

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.00p.m. in High Ercall Village Hall.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**In Attendance:** Katrina Baker (Clerk)  
Cllr G Thomas (Wrockwardine Ward Member, TWC)

**0184/02/24.C Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Thomas, TWC.

**Public Session**

None

**0185/02/24.C Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Taylor    Holiday

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

**RESOLVED that the apologies from Councillor Taylor be accepted.**

**0186/02/24.C Declarations of Interest (for items on the Agenda) or Dispensations**

The following declarations of interests were recorded:

Councillor Wickson	High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation), Education Trust and Royal British Legion
Councillor Connor	Ellerdine Village Hall and Royal British Legion (with dispensations)
Councillor Noyes-Thomas	High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation)
Councillor Bentley	Member of TW Planning Committee
Councillor Grant	High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation)
Councillor Hughes	EM CAMP (with dispensation)

Katrina Baker    Independent Examiner, Ellerdine Village Hall

**0187/02/24.C Minutes of the Meetings held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

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

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**0188/02/24.C Chairman's Report and Correspondence**

**a) The Cleveland Arms – update**

The Parish Council had engaged the services of Andrew Dixon & Company, but no response had been received from the owner of the Cleveland Arms. There remain three prospective purchasers. The owner has stated in his latest letter that he will only deal direct with the interested parties and had agreed that his letter could be shared with them. Two, of the three interested parties, have had previous discussions with the owners.

The Parish Council has asked all three companies to keep the Parish Council updated, as an enabling organization, as it has been confirmed that the Parish Council is not interested in purchasing the property

but is representing the community's declaration that they wish the community asset to re-open in the centre of their village.

The Parish Council will be keeping the local planning authority informed.

## 0189/02/24.C Finance & Governance

### a) Financial Reports

The balances total £115,975.28 at the end of January 2024

### b) Payments

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 February 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£600.00
HMRC	PAYE February 2024	LGA 1972 s112	£150.00
Midland Playscapes	Repairs to High Ercall Play Area	LGA 1972 s101	£335.00
Nobridge Limited	Strimming and Grass Cutting – HE Churchyard	LGA 1972 s101	£1301.46
Ellerdine Village Hall	Hall Hire	LGA 1972	£20.00
TWC	Election Fees – May 2023	LGA 1972	£280.00
SALC	Councillor Training	LGA 1972	£30.00
A C Maintenance	Roadman Duties	LGA 1972 s101	£197.00

### c) Grant Application

*Councillors Noyes Thomas, Grant and Wickson declared an interest and had a dispensation for High Ercall Village Hall*

#### High Ercall Village Hall

An application had been received for £500 towards the upgrade of the internal lights which had been completed. The Village Hall had received a grant earlier in the financial year.

Councillor Hartshorn proposed that this application be deferred until the new financial year.

There was no seconder.

Councillor Walker proposed that £500 be vired from reserves to enable this application to be considered at this meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Hughes and six Councillors were in favour.

**RESOLVED that £500 be vired from Reserves to the Grants Budget.**

It was proposed by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hughes with six members in favour, one against and three abstentions, it was

**RESOLVED that High Ercall Village Hall receives £500 towards the installation of the internal lighting upgrade.**

#### Ellerdine Village Hall

*Councillor Connor declared an interest and had a dispensation for Ellerdine Village Hall*

An application had been received for a grant of £500 towards the total cost of £778.62 for 20 replacement chairs.

Councillor Wickson proposed that £278.62 be vired from reserves to enable the members to consider granting the full amount. There was no seconder for this proposal.

It was then proposed by Councillor Hartshorn, seconded by Councillor Purves, with one abstention all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that £500 be granted to Ellerdine Village Hall to purchase 20 replacement chairs.**

#### **0190/02/24.C Planning**

##### **a) Report**

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, presented the Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, for information.

*Councillor S Bentley left the meeting, as he is a member of the TW Planning Committee*

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

TWC/2024/0123 Lilac Cottage, Ellerdine  
Erection of a Summer House

**RESOLVED to support this application.**

*Councillor Bentley returned to the meeting*

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

###### **i) Emergency Planning**

Councillor Hughes had attended the final session at The Shirehall with Councillors Wickson and Purves. Together with Councillor Connor, the group had met on 12<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the production of an Emergency & Resilience Plan for Ercall Magna.

A number of templates are available, and the members had selected a version that was also promoted by TWC.

The group recommended that the Parish be split into three zones for the Plan

- Roden & Poynton
- Ellerdine & Rowton
- High Ercall & Walton

The group will commence work to compile a resource and asset register and a list of rest centres – these will be particularly useful to TW in their Borough Plan, too. It will also be useful to have list of landowners, and contacts. It was also agreed that we would trial the use of Parish Online as a way of plotting the information gathered.

#### **0191/02/24.C Environmental Matters**

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

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

##### **b) Gospel Oak, Church Road, High Ercall**

TWC has carried out some maintenance on this tree. It had been established that the tree does not have a TPO.

##### **c) Light Pollution**

Concerns were raised regarding the height and brightness of lighting at Greenhous Village, Osbaston. This subject had been included within the planning conditions. This subject will be raised with Greenhous and maybe added to the next Liaison Meeting agenda for discussion along with the operating hours and hedge & landscaping.

##### **d) Roden Hall Site**

A site visit by the Arboricultural Officer at TWC will be requested to check on work taking place on the site, especially in relation to the TPO Trees.

## **0192/02/24.C Highways & Transport Matters**

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

#### **i) Cllr R Wickson declared an interest**

B5062 noisy drain covers

TWC had instructed BB to undertake an emergency repair, whilst waiting for STW. However, STW have not yet attended and the temporary repair has failed. This will reported direct to STW.

Footpath Clearance

High Ercall & Roden are scheduled for Mid March.

### **b) SIDs**

The Shrewsbury Road site is now complete and operating well. We are awaiting the correct invoice before payment. Details will be sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner who had provided a grant of £2000, along with Councillor Stephen Bentley who had also provided a grant.

### **c) Mobile SID Project**

It is disappointing that the final NAL socket at Cotwall Bend has not been installed to complete this project. However, the sites at Cold Hatton (working in partnership with Waters Upton Parish Council) are working well.

### **d) Other Issues**

#### **A442 Cold Hatton**

The Clerk has requested an update on the A442 - central refuges – work is needed to make this area of the Parish safer.

#### **Cleveland Arms – Pedestrian Crossing**

Further to the additional concerns received in the public session, the Parish Council has asked TWC to consider upgrading the crossing to have 'STOP' lights – no reply has been received.

#### **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. No reply has been received from TWC regarding this request.

#### **Roden Traffic Management Scheme**

Members, on behalf of the community, want to take this matter to the press. The funding has been available at TWC, but no priority has been given to this important project. Councillor Thomas agreed to set up a meeting with highway officers and the Parish Council to establish a timescale. In the meantime, the request for the SIDs / VAS should be implemented.

#### **Village Namesigns**

TWC has offered to provide new namesigns in High Ercall, the Parish Council has accepted the offer to work with TWC to bring forward the planned project for new namesigns across the entire Parish. No timescale has been suggested.

## **0193/02/24.C Play Areas**

### **Roden & High Ercall**

Midland Playscapes will be providing quotations for the outstanding work required by RoSPA.

Thanks were extended to local residents for undertaking the weekly checks on the equipment.

## **0194/02/24.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) The next Chairman's Meeting will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> March on zoom.
- c) The Wrekin Area Committee minutes have been circulated for information.

### **0195/02/24.C Street Lighting**

Councillor Wickson reported lights that require attention, with lower branches being removed, and ivy, in order that the lights can be effective. The parish roadman will also undertake some local work and others will be reported to EON, the contractor.

### **0196/02/24.C Correspondence**

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity. There are no subjects for discussion.
- b) Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust  
A site has now been agreed at Greenhous Village for a memorial to be sited. This is currently under construction and event will take place to unveil it where guests will be invited to attend. A date and time will be confirmed (in April).
- c) Overhanging Tree – Roden Bus Shelter  
Thanks were extended to Councillors Walker and Hartshorn for their offer to deal with this request.

### **0197/02/23.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council**

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

Councillor Bentley reported that the first Local Plan Consultation has ended and the following matters have appeared as priorities within the responses

- Infrastructure – drainage, highways and boundaries
- Health
- Secondary Education provision

The flooding in Heath Lane continues to be a problem for the residents. TWC have visited and pressure will continue to be added to them to work with the local landowners whilst identifying the problems with the road drains and then look at the surface of the road which will have suffered as a result of the flooding. The other areas of flooding in the village will also be investigated and relevant action taken. Unfortunately, however, the amount of rain fall in short periods of time does mean that even effective road drainage systems cannot cope and this is a Borough-wide problem.

The upcoming Council Budget meeting will consider a programme of cuts and charges with a council tax rise of 4.99% and rises in the police and fire elements of the bills. Questions remain unanswered regarding the 2% identified for adult social care costs – is this included in or additional to the 4.99%?

Clarification was sought regarding the introduction of green bin charges – it has been confirmed that this will not be included in this financial year.

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

Councillor Thomas apologized for his recent absence, due to personal reasons.

He had submitted a robust response to the Local Plan Consultation and included the proposals for Roden. The Community Governance Review Committee has not yet met, the last meeting was postponed until 2<sup>nd</sup> May after which he will provide updates, especially relating to Roden and Poynton.

Flooding remains a concern across the Wrockwardine Ward and he will be visiting Roden and Poynton as soon as possible, hopefully with a highways engineer.

### **0198/02/24.C Reports**

#### **Councillors' Reports**

Councillor Wickson reported that there has been no further meeting, however the recent newsletter has been circulated.

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

All matters are included on the Agenda for this meeting. The Clerk had worked 38 hours during the last month.

An enquiry relating to the storage of caravans has been submitted.

**0199/02/24.C Village Halls**

**a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

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

A Committee meeting will take place next week.

**b) High Ercall Village Hall**

*Councillors Wickson, Noyes-Thomas and Grant declared an interest but have dispensations in place*

The diary is filling with bookings and there is a committee meeting next week. There is a maintenance and decorating weekend on 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> February – everyone welcome.

A set of defibrillator pads is on order. The equipment is registered online and Councillor Wickson receives messages from The Circuit when items need replacing. This should be linked to the Parish Council.

Councillor Grant has been working with the Charity Commission to confirm the Constitution and it has been confirmed that the commercial bar can continue as a non-primary purpose trading arm of the charity.

**0200/02/24.C West Mercia Police**

Report

PCSO I Collumbell offered the apologies from PC McNally. The SNT remain short-staffed, however PC McNally had sent a short report for the meeting:

- ASB issues in High Ercall are ‘in hand’
- Criminal damage by the shop has been dealt with
- A mini-digger was stolen from Waters Upton but was found due to the tracker.
- There had been a cable-theft in Tibberton

Rural Vehicle

PC Rigby is working on the project which it is hoped will mean the vehicle will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Collumbell for his continued support of the rural areas and his dedication and commitment to the role.

**0201/02/24.C Parish Matters**

- a) Yellow lines – need re-painting on the area outside of the church and school
- b) Public permissible path – High Ercall to Walton – enquiry regarding stone and fencing to be sent to Rights of Way officers at TW
- c) Members of the public are reminded about trespassing on private property (including fields) and that dogs must be under control and preferably on a lead.

**0202/02/24.C Next Meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> March 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 8.35pm.

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

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