

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 18th February 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 C Purves
 Cllr R Higgins Cllr E Aston
 Cllr R Hartshorn Cllr S Taylor

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
 Cllr G Thomas (TWC)
 9 Members of the Public

189/2/25.C Welcome & Introductions

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

Public Session

A resident from Rowton presented a summary of comments from Rowton residents in connection with Planning Application TWC/2025/0077 – Barnes Farmhouse – Erection of 4 poultry units and associated works.

These included:

Narrow Lanes	Contamination	Location close to River Tern
Location of Borehole	Nitrate Rich Area	Vehicle movements
Close to Listed Buildings	Smells	Flooding control
Damage to verges	Destroyed gullies	Bird Flu
Additional waste	Spreading of fields	Effect on village and locality

Sam Taylor, landowner / applicant had an opportunity to respond to some of the concerns.

The Chairman thanked residents for attending and for their comments – he reminded them of the importance of responding to the consultation – this can be done on the TW Planning Portal or direct to the planning officer by email.

190/2/25.C Apologies for Absence

Councillor Walker	Work Commitments	Accepted
Councillor Grant	Work Commitments	Accepted

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

RESOLVED that the apologies, as listed, be accepted.

Councillor Bruckshaw	Work Commitments	Received after the meeting
----------------------	------------------	----------------------------

191/2/25.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), 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 S Bentley	TW Planning Committee and Finance & Governance
Councillor S Taylor	Planning Application TWC/2025/0077

192/2/25.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st January 2025

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st January 2025 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

193/2/25.C Chairman’s Communications

The Cleveland Arms

Members had received a copy of correspondence from the owners of The Cleveland Arms PH for perusal prior to the meeting.

A discussion took place with members having an opportunity to comment. Members were clear in their view, that the public had an expectation that the Parish Council would pursue the project for the retention of the Cleveland Arms as a Community Asset on their behalf – this was clearly evident at the last public meeting held in the Village Hall.

The Councillors are aware of at least three interested parties – all of which would appreciate having sight of the valuation which had been requested on their behalf. However, Andrew Dixon, of Andrew Dixon & Company had not yet been granted access (internal or external) to undertake the ‘Red Book Valuation’. The Clerk was instructed to respond to the email to explain that it is not the role of the Parish Council to make proposals – members believe that the ‘layout and documentation of the building and wider site’ as mentioned by the owner, are the owner’s responsibilities.

However, members agreed that when proposals are available, it would be a good idea for the owners / interested parties to engage with the local residents and at that time the Parish Council will assist with facilitating a suitable meeting.

Condition of the building

Concerns were raised regarding the safety of road users and pedestrians due to the current condition of the building, which has been confirmed as ‘unsafe’. It was further agreed that the Clerk should write to TWC to ask for an update regarding the condition of the building.

Noticeboard

TWC has confirmed that it will be removing its Rights of Way noticeboard from the site inside the herras fencing. They have agreed for their contractors to take this to the village hall and the VHMC has kindly agreed to position it within its ground – so that it is accessible by the public.

194/2/25.C Finance & Governance

a) Financial Report

The reconciled balance sheet at the end of January shows a total of £124,819.87 and had been circulated to all Members.

The £25,000 additional investment has been moved to CCLA and will appear on the February statements.

b) Payments

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

K Baker	Salary – February	LGA 1972 s112	£640.00
HMRC	PAYE – February	LGA 1972 s112	£160.00
HARPC	SLCC Subscription contribution	LGA 1972 s112	£50
Ellerdine Village Hall	Grant	LGA 1972 s137	£1000.00

c) Risk Management

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.

195/2/25.C

Planning

a) Report

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

Councillor Bentley left the meeting

b) New Planning Applications for consideration

- i) **TWC/2025/0043 25 Talbot Fields
Erection of a single-storey side extension**

Members RESOLVED to make no comments but to support the application.

- ii) **TWC/2025/0055 Wroxden, Ellerdine
Erection of a single-storey side extension, double garage, drainage and access**

Members RESOLVED to support this well-presented application.

Councillor S Taylor left the meeting

- iii) **TWC/2025/0077 Barnes Farmhouse, Rowton
Erection of 4 poultry units, with associated bins, tanks, generator, amenity block and attenuation pond.**

Members considered all the points which had been raised in the public session and some which had been received direct. Members were aware of the comments received from TWC regarding drainage, which they supported and those from Historic England. Whilst the applicant had responded to some of the concerns, there remained many unanswered questions. Other points to consider included:

Transport Plan – number of vehicles for birds in and out (6 – 7 weeks), number of vehicles for feed, number of journeys from the site, including waste.

Associated use of the AD Plant on the site

Smells, particularly when cleaning and transporting

Avian Flu – and any possible spread, especially when in close proximity to another intensive heard

Boggy land – slopes to the river

Use of septic tanks on the site for four dwellings

Borehole not identified on plans

Proposed location for any oil or diesel storage tanks

If TWC is minded to support this application, the Parish Council would be requesting conditions be included especially regarding the HGVs and access only from the A442 and other ways that the village of Rowton can be protected.

RESOLVED to object to the application, stating the environmental impact and risk of groundwater and river pollution as well as close proximity to other nearby water features. Members also resolved to request a Call-In so that the application can be determined by the Planning Committee and this will give an opportunity for all the points raised to be included in the presentation at the meeting.

Members also agreed that the Clerk should write to TWC to enquire if a timeline was in place for the completion of the outstanding conditions for the existing application relating to this site.

Councillor Bentley and Councillor Taylor returned to the meeting

- c) Other Planning Matters**
 - i) Enforcement Matters**

Removal of sandstone wall in Church Road
No update received.
 - ii) Mill Bend, Roden**

Work has commenced to remove the roof from the building.
 - iii) Caravans to the rear of Roden Lane**

The Clerk will ask TWC for an update on these, which have been on site for some months.

- c) TW Local Plan Review Consultation**

All members are encouraged to view the documents and comment direct. The Parish Council Planning Committee will meet to consider a Parish Council response which will be shared at the next meeting. This Plan will look to identify potential building land for future use. Consideration should be given to the current infrastructure (highways, facilities, doctors, schools, hospitals, drainage, services etc.) which is currently at exhaustion levels.

196/2/25.C

Environmental Matters

a) Updates

The road-sweeping in High Ercall and Roden had, eventually, been completed, although some work on the pavements is now necessary.

b) Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Caring for God's Acre

Members had received the information from the conference and had an opportunity to consider how this can be implemented to benefit Ercall Magna Parish.

It was agreed that the first contact should be with the Parochial Church Councils to consider changes in the churchyard maintenance regimes, under the Caring for God's Acre scheme. It will be good to gauge their support and consider their thoughts.

c) New Issues

Footpath – Church Car Park to Shirlowe Lane

The Clerk will contact STW regarding a sinkhole (location along.pave.ground) – the landowner would appreciate urgent help to rectify this issue.

Roden Hall Trees

The Clerk will report a tree to TWC (with TPO) that has come down at Roden Hall.

197/2/25.C

Highways & Transport Matters

a) Reports and Updates

No updates had been received from TW Highways on any of the outstanding matters – the Clerk will continue to request more information.

b) Roden Traffic Scheme

The new scheme, as out for consultation, has little (if any) changes – local residents are being encouraged to respond direct to TWC. The totality of the project is 'good' and is welcomed as this project has been 'in the making' for a number of years.

There were some differences of opinion regarding parts of the proposed scheme – such as the removal of white lines, the inclusion of the mini-roundabout and its close proximity to the chicane.

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council response should include:

The removal of all white lines – central and road edges included.

The speed limit of 30mph must remain outside of the garden centre and into the village, for the extent of highway that has no footpath – pedestrians need some protection so increasing the limit to 40mph seems illogical.

Finally, the support for the scheme, taking into consideration the points above, is on the understanding that it will be monitored and the white lines can be reinstated, if proved to be unsuccessful, as part of the scheme.

c) New Matters

Rowton to Osbaston

Water-damage to the highway and poor surface condition and significant potholes

B5063 – Shawbury to Walton

TWC is already aware of the poor condition of the highway at this location (as reported by Cllr Bentley).

TWC is working with SC as there are responsibilities of both authorities on this road.

Collapsed Drain – Mill Bend

To be reported to TWC

Heath Lane, Ellerdine

TWC Highway Engineers to meet with relevant landowners

198/2/25.C

West Mercia Police

No-one was available to attend tonight's meeting.

A reminder had been received for local residents and councillors to join Neighbourhood Matters.

It is disappointing that the rural vehicles has still not been sign-written. Until this happens, the invoicing cannot take place and we risk losing the financial support from all the Parishes.

Councillor Bentley is to take this up with the Police & Crime Commissioner at a face-to-face meeting in March.

199/2/25.C

Telford & Wrekin Council

a) Wrockwardine Ward

Councillor Thomas reported that he had attended the Boundary Review Committee meeting but little information was available and none of his questions relating to the Wrockwardine Ward (including Roden and Poynton) had been answered. He had requested an extension to the consultation period, but that is not possible

It was good to see some of the proposed housing sites removed from the latest Local Plan.

b) Ercall Magna Ward

Councillor Bentley reported that work had continued on the following matters:

- STW – Roden
- The Council Tax increase is to be for Adult Social Care, so it is unlikely that the rural areas will receive increased support

200/2/25.C

Play Areas

Roden

No issues identified

High Ercall

Councillor Noyes-Thomas continues the weekly inspections.

201/2/25.C

Shropshire Association of Local Councils

- Regular updates are provided to all members and contain useful information. News In Brief publications contain important information.
- Minutes of the WAC meeting held on 22nd January, had been circulated for information
- Working Group meetings will take place relating to 'Devolution' and what it means for grass-roots local councils.

202/2/25.C Correspondence

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity.
- b) Great British Spring Clean – 21st March – 6th April
- c) Community Governance Review.
There is to be a meeting with the officers for all PTCs to attend to hear more about the review and to have an opportunity to ask questions.
Members confirmed that their initial views remain in that there should be no change to the Parish Boundary with the retention of Roden Ward (2 members) and the addition of an Ellerdine (4 members) and High Ercall Ward (7 members).
- d) VE Day Celebration Grant – applications must be submitted by 24th February – High Ercall and Ellerdine Village Halls are aware.

**203/2/25.C Reports
Councillors’ Reports**

None

Clerk’s Report

There have been a number of street light reports. Questions are being asked of the contractor, as these are new LED units which were guaranteed.

204/2/25.C Village Halls

a) Ellerdine Village Hall
Councillor Connor declared an interest, and had a dispensation in place
There is a fund-raising quiz on 1st March – all welcome

b) High Ercall Village Hall
Councillors Wickson and Noyes-Thomas declared an interest but have dispensations in place
Councillor Noyes-Thomas reported that the Committee is looking to recruit a Treasurer, and may look to employ a caretaker due to the increased bookings.

205/2/25.C Parish Matters

- a) Street Lights are covered by overgrown trees and hedges from Church Road to The Cleveland junction – it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain them so that the lights can be effective – Councillors will confirm ownership.
- b) There is a drop-in session at High Ercall Village Hall on 4th March, to meet representatives of Freedom Fibre about connections to Plusnet. You can call in between 3.45 and 6.45pm.
- c) A noticeboard has been requested for Rowton – this will appear on the next agenda for consideration – a suitable location will be required.

206/2/25.C Next Meeting

18 th March 2025	7.00pm	Full Council	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 March 2025.