

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 16th January 2024 at 7.00p.m. in High Ercall Village Hall.

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

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

0165/01/24.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman opened the meeting wishing everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for attending. Councillor Wickson apologised, on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, as the heating was not on.

Public Session

Pedestrian Crossing, near to The Cleveland Arms

There remain concerns regarding the speed of traffic travelling between the junction with Silver Hill and Earls Court. There have been a number of 'near misses'.

Crossing the B5062 by the Oak Tree, Church Road

This area also remains a concern. Traffic do not adhere to the 20mph zone at school time and a lorry was witnessed overtaking on the wrong side of the central refuge.

Everyone is reminded to get registration numbers whenever possible and to report incidents to the police using 101 or by email.

The Parish Council continues to liaise with Highways Officers and has requested raised platforms near to the Oak Tree and a raised table-top crossing near to the Cleveland. However, it would appear that our needs to not meet the relevant criteria at this time.

This item remains on the Parish Council agendas and will be discussed further within the meeting.

Flooded Highways

Residents from Ellerdine have been seriously affected by flooded highways since October and they feel that TWC is not proactive in finding a resolution.

Sandbags were provided, which assisted in keeping the flood from the property. However, when the road closed signs and cones were removed and vehicles, particularly the buses, continued to drive through the deep flood water, this had a serious effect on the flow and it often meant the water was over the sandbags. Residents had to purchase and use a pump to protect their property. The bus also hit the property wall on two occasions. This has resulted in higher utility bills and loss of earnings.

The Parish Council has continued to support the residents where possible and will continue the discussions through to holding a meeting with local landowners to identify how they can assist to prevent further occurrences.

The community effort is acknowledged and thanks were extended to everyone who has helped in any way.

Bus Stop and provision of a Bus Shelter, Cliff Crescent, Ellerdine

It is essential that the bus stop is moved from the Village Hall Car Park and buses should not be using the private land for waiting or turning – the damage to the car park is unacceptable.

The provision of the bus stop into its original location by Cliff Crescent is urgent and will assist with the relocation of the bus stop.

0166/01/24.C Apologies for Absence

Councillor Barrow	Health Matters
Councillor Taylor	Holiday
Councillor Walker	Holiday
Councillor Bruckshaw	Family commitments
Councillor Hartshorn	Work 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.

0167/01/24.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 (with dispensation)

0168/01/24.C Minutes of the Meetings held on 19th December 2023

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2023 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

0169/01/24.C Chairman's Report and Correspondence

a) The Cleveland Arms – update

The Parish Council is awaiting the owner's consent for access to the property in order that a current valuation can be prepared by Andrew Dixon & Company. Three local businesses, with experience in the hospitality industry, have expressed an interest and when the information is available it will be passed to those interested so that they can liaise directly with the owner.

0170/01/24.C Finance & Governance

a) Financial Reports

The balances total £117,097.26 at the end of December 2023.

A list of payments had been circulated, and it was proposed by Councillor Wickson, seconded by Councillor Hughes (with one abstention), all were in favour and thus it was **RESOLVED that the following payments be made.**

K Baker	Salary January 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£600.00
HMRC	PAYE January 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£150.00
Acorn Direct	Enhanced DBS checks for all Councillors	LGA 1972	£286.00
Severnside Defibs and Trading Ltd	Battery for Rowton	Local Govt Rating Act 1997 s31	£264.00
HARPC (SLCC)	Subscription to Society of Local Council Clerks	LGA 1972 s112	£55.00
Npower	Street Lighting Energy	LGA and Miscellaneous Provisions Act	£1758.48

0171/01/24.C Planning

a) Report

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2024, for information.

b) New Planning Applications for consideration

None.

c) Other Planning Matters

i) TW Local Plan Consultation

All local residents are encouraged to submit their views to TWC regarding the draft Local Plan. These must be submitted before the end of January 2024.

The Parish Council will be submitting a statement and it will refer to

- Adequate drainage and sewerage
- Importance of infrastructure to be in place before considering any site or application
- Transport, highways and the environment.
- Protection of green spaces
- Climate change and sustainable development
- Lack of definition and measurement
- Energy efficiency
- Building standards
- Use of brownfields in urban areas before using good quality agricultural land
- Reducing carbon footprint
- Continue to grow rural areas sustainably

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. Other sites in the Parish will be investigated.

iii) Emergency Planning

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

iv) High Ercall Conservation Area Management Plan

Councillor Hughes declared an interest, but has a dispensation in place

The planned meeting with Planning Officers had not been possible, however confirmation had been received that the land off Park Lane is protected from development by the current CAMP.

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.

0172/01/24.C Environmental Matters

a) Updates and New Issues

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

b) Overgrown hedges

Details of the ownership and responsibility for the hedges at the rear of the Shrewsbury Road Bus Interchange are needed so that a request for them to be maintained can be submitted.

0173/01/24.C Highways & Transport Matters

a) Reports and Updates

- i) Thanks should be extended to Adam Brookes and the team at TWC for their help, in difficult circumstances
- ii) The 'noisy' road drain covers in Shrewsbury Road near to Silver Hill are the responsibility of STW and TWC will be chasing up action.
- iii) it was disappointing that no response had been received when asking for a meeting for Roden Councillors regarding the long-awaited traffic scheme. No reply had been forthcoming from the Ward Member.

b) SIDs

The installation of the Post, SID and solar panel had not been completed and the officer was now on holiday.

A grant of £2000 had been confirmed by the Police & Crime Commissioner towards this project.

c) Rural Lanes

Further to the information gathered in the public session, the Parish Council remained committed to working with TWC and landowners to find a solution to prevent such flooding. It is important that this concern is addressed proactively and not just reactively.

d) Other Issues

A442 Cold Hatton

Cllr Purves confirmed that the bollards remain missing and that the temporary cones are not staying in position – this makes the A442 through Cold Hatton more dangerous and is not slowing down the traffic.

Cleveland Arms – Pedestrian Crossing

Further to the additional concerns received in the public session, the Parish Council will ask TWC to consider upgrading the crossing to have 'STOP' lights – this will make the area safer for the pedestrians to cross.

Cotwall Roundabout

A sign is needed approaching the roundabout from Crudgington direction, to remind drivers of the need to Give Way to vehicles from the right.

Road-sweeping

A letter of thanks would be sent for the help with local road sweeping in Ellerdine. This type of contact would be useful within the Emergency Resilience Plan and it is believed that there would be many more local residents and landowners who can offer services, particularly in an emergency situation.

A further request will be sent to TWC for the B5063 road to be swept, especially between Shirlowe and Mill Bend.

0174/01/24.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.

Work continues on both sites.

The location sign is still on order for Roden.

Wood chippings have been delivered to High Ercall.

0175/01/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils

a) Regular updates are provided to all members and contain useful information. News In Brief contain important information.

b) All members are invited to attend the Wrekin Area Committee meeting on 18th January, via zoom at 7pm. Guest speakers from the NHS Hospitals Transformation Programme will be in attendance to give an update on progress to date and to answer any questions.

0176/01/24.C Street Lighting

A request for better lighting near to the village shop in High Ercall was discussed and it is hoped that the light on the shop building will be repaired and that the area will become safer.

0177/01/24.C Correspondence

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

b) D Day 80 – 6th June

High Ercall & Ellerdine Village Halls may discuss this and the Parish Council will wait to hear if support is needed. The Parish Council will promote any events that are organized in the Parish.

0178/01/23.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council

a) Councillor Bentley – Ercall Magna Ward

Councillor Bentley has been representing local residents on individual matters and has had numerous meetings and correspondence regarding flooding and speed related queries. He agreed to discuss with Highway Officers the need for the 20mph zone outside of High Ercall School to be enforceable.

He will be submitting a robust response to the Draft Local Plan Consultation including such areas as

- Out of proportion development in the rural areas
- Definition of affordable, when considering housing in rural areas
- Education provision – the need for a Secondary School for the Northern part of the Borough
- Aging communities and the need for appropriate first-time properties in the best locations
- Access to facilities
- Public Transport
- Adequate infrastructure
- The need to keep the rural identity and distance from urban developments
- Support for businesses

b) Councillor Gareth Thomas – Wrockwardine Ward

No report had been received.

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

Residents in Roden are concerned at the lack of contact and support.

0179/01/24.C Reports

Councillors' Reports

Councillor Wickson will attend the TW Budget Consultation event and will share the slides following the event.

A further session will be held online on 24th January at 6pm – the link is available on request.

Clerk's Report

All matters are included on the Agenda for this meeting. The Clerk had worked 41 hours during the last month.

0180/01/24.C Village Halls

a) Ellerdine Village Hall

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

A Committee meeting will take place this week.

b) High Ercall Village Hall

Councillors Wickson, Noyes-Thomas and Grant declared an interest

The work of the Committee is continuing and the following updates were available:

Banking, refurbishments, Christmas, New Members and Bookings

0181/01/24.C West Mercia Police

Priorities:

1. The provision of a rural crime vehicle
2. Localised crime
3. Speeding and anti-social driving

Report:

No report had been received.

Rural Vehicle

The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk had attended a very useful meeting with the Inspector and PC Rigby in order to progress the project for the provision of a dedicated rural crime vehicle. It is hoped that this will be in operation very soon.

0182/01/24.C Parish Matters

- a) Enquire about the gravestone checks in the closed area of High Ercall Churchyard
- b) Provision of litter picking kits
- c) Ridgeway Community Garden to be added to the next Agenda.

083/01/24.C Next Meeting

13th February 2024 7pm High Ercall Village Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their important contributions to a successful meeting and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

SignedDate

These minutes remain draft (E & OE) until confirmed as accurate at the next Full Council meeting in February 2024.