

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00p.m. in High Ercall Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr K Connor	Cllr S Walker
Cllr R Wickson	Cllr S Bentley (and TWC)
Cllr L Hughes	Cllr R Bruckshaw
Cllr S Noyes Thomas	Cllr C Grant
Cllr R Hartshorn	Cllr S Taylor
Cllr E Aston	

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

**0146/12/23.C Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**Public Session**

There were no matters raised.

**0147/12/23.C Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Barrow	Health Matters
Councillor Purves	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.**

**0148/12/23.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
Councillor Bentley	Member of TW Planning Committee
Councillor Grant	High Ercall Village Hall
Councillor Hughes	EM CAMP

**0149/12/23.C Minutes of the Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

It was proposed by Councillor Wickson and seconded by Councillor Hughes, with two abstentions, all were in favour and thus it was:

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**0150/12/23.C Chairman's Report and Correspondence**

**a) The Cleveland Arms**

A communication from the owner had been circulated to all Members, as requested, for information.

Councillor Connor updated Members on matters since the November meetings. It had been necessary to hold some discussions in private sessions due to the commercially sensitive nature of the agenda items. Discussions had taken place to establish an agreed approach by the Parish Council towards the subject of the Cleveland Arms, following the Inspector's support for the refusal of the planning application for change-of-use.

The Parish Council had been made aware of two, and possibly three, potential companies interested in the Cleveland Arms, each requiring a current valuation. The Parish Council had agreed, through a tender process, to engage the services of Andrew Dixon & Company (Commercial Property Consultants, Estate

Agents and Chartered Surveyors). The current valuation, when available, can be shared with all prospective purchasers so that they are in a position to make an informed decision and contact the owner for further communication. There need be no involvement by the Parish Council in these discussions.

**0151/12/23.C Finance & Governance**

**a) Finance & Governance Meeting**

Councillor Hughes, presented the minutes of the Finance & Governance meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December, for information.

**b) Recommendations**

i) It was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Wickson, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the budget for 2024/25 be set at £62,435.00.**

ii) It was further proposed by Councillor Hughes and seconded by Councillor Wickson, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the precept for 2024/25 should remain at £49,900 – Members believed it to be important, in these difficult times, that there is no increase (if it could be avoided).**

iii) It was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Hartshorn, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the application for the CCLA Investment Account be completed as soon as possible and that £25,000 be transferred from Reserves at the earliest opportunity.**

**c) Financial Reports**

A copy of the current Bank Reconciliation had been circulated for information. There is currently a balance of £102,745.00 in the current account.

**d) Payments**

<b>K Baker</b>	<b>Salary December 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£600.00</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>PAYE December 23</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£150.00</b>
<b>AC Maintenance</b>	<b>High Ercall Play Area – RoSPA instructions</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£195.00</b>
<b>AC Maintenance</b>	<b>Parish Roadman</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£215.00</b>
<b>HARPC (RBL)</b>	<b>Poppy Wreaths</b>	<b>Chairman’s Fund</b>	<b>£54.00</b>
<b>Edgmond PC</b>	<b>SID project – battery changes and moves Sept, Oct &amp; Nov</b>	<b>Local Govt Rating Act 1997 s31</b>	<b>£240.00</b>
<b>JRB Enterprise Ltd</b>	<b>Dog Gloves</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£144.90</b>

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

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

**d) Community Governance Review**

Thanks were recorded to everyone who attended the meeting in Roden to gather the views of local residents. Thanks were also extended to Park Timber for the use of the meeting room. The Parish Council

response, as drafted and circulated, was submitted on 18<sup>th</sup> December. The Parish Council has actively encouraged residents to submit their views.

### **0152/12/23.C Planning**

#### **a) Report**

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, updated Members on the recent determinations:

TWC/2022/1004	Barn Cottage	Permission Granted
TWC/2023/0367	Grange Farm	Application withdrawn
TWC/2023/0583	Rear of Stackstones etc	Full Refused

#### **b) New Planning Applications for consideration**

A planning meeting will take place in the New Year to discuss any new applications.

#### **c) Other Planning Matters**

##### **i) TW Local Plan Consultation**

The consultation period has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

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 January agenda for consideration. Members are encouraged to submit their own views, too. A letter from Mark Pritchard MP, on this subject had been circulated to all members and encouraged the Parish Council to engage in the consultation process.

##### **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**

The fourth session will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> January from 10am until 3pm at The Shirehall. Councillors Hughes, Wickson and Purves will attend.

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

Unfortunately, there is likely to be a delay in the updating of the CAMP due to changes in personnel at TWC. However, Councillor Hughes will meet with Andy Gittens in January to consider the current Management Plan with a view to enhancing it to include the recent Green Space designations within the Neighbourhood Plan.

##### **v) Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Plan**

It was good to see that the EMNP policies have been cited within recent planning decisions. Members noted the EMNP policies and confirmed that they are relevant to the current planning considerations within the Parish.

### **0153/12/23.C Environmental Matters**

#### **a) Updates and New Issues**

The Clerk continues to press TWC for action on numerous outstanding 'requests for action'

### **0154/12/23.C Highways & Transport Matters**

#### **a) Reports and Updates**

i) The Roden Parish Councillors and residents are total frustrated at being let down by TWC for the lack of progress on the road improvement scheme to be provided and funded by Section 106 funds from local planning permissions.

It was agreed that a meeting should be demanded in order that they can meet with the Ward Member and Officers to ascertain why there are further delays.

ii) It was also agreed that the Clerk should ask why the work at Cotwall Bend has not yet been completed.

#### **b) SIDs**

The new socket has been installed in Shrewsbury Road. TWC has confirmed that it is now waiting for the post, solar panel and SID to be installed at the site.

The Clerk continues to ask for an update on the installation of the remaining SID sockets around the Parish, including Cotwall Bend and Cold Hatton.

**c) Rural Lanes**

Whilst it is accepted that there has been excessive rain and therefore, additional flooding has occurred in recent months, the problems in Heath Lane, Crab Tree Lane and Poynton Road have been made worse by the lack of maintenance of the ditches and the effects of agricultural vehicles leaving the sites. There is a general poor state of lanes, particularly in the rural parts of the Borough.

**d) Bus Shelters and timetables**

Work to improve the Interchange Site at High Ercall has been requested and the provision of new bus timetables for all stops and shelters is necessary.

**e) Potholes**

There are many areas, around the Parish, where deep potholes exist but cannot be seen (particularly by cyclists) and when full of water. It was disappointing to be informed that TWC have said 'they will not come out to inspect certain potholes'. With a reference number, this will be raised through Customer Relations. Issues remain in Shrewsbury Road, Rowton and along the Walton to Shawbury Road.

**f) A442 Cold Hatton**

Cllr Taylor reported that a number of the central refuge islands at Cold Hatton have now been knocked out of position and this leaves the area more dangerous, as the bases are still in situ and cannot be seen. Whilst it is accepted that the road needs to be safe for crossing, members did question the success of this scheme. As a minimum, the remaining bollards needs to be cleaned.

**0155/12/23.C Play Areas**

**Roden & High Ercall**

The RoSPA reports have identified some low-risk matters, some of which are being dealt with, but others will need parts to be ordered.

Woodchip will be required for all sites next Spring.

**0156/12/23.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

- a) Regular updates are provided to all members and contain useful information.
- b) Councillor Wickson gave a short resume of current matters, including Martyn's Law, emergency planning and confirmed that the WAC Climate Change Motion will be accepted by SALC and forwarded to NALC. In the meantime, it is important that we all 'do our bit' towards Carbon Neutrality.

**0157/12/23.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. This remains a major issue.

**0158/12/23.C Correspondence**

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity. There are no subjects for discussion.

**0159/12/23.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council**

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

TWC is continuing to consider budget implications at this difficult time. Whilst this is accepted, there is a strong feeling that the current administration does not have its priorities correct. There have been a number of meetings regarding issues in the Ward recently and it is sincerely hoped that some will bring forward more action especially on old issues relating to planning, development, highways and much more.

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

Councillor Thomas will be asked to provide a report for future meetings, if his attendance is not possible.

**0160/12/23.C Reports**

**Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Wickson and the Chairman had attended the most recent meeting on the Gigabit Project. Although this is in North Shropshire, the project area includes Ercall Magna Parish. The Clerk will ask TWC if there is an officer available to provide updates for TW Parishes relating to the social commitment and the effect this could have on rural businesses.

Councillor Noyes-Thomas had attended a recent training event on 11<sup>th</sup> December – ‘Need to Know for Councillors’.

**Clerk's Report**

- i) Ellerdine Bus Shelter  
A bus shelter will be provided outside of Cliff Crescent, Ellerdine and the bus stop will move from the Village Hall location. It is also anticipated that the old bus shelter on the corner of the Hilbrae Road and the A442 at Cold Hatton will be removed in the New Year.
- ii) The Clerk had worked 37 hours during November.

**0161/12/23.C Village Halls**

**a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

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

The recent Christmas Fayre was very successful.

**b) High Ercall Village Hall**

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

The Committee is progressing well with a number of projects and matters including:

- Transfer of banking to Lloyds
- Access and update of information for the Charity Commission
- New lighting in the Main Hall
- Replacement fire doors
- Emergency Lighting
- Well attended events
- New volunteers have been welcomed and the new website is nearing completion.

**0162/12/23.C West Mercia Police**

It is important that anyone with local knowledge of vulnerable local residents or their circumstances, report this to WMP as soon as possible with as much information as is available. Parish Councillors were reminded that they have a duty of care and responsibility as corporate parents and any information relating to a residents' wellbeing should be provided to Family Connect (TWC), or the Police, as a matter of urgency.

**0163/12/23.C Parish Matters**

None

**0164/1w/23.C Next Meeting**

16 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	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 8.15pm. Light refreshments were available for all to share.

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

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