

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 16th April 2024 at 7.00p.m. at High Ercall Village Hall (a zoom connection was provided but not used).

PRESENT: Cllr K Connor (Chairman of Ercall Magna Parish Council)

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk) Cllr E Aston
Cllr S Bentley (TWC and EMPC) Cllr L Hughes
Cllr G Barrow Cllr S Walker
Cllr R Wickson Cllr C Grant
Cllr S Noyes-Thomas Cllr S Taylor
Cllr C Purves
PC McNally & PCSO
1 member of the public

001/04/24.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman, Councillor Connor, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. It was disappointing that more local residents had not attended, the zoom connection was made available to assist.

002/04/24.C Apologies for Absence

Cllr R Hartshorn Attending an alternative engagement

003/04/24.C Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 18th April 2023.

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and had appeared on the website, it was proposed by Councillor Wickson and seconded by Councillor Barrow that they were an accurate record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman.

004/04/24.C Chairman's Report 2022 / 2023

The Chairman read his Annual Report which referred to the wide range of subjects discussed and acted upon throughout the year – further details are available in the monthly meeting minutes.

Councillor Connor commented in particular on four areas:

- Governance & Boundary Reviews
- Planning
- Highways
- Emergency & Resilience Planning

Please see the full report which is available on the Parish Council website or you can request a copy direct to your inbox from the Clerk.

005/04/24.C Financial Report

The Clerk presented a financial report (Copies are available on request or on the website) which confirmed that the opening balance in April 2023 was £89,407 with income totaling £54,503. Throughout the year, payments had totaled £38,664. Therefore, the balance at the end of March 2024 had increased to £105,247. Earmarked reserves will be agreed at the start of the new financial year.

When considering the budget for 2024/25, the Parish Councillors were very aware of the difficult period that many residents still experience, including the current worries relating to the Cost of Living Crisis, and therefore, the Members unanimously resolved to set the precept at £49,900 – with, again, no increase for this financial year. Following completion of the Audit, Members will ensure that their budget reflects the needs of the Parish without an increase payable by the residents towards the services it provides.

It should also be noted that no Parish Councillors have claimed their allowance or expenses throughout the year.

006/04/24.C Telford & Wrekin Council

Councillor S Bentley, Ercall Magna Ward, had provided a written report which will be added to the Minutes and will appear on the website.

Councillor G Thomas. Wrockwardine Ward, introduced himself explaining about the boundary changes and that he now represents Roden, Poynton & Poynton Green as they are within the Wrockwardine Ward. It has taken some time to establish the priorities for these residents. However, he is now in touch with relevant officers and other agencies. However, it is very frustrating that there is a lack of action. With regards to the Governance Review, Councillor Thomas is on the Committee and is aware of local opinion regarding Roden and Poynton – however the recent meeting of the Committee was cancelled.

007/04/24.C West Mercia Police

PC Rob McNally and PCSO Joshua attended the meeting and gave an update on current matters. The rural vehicle is now in place and will be available for members of the team 24/7. Rural crime figures increased in 2023 across Shropshire and neighbouring areas. There had been a successful operation at the end of March with over 50 officers taking part and a number of suspects arrested – now on bail with court cases pending. Hare coursing has reduced, but this may only be due to the weather, so everyone must remain vigilant. Traffic enforcement will be on the B5062 between Crudgington & Shrewsbury at the end of May following a number of RTAs. The police also intend to attend Pride & Joy events throughout the summer. The Chairman asked that our thanks be passed on to all members of the team.

008/04/24.C Other Reports

a) Ellerdine Village Hall

A written report will be added to the website.

b) High Ercall Village Hall

A report had been received and circulated and would be added to the website.

c) High Ercall Primary School

No report has been received, as yet.

d) St Michael's and All Hallows Churches

No report had been received from High Ercall and a written report will be available on the website from All Hallows.

e) Ercall Magna Education Endowment Fund

A report will follow.

f) Wrekin Area Committee (of SALC)

A report had been received and will appear on the website.

g) TW Bus User Group

The report will be added to the website.

h) Helicopter Liaison Group

The report will be added to the website.

009/04/24.C Parish Matters

a) Matters Received in writing prior to the meeting

None

b) The following matters were raised at the meeting

i) A letter, with petition, had been sent to TW Highways department from residents sharing their concerns for safety of children and older residents as they attempt to cross the B5062 by the Cleveland Arms and by the Gospel Oak Tree.

This had been acknowledged on 4th April, but with no response from Cllr Davies, the Leader, as yet. A request for additional signage, to make motorists aware, was received and this will be discussed further with highways officers.

010/04/24.C Date of the next meeting

Full Council will follow this APM

SignedDate

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 21st May 2024, but will not be signed until the APM in 2025.