



ERCALL MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Finance & Governance Committee

MINUTES of the meeting of the Finance & Governance Committee which took place on Friday 25th October 2024 at 2.00pm at High Ercall Village Hall.

PRESENT

Councillor L Hughes
Councillor K Connor
Councillor S Noyes-Thomas
Councillor R Wickson
Councillor C Purves

In attendance K M Baker (Clerk)

24/24F WELCOME

Councillor Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

24/25F APOLOGIES (LGA 1972 s85 (1))

Councillor S Walker	Work Commitments	Approved
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24/26F DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Noyes-Thomas	High Ercall Village Hall	Dispensation
Councillor Wickson	High Ercall Village Hall	Dispensation
Councillor Connor	Ellerdine Village Hall	Dispensation

24/27F MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th JUNE 2024

It was proposed by Councillor Noyes-Thomas and seconded by Councillor Connor, with two abstentions, all were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2024 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

24/28F MATTERS ARISING

The new website is now operational and a great improvement.

There remains some compatibility issues, especially with the use of i-pads which means that access to attachment is not always possible.

The website provider, Milonic, is continuing to investigate the issue on behalf of those members affected.

Thanks were extended to the Clerk for the work involved in setting up the new website.

24/29F FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Financial Position

The balances had been reported to the last Full Council meeting and confirmed that the overall balance is currently £136,194.33. The CCLA investment account continues to provide a good rate of interest and a total of £357.93 has been received into the account to date.

The Clerk had contacted Berry's to enquire about the payment of the first instalment from the Osbaston Solar Farm, which is overdue. We await payment.

A copy of the payments over £100 now appear on the website and copies of all transactions are shared with the Chairman and Vice Chairman as part of the Internal Check Process undertaken by Councillors.

b) Initial Budget Considerations

Contracts

As part of our Financial Regulations and Procurement Process, Members considered the current contracts.

Members will give consideration to the

- Landscape Contracts for Roden Play Area, Ellerdine Field, High Ercall Village Hall and High Ercall Churchyard.
- Street Lighting – Eon is providing an acceptable rate at this time
- Clerk – HR will arrange the Clerk's Review and report back

After consideration, it was agreed that the landscaped areas in the Parish are important and Members were keen to be able to consider continuing to provide the landscape maintenance for at least the 2025/26 financial year. We are committed to the play areas.

A detailed quotation will be requested from our current contractors, for consideration at the next meeting. Alternative quotations will be sought for comparison.

Projects for Consideration

- **Footpath Fund**
- **Solar-powered Street Lights**
- **Entrance to Twiney Lane**

c) Maximum Balances

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

RECOMMENDED that £25,000 be transferred from the Barclays Current Account to the CCLA Investment Account.
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24/30F GOVERNANCE

a) Emergency Planning and Resilience

Members agreed the process for consulting with businesses in the Parish in order to gather information for the Community Resources Register.

The draft letter was agreed and the household information will be included in the next newsletter and a letter will be sent to all businesses to request their support in various ways for the Resources Register.

b) Committee Vacancy

It was agreed to ask Councillor Higgins if he would be interested in being nominated.

24/31F TW / PTC AGREEMENT – Review

The document (dated September 2022) had been circulated to Members, who shared concerns that TWC are not working with the terms of the Agreement.

Answering the questions on the review survey would not provide TWC with the details of the concerns of the Parish Council as Members do not believe that TWC Members and Officers appreciate that Parish & Town Councils are part of the Local Government Structure and how we all work together is vitally important – there should be mutual respect and confidence in our work.

RECOMMENDED that Ercall Magna Parish Council, requests that Lee Higgins (Author) attends a Rural Forum which will enable all PTCs to be able to offer their views and ask questions as part of the Review. Members were keen that they have this opportunity before agreeing to sign up (or not) to a revised Agreement.

Members were concerned with the introduction of Ask Tom, when you ring the Local Authority. This always results in a delay and often restricts any opportunity to speak to an officer.

Members believe that Clerks should have a direct telephone number to access an officer who can transfer the call to an appropriate person.

24/32F OTHER MATTERS

Newsletter

A draft Newsletter had been produced for consideration. Emphasis on the new website would be included. Also, following recent social media criticism regarding speed issues (particularly in Shrewsbury Road, High Ercall) it was agreed that a paragraph should be included to inform the community of the results of the SID data and all the work being undertaken to make this road safer for all.

Members agreed to arrange for the newsletters to be delivered around the Parish, when they are available.

The theme for this edition will be the Emergency & Resilience Plan.

Communication

Members also agreed that the Agenda for Full Council Meetings should be available on Facebook, to encourage residents to attend and speak in the public session about matters of interest or concern in the Parish.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all members for their contributions and closed the meeting at 3.00pm.

SignedDate