges and trees which block the streetlights.

### **0138/11/23.C Correspondence**

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity.
- b) Postal and Proxy Votes  
ID will be needed for postal voters from October 2023 and for proxy voters from January 2024. It is advised to access the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website to update your details as soon as possible and not to wait until an election is called. Details will be included on the website and in the noticeboards.
- c) Rowton Meteorite  
A site has been identified at the entrance to Barns Farm. Details have been sent and the organization will need to approach TWC for any planning consent. When all permissions are granted, the Parish Council may receive an application for a grant towards the project.
- d) Telford Theatre  
TWC invites all residents, and visitors, to take part in the consultation regarding the regeneration of Telford Theatre in Oakengates. The Theatre will be closed for two years.

### **0139/11/23.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council**

#### **a) Councillor Bentley – Ercall Magna Ward**

£1.5m Extra funding has been made available by Government to TWC for footway and highway improvements, this has been allocated from funds originally identified for the HS2 project.

With regards to the rural police vehicle, Councillor Bentley suggested that a letter be sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Acting Chief Constable to express concern over the delay of getting a dedicated vehicle for the rural areas, even though funds have been allocated by Parish & Town Councils to purchase the vehicle. The Clerk reported that a Maintenance Plan has now been agreed, but concerns were shared that the proposal is to re-allocate the vehicle from Newport and the new vehicle go to Newport. Members confirmed that this was not the proposal they had agreed with and so the communication will be copied to Supt Jamie Dunn who had agreed at WAC meeting to ensure this project is brought forward as a matter of urgency. It may be necessary for the 2024/25 budget to be reconsidered.

#### **b) Councillor Gareth Thomas – Wrockwardine Ward**

None.

### **0140/11/23.C Reports**

#### **Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Wickson will attend the next Gigabit Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Concerns were expressed that the proposal to move to VOIP will have implications especially if there are power cuts and residents will be left without phones.

#### **Clerk's Report**

- i) Ellerdine Bus Shelter  
A site meeting had taken place, but TWC did not attend. However, a photo of the location, which used to be a bus shelter and where the concrete pad still exists, has been sent to TWC. There is an adjacent lay-by available and this will remove the need for a bus stop near the Village Hall.
- ii) The Clerk had worked 42 hours during October.

### **0141/11/23.C Village Halls**

#### **a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

*Councillor Connor declared an interest, but has a dispensation in place.*

The AGM took place on 10<sup>th</sup> November, followed by the RBL Quiz which raised funds for the Poppy Appeal.

**b) High Ercall Village Hall**

*Councillors Wickson, Noyes-Thomas and Grant declared an interest*

Despite the changes in Management, the Village Hall remains open. An EGM took place on 16<sup>th</sup> November and all positions on the Committee were filled. Ray Wickson is now the Chairman. Barclays Bank are being unhelpful with regards to changes of administrators and therefore it had been agreed to transfer to a Lloyds Account. There is a new Secretary, Chris Grant, and the Charity Commission issues will be resolved. Thanks were extended to other members of the Community who have stepped up to help. Work on a website and social media is continuing and the maintenance team is doing an excellent job. The Chairman thanked everyone for this good news.

**0142/11/23.C West Mercia Police**

PCSO I Collumbell presented a report provided by PC McNally who had sent his apologies. There have been some agricultural thefts in the area, but not in the Parish. There will be a local rural operation one night in the near future, using current information and intelligence.

**0143/11/23.C Parish Matters**

- a) A resident from Ridgeway, High Ercall, extended thanks to the Parish Council for the grant towards a Christmas Celebration.
- b) Can the unused bus stop (on the B5063 towards Longden-on-Tern, be removed?

**0144/11/23.C Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be discussed and transacted, the public and press were asked to leave the meeting during the consideration of the provision of a Community Asset.**

**0145/11/23.C Next Meeting**

19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	7pm	High Ercall Village Hall
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There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their important contributions to a successful meeting and closed the meeting at 8.55pm

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

These minutes remain draft (E & OE) until confirmed as accurate at the next Full Council meeting in December.