

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025 in High Ercall Village Hall at 7pm.**

**PRESENT:**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Cllr K Connor    | Cllr S Noyes-Thomas |
| Cllr E Aston     | Cllr S Bentley      |
| Cllr R Hartshorn | Cllr R Wickson      |
| Cllr S Walker    | Cllr R Bruckshaw    |
| Cllr L Hughes    | Cllr S Taylor       |

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

**075/09/25.C Welcome & Introductions**

Councillor Connor opened the meeting, welcoming everyone and thanked them for attending.

**Public Session**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**West Mercia Police**

No report had been received for this months' meeting.

A police surgery had taken place in Waters Upton last Sunday, three people attended. PCSO Josh Peel had explained that they can no longer attend PC meetings as their shifts end at 8pm. There are numerous staff changes happening in the coming weeks, and there will only be one officer covering Wellington & Rural.

**076/09/25.C Apologies for Absence**

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Cllr R Higgins | Holiday          |
| Cllr C Grant   | Work Commitments |
| Cllr C Purves  | Work Commitments |

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

**RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.**

**077/09/25.C Declarations of Interest (for items on the agenda) or Dispensations**

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Councillor Connor       | Ellerdine Village Hall and Royal British Legion (with dispensations)  |
| Councillor Noyes-Thomas | High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation)                          |
| Councillor Wickson      | High Ercall Village Hall (with dispensation) and Royal British Legion |
| Councillor Bruckshaw    | Tern Farm Planning Application  |
| Councillor Bentley      | Planning Applications   |
| Councillor Walker       | Former Grain Store Application  |

**078/09/25.C Minutes of the Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

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

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2025 be signed by the Chairman as a true record.**

**079/09/25.C Chairman's Communications and Report  
Community Governance Review**

The Chairman updated Members on the current review. A meeting of the Boundary Review Committee had taken place on 4<sup>th</sup> September, with revised recommendations for the Members to consider. These had been received as a result of a massive response from residents. It was good to have such a level of engagement across both Ercall Magna and Waters Upton parishes and the revised recommendation for 'No

Change' is welcomed and was as a result of the efforts of both Parish Councillors and Residents in both parish areas. Members recorded their thanks to the BRC for listening.  
A reply has been communicated to the BRC expressing disappointment that the opportunity, to improve the parish by creating 3 Wards within it, had been missed and to ask that they re-consider this option as an improvement for Ercall Magna Parish.

#### **Rural Council Meeting with Inspector Rutherford**

A virtual meeting had taken place, with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the rural parish councils, and this was an opportunity for local issues and concerns to be raised with him. It was a useful meeting and will be repeated – possibly 3 or 4 times per year.

Unfortunately, we have since been informed that Inspector Rutherford is moving on and the next meeting will be with the new Inspector, when in post.

#### **080/09/25.C Finance & Governance**

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

Interest of £135.61 had been received into the Barclays Bank Accounts and the total balance is £82360.17, which also includes the VAT refund of £3678.94.  
The balance in CCLA is £51,892.07 at the end of July 2025.

##### **b) External Audit Report**

The completed AGAR had been received with a clear audit of the accounts and governance for 2024/25. However, there was one advisory note included and that stated that the dates for the public examination had been too long.

##### **c) Payments**

The payments for August and September had been circulated for information.  
It was noted that the Parish Council is now receiving bills for street light repairs – the Finance & Governance Committee will consider a maintenance contract at the next meeting, in preparation for the budget for 2025/26.  
All expenditure, over £100, is listed on the website, in accordance with the Transparency Code.

##### **d) Risk Management**

The Clerk updated Members on the requirements with regards to Risk Management. Whilst the Parish Council continues to monitor the policy on a regular cycle, there are changes with the AGAR audit process that will require further work. This will also be an additional assertion within the Audit for 2025/26. This will appear on the Finance & Governance Meeting agenda for further consideration.

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

Members were reminded that they are required to declare any gifts or hospitality (£25.00 or over) received or offered.

#### **081/09/25C Planning**

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

The Chairman, Councillor Wickson, had circulated a report including all the consultations and decisions made during the summer recess, for information.  
Since the report, there had been one further decision and this related to TWC/.2025/0486 at Cotwall Farm which was granted on 12<sup>th</sup> September.

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

**TWC/2025/0621 The Elms, Park Lane**

**Replacement boundary fence, 2m high with associated concrete posts**

*Cllr Bentley declared an interest and left the meeting*

**RESOLVED that the Parish Council would fully support this application. Within the response, they would also include that it is disappointing that such an application is necessary and a straight-forward replacement fence should be allowed under permitted development.**

**c) Other Planning Matters**

**i) Housing Needs Survey**

Craig Bethel, Rural Housing Enabler, Community Resource, is currently on holiday but has made a start at drafting the initial questionnaire. Members agreed that the questionnaires would be circulated to all Ercall Magna Parish residents. This will enable the outcome to be used in connection with the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

**082/09/25.C Environmental Matters**

**a) Updates**

None

**b) Overhanging Trees – B5062/B5063**

Following the initial report to TWC, a site visit with a highways engineer had taken place and the landowners had been identified. TWC will be contacting them to ask that the necessary work be undertaken on their trees. Some of the trees are on highway land.

It was noted, however, that when letters from TWC are received concerns such matters, there is no contact name or details available for the landowner to contact the officer to discuss the matter.

**c) SY4 4JN**

The Parish Council has been contacted by local residents in Poynton regarding their concerns with the condition of the highway and the speed limit.

It is necessary to work with TWC and SC on this matter, as the road continues into Shawbury Parish Council area. Councillor Wickson has taken this matter up with Shawbury Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed to support the residents in their efforts to liaise with the two authorities.

**d) New Issues**

Following the felling of trees at Roden Hall, the Parish Council will ask TWC for an up to date plan of the site and the TPO trees, and to ask that they remind Roden Hall of their commitment to replace the trees that had to be felled. The ideal planting season is approaching.

**083/09/25.C Highways, Transport & Street Lighting Matters**

**a) Reports and Updates**

**b) Roden Traffic Scheme**

Chris Pearson's latest communication changed the date for the works to 22<sup>nd</sup> September (weather permitting). It was noted that the Roden residents are very unhappy with further delays. Hopefully, the work will be completed as promised and Members will discuss this further at the next meeting.

**c) Silver Hill**

It was pleasing to report that the work on Silver Hill has been completed, the resurfacing and new signage is in place and the SID is working to record the traffic and remind drivers of the speed limit. Thanks were recorded to everyone who has made this possible, including the provision of financial contributions.

**d) Shrewsbury Road – resurfacing**

A significant number of favourable comments have been received following the completion of the road-surfacing, signage and crossing on Shrewsbury Road in High Ercall. There are three outstanding concerns that have been raised by some residents and road users.

- 1) The close proximity of the bus stops to the crossing – this has been highlighted with TWC and officers are checking the specification and will have a conversation with the Arriva Drivers, to promote the safety of pedestrians when the bus is in the stop.

It appears that this is a 'timed' stop, and it may be that changes can be made to the timetable so that an alternative stop is used for this which would mean that the bus does not have to wait before continuing the journey.

- 2) Since the removal of the rough surface and extensive potholes, it appears that some drivers are driving through the area in excess of the speed limit and some fail to stop at the crossing. TWC will be undertaking speed checks at two points, this is a requirement of the scheme, and the results will be used, alongside those taken from the nearby SID, to consider any next steps.
- 3) The shrouded light covers are still to be installed on the flashing beacons.

Members also agreed that we should approach TWC to ask about an enforceable 20mph limit and enquire if there are appropriate signs available that would warn drivers to the zebra crossing.

**e) Road Safety Report**

The suggested amendments will be circulated to Members, for comment.

**f) Village Signs**

Chris Pearson had confirmed that TWC would be installing the new Village Namesigns in High Ercall and Walton, as part of their maintenance plan. These will include the Parish Council logo.

However, some Members would have preferred the colourful signs previously considered and which can be seen in other local villages.

The Clerk confirmed that there remains £4000 in the budget and when the TWC signs are installed, Members can consider if they wish to add more village namesigns to all the villages in the Parish.

**g) Speed Indicator Devices**

The batteries are on order, as soon as they arrive, the SIDs will be relocated to new sites and recording can continue.

**h) New Issues**

Concerns remain that the road edges, and paths, are in need of weed and debris removal as well as sweeping. The cost of an additional sweep for kerbed edges will be obtained for council's consideration. Other defects remain a concern with the surface and kerbs breaking away in Coppice Drive and Cleveland Avenue – these will be reported to TWC.

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Dean Sargeant, TWC, expressing the concern that there is no co-ordination / communication with utility companies and this can result in a new road being 'dug up' soon after its completion.

Discussions are continuing with TWC and SC regarding the road from Walton to Shawbury – the surface is dangerous and some of the signage is no longer working or readable.

**084/09/25.C Play Areas**

Thanks were, once again, extended for the help with the regards to the weekly inspections at both locations. The annual RoSPA inspections will take place in October.

**a) High Ercall**

There are no current issues. The bark will need to be topped up in the Spring 2026.

**b) Roden**

No Issues have been reported.

**085/09/25.C Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council**

**a) Wrockwardine Ward – Councillor G Thomas**

Gareth updated Members on the work he has been doing to support Rodington due to the CGR recommendations for a merger with Wrockwardine Parish.

He is also in communication with TWC and SC regarding Houghton Crossroads – concerns have been received regarding this dangerous junction.

- b) Ercall Magna – Councillor S Bentley  
Steve congratulated the Parish Council and residents on their energy to challenge the original recommendation for the merger with Waters Upton. It was pleasing that the BRC has listened to the people and that no merger will now take place. He supported the Parish Council with its suggestion for ‘warding’ as this will enable better representation throughout the parish and is in accordance with the Government’s White Paper on Devolution.

Steve shares the concerns regarding the lack of PCSOs available after 8pm and has written to the Police & Crime Commissioner. His letter has also included the disappointment regarding the community vehicle project and the loss of experienced officers from West Mercia.

Steve has been working with the Enforcement Team at TWC with regards to overgrown hedges in the Parish and thanks the officers for their help.

#### **086/09/25.C Village Halls**

**a) Ellerdine**

Thanks were extended to Ellerdine Village Hall for registering as an Emergency Reception Centre, within the TW Emergency Plan

**b) High Ercall**

The Village Hall continues to be well used, particularly for private functions and the football.

The Clerk will also check that Roden Nursery has been contacted by TWC regarding its use as an Emergency Reception Centre.

#### **087/09/25.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils**

- a) Members are reminded to check the regular bulletins for up to date information and guidance.
- b) The Chairman of SALC, Ray Wickson, confirmed that SALC will make further representations to the Boundary Review Committee relating to the CGR process and including details of specific parish & town council objections, where they still exist.  
Further discussions are taking place with the Local Government Minister regarding Neighbourhood Governance.  
SALC is working with the Shropshire MPs.
- c) Wrekin Area Committee  
A review has been undertaken by SALC and this will appear on the next WAC agenda for discussion. It was proposed by Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Wickson, with one against, all were in favour and thus it was

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| <b>RESOLVED that a request be forwarded for Pavement Parking to be added to the agenda for consideration. It is hoped that a recommendation could be forwarded to SALC that the Government be asked to change the law and for the rest of England to be similar to Scotland and London. This will protect pushchair and wheelchair users from traffic.</b> |
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- d) AGM  
Invitations have been extended to attend the AGM at Shrewsbury Town Football Club on 29<sup>th</sup> October. It was proposed by Councillor Wickson that Ms D Dorrell be nominated as a Vice President and that Katrina Baker be nominated to continue as President for the coming year. All were in favour.
- e) LNRS Conference  
Invitations have been circulated to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> October at Ellesmere Town Hall.

#### **088/09/25.C Correspondence**

- a) All correspondence is shared with Members at the earliest opportunity. There had been no requests to include any item on this agenda.

**089/09/25.C Clerk or Councillor Reports**  
None

**090/09/25.C Parish Matters**

- More dog poo bags are required
- It was pleasing to see the naming of the bungalow estate in Roden
- Request an update on the type of SIDs installed in Roden and for their locations to be checked.

**091/09/25 Next Meeting**  
21<sup>st</sup> October 2025                      7.00pm                      Full Council                      HEVH

A meeting of the Finance Committee will take place before the next meeting (date to be agreed).

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 .....