

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in High Ercall Village Hall at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr K Connor	Cllr S Noyes-Thomas
Cllr R Wickson	Cllr S Bentley
Cllr L Hughes	Cllr S Walker
Cllr R Higgins	Cllr C Grant
Cllr R Hartshorn	Cllr R Bruckshaw

**In Attendance:** Katrina Baker (Clerk)  
Cllr G Thomas (TWC)  
2 x PCSOs

**207/3/25.C Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanked them for attending.

**Public Session**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**West Mercia Police**

There was no report available.

The PCSOs were aware of the enlarged area covered by the new Wellington Town & Rural Team, but were not in a position to answer any questions about how this would affect the use of the rural policing vehicle or how the team will now be deployed.

It was suggested that we should take this up with Inspector Sanders.

**Neighbourhood Matters**

This remains the preferred communication link between the police and the communities, however it is important to filter the headings to avoid an overload of irrelevant messages being received.

**Rural Policing Vehicle**

It is disappointing that the vehicle remains without sign-writing which would refer to the funding provided by the rural parish councils. Insp Sanders had informed the Clerk that he is awaiting funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner. On this point, no request for payment has been received from the police and as we are approaching the end of the financial year, there is no guarantee that this funding will remain available for the project in all the parish budgets.

It is a concern that now that the area has been expanded to include Wellington Town, the original guarantee of use of the vehicle may be in doubt. Clarification is needed.

**Contract Priorities**

Members agreed that the priorities will remain  
Speed, rural crime and rural outdoor building break-ins

**New Matters**

PCSO Bevan agreed to investigate the caravan, in Bratton, on the side of the B5063 and its use.

The Chairman thanked the officers for attending, it is always good to see the police around the rural areas.

**208/3/25.C Apologies for Absence**

Councillor Taylor	Family Commitments	Accepted
Councillor Purves	Family Commitments	Accepted
Councillor Aston	Health	Accepted

It was proposed by Councillor Wickson, seconded by Councillor Noyes-Thomas, all were in favour and thus it was

<b>RESOLVED that the apologies, as listed, be accepted.</b>
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## **209/3/25.C Declarations of Interest (for items on the agenda) or Dispensations**

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

Councillor Wickson	High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation), SALC and Royal British Legion
Councillor Connor	Ellerdine Village Hall and Royal British Legion (with dispensations)
Councillor Hughes	EM CAMP
Councillor Noyes-Thomas	High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation)
Councillor Bentley	TW Planning Committee and Finance & Governance
Councillor Walker	Water provision in Roden
Councillor Bruckshaw	Cotwall development site

## **210/3/25.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

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

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

## **211/3/25.C Chairman's Communications**

None

## **212/3/25.C Finance & Governance**

### **a) Financial Report**

The reconciled balance sheet at the end of February shows a total of £125,811.37 and had been circulated to all Members.

### **b) Payments**

A list of payments had been circulated to all Members, it was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Noyes-Thomas, all were in favour and thus the following payments were authorized.

<b>K Baker</b>	<b>Salary – March</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£640.00</b>
<b>HMRC</b>	<b>PAYE – March</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s112</b>	<b>£160.00</b>
<b>A C Maintenance</b>	<b>Parish Roadman Duties</b>	<b>LGA 1972 s101</b>	<b>£225.00 and £209.00</b>

There are other contract payments, due for payment before the end of the financial year, a full list will be circulated when available.

All expenditure, over £100, is listed on the website, in accordance with the Transparency Code.

### **c) Risk Management**

Members confirmed that the Risk Management Policy remains current. The risk assessments are up to date and in accordance with the Insurance Policy.

### **d) Register of Gifts & Hospitality**

Members were reminded that they are required to declare any gifts or hospitality received or offered.

### **e) Community Governance Review**

Following a meeting at Southwater, with Democratic Services Officers from TWC, the Chairman of the Boundary Review Committee had granted an extension to the consultation until 14<sup>th</sup> April. The outcome of the 2023/24 review was for 'no change' but we were advised that a further review would follow as TWC should undertake a review every 10 – 15 years. The officers were clear in their view that Community Identity and Cohesion were important factors in any proposed changes and also the ease of access to services and facilities for the residents.

It is important that the proposals come from the comments received from the communities, as well as Parish & Town Councils and other consultees – Councillors should also consider responding as individuals and encouraging the residents to do so, also.

Taking into consideration the community views from the previous review, and also the representational role that this parish has for the electorate in the existing Parish, it was proposed by the Chairman, that Ercall Magna Parish Council should put forward the 'no change' option for the boundary. This takes into consideration the existing projects and joint working. However, it is also important that all villages retain their identity so support remains for Roden to be 'warded' – as an extension to this, the Parish Council also supports the coming together of Ellerdine and Rowton as a 'ward'. With the number of Councillors remaining at 13, Members would support

High Ercall / Walton	7 Members
Ellerdine / Rowton	4 Members
Roden	2 Members

This was seconded by Councillor R Wickson, all were in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the Clerk would draft a Parish Council response to be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> April and that all Councillors and residents should also consider responding as individuals.**

## 213/3/25.C

### Planning

#### a) Report

Councillor Wickson updated Members of the planning determinations since the last meeting – these had been circulated to all Members.

TWC had confirmed that the Chairman of the Planning Committee had accepted the Parish Council Call-In and that Barnes Farm Planning Application would be considered by the Planning Committee – this is likely to be at the June meeting. Local residents can continue to send in their comments for consideration by the Planning Officer prior to any recommendation being formed.

#### b) New Planning Applications for consideration

None

#### c) Other Planning Matters

##### i) Enforcement Matters

Removal of sandstone wall in Church Road

No update received. This is very concerning due to being in the Conservation Area and clearly a breach of the Management Plan.

##### ii) Mill Bend, Roden

Work continues to remove the roof from the building. This was being undertaken on instruction from TWC Enforcement Officers.

##### iii) Caravans to the rear of Roden Lane

An acknowledgement had been received, but no response as yet.

##### iv) Review of the Conservation Area

The Clerk will request an update on this important review, for Ercall Magna.

#### d) TW Local Plan Review Consultation

This is the final opportunity to comment on the TW Local Plan, before it is presented to the Examiner. The correspondence is clear that responses should be on soundness and legal compliance. This will appear on the Annual Parish Meeting agenda but will have been included on an agenda for the Planning Committee prior to the meeting. It is important to include comments regarding infrastructure, transport, services & facilities, education etc. There are no housing allocations included for the Parish and some protection is in place for rural areas – however, the Government will be looking for identified sites in the future.

**Environmental Matters****a) Updates**

The road-sweeping had been completed, however Ridgeway was not included and the highway from Mill Bend to Roden is now in need of attention.

STW has acknowledged the sinkhole issue to the rear of Talbot Fields, but no response has been received as yet.

The TW Tree Officer has visited Roden Hall and is in discussions with the owners.

**b) New Issues**

It was reported that the footpath on one side of the B5062 through Roden has been completed – but as yet, there has been no work on the other side which was in a worse condition.

Fly tipping is increasing – there has been a number in the lay-by near Mill Bend – when one gets cleared, it is not long before another one appears.

Members were concerned that litter bins are being missed – the council's policy is that a bin is emptied when it is 75% full, otherwise it will not be emptied. However, as soon as a bin is reported as having 75% rubbish, the Council will arrange for it to be emptied.

**Highways, Transport & Street Lighting Matters****a) Reports and Updates****Silver Hill**

After a long delay, TWC has confirmed the cost to supply and install the SID, Solar Panel and Socket, along with the revised signage and road markings. The total cost remains in budget and the work has been placed on order.

**Street Lights**

Overgrown street lights remain an issue in Shrewsbury Road – the foliage needs cutting back to allow the light to be effective.

The Clerk also reported that a number of the LED units were failing in recent weeks and a request had been made for the manufacturer to investigate. The units have not reached the specified length of life and there was a concern that maybe a fault could be the cause.

**b) Roden Traffic Scheme**

Despite a request for an update, the 'mid-March' timeline has passed and we await the confirmed scheme and timetable from TWC.

**c) Parish Gateway Signs**

Once again, no reply has been received from TWC – we had asked for details of the signs and which villages are included in their project, so that the Parish Council can provide signs for the other villages in the same design. It is difficult to understand why TWC are reluctant to work with the Parish Council, especially when funding is being made available.

**d) New Matters****Twiney Lane – Ellerdine to Rowton**

Members were aware that the condition of this private lane had deteriorated, especially during the recent flooding. It had been difficult to establish responsibility, but it was recognized that one private dwelling relied on the lane for access. A DMMO application is currently under consideration by the Inspector following submission by TW Rights of Way – when complete, the responsibility will be clearer. A request had been received for the Parish Council to consider reimbursing personal expenditure (£700). A lengthy debate continued with Members having clear views on the appropriate use of public funds. It was, therefore, proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Noyes-Thomas and with one abstention, all Members in favour and thus it was

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council was not in a position to offer public funds to reimburse expenditure on a private lane. There was also a concern that this may set a dangerous precedent for other requests for financial support on private land.**

**Shrewsbury Road**

As we approach the Summer and work is due to take place during the school holiday, Members would like to see the detailed proposals for Phase II of the Shrewsbury Road Scheme, and in particular any plans to assist residents when crossing from Talbot Fields.

**Heath Lane, Ellerdine**

TWC Highway Engineers have yet to meet with relevant landowners

**216/3/25.C**

**West Mercia Police**

Please refer to the public session

**217/3/25.C**

**Telford & Wrekin Council****a) Wrockwardine Ward**

Councillor Thomas reported that he had had no responses to any member enquiries that he had recently submitted.

**b) Ercall Magna Ward**

Councillor Bentley reported that he had met with the Police & Crime Commissioner at Hindlip Hall and had an opportunity to discuss traffic speed in the Ward, particularly on the A442 and B5062 and also the delays with the completion of the project to provide the rural policing vehicle. John Campion took on board all the information provided, although he was surprised that the rural parishes had been asked to fund such a vehicle.

It is his intention to submit lengthy and detailed comments in response to the Local Plan consultation, especially relating to the effect on rural areas of the lack of infrastructure and drainage plans for the proposed significant development sites.

**218/3/25.C**

**Play Areas****Roden**

Weekly inspections continue. Minor points have been identified and will be actioned.

**High Ercall**

Councillor Noyes-Thomas continues the weekly inspections. No work is required at this time.

**219/3/25.C**

**Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

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

**b) Chairman's Report**

Councillor Wickson reported that devolution and elections are regularly on agendas, particularly in Shropshire at this time.

Two meetings have been arranged with TWC – the first with Lee Carter on 25<sup>th</sup> March and a meeting regarding the Community Governance Review – Councillor Harvey Unwin, Chairman of WAC, will be invited to attend both meetings.

**220/3/25.C**

**Correspondence**

a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity.

**b) Freedom Fibre**

There had been a presentation in the Village Hall, where residents had been invited to discuss the scheme with members of the sales team. Concerns had been expressed that the 'hard-sell' approach was unnecessary and many residents felt uneasy and pressurized. Some felt that a DD had been initiated, without their authorization. It was agreed that the Parish Council should inform Freedom Fibre of local concerns.

- c) TW Scrutiny Review Topics  
Members discussed the correspondence and the criteria and expressed concern that this was a TW tick-box exercise as the type of topics that should be considered did not fit their criteria – it was agreed that there was little point in TW asking PTCs for their opinions.

**221/3/25.C**

**Reports**

**Councillors' Reports**

None

**Clerk's Report**

**Councillor Email Addresses**

Thanks were extended to all Councillors, especially those that had experience difficulties with accessing their emails through the new system. The provider has made some adjustments and the 'send' button now appears at the top of the screen, near to the 'reply' icon.

**Roden 'Boil' Instruction to residents**

This has now been lifted for all properties affected. Thanks were extended to Mr S Walker – this had involved a lot of time, effort and expense – it has been appreciated.

**222/3/25.C**

**Village Halls**

**a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

*Councillor Connor declared an interest, and had a dispensation in place*

There will be a celebration for the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the current building – details of events planned will be provided when available.

**b) High Ercall Village Hall**

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

Councillor Noyes-Thomas reported that the bookings are healthy, Ercall Colts continue to use the field, a new cleaner with increased hours has been employed due to the increased usage. The new Cuppa and Chat event on a Thursday is going well, a Treasurer has been appointed and a VE Day Grant has been secured from TWC and will provide an Afternoon Event on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**223/3/25.C**

**Parish Matters**

- a) The church bells will ring on 8<sup>th</sup> May, from 6.30pm to 7.00pm to mark VE Day.

**224/3/25.C**

**Next Meeting**

15 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	7.00pm	Full Council	High Ercall Village Hall
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Followed by	8.00pm approx	Annual Parish Meeting
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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 8.25pm.

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

These minutes remain draft (E & OE) until confirmed as accurate at the next Full Council meeting in April 2025.