

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 at Ellerdine Village Hall, at 7.00pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr K Connor (Chairman of Ercall Magna Parish Council)  
Katrina Baker (Clerk)

**In Attendance:** Cllr E Aston  
Cllr S Walker  
Cllr S Taylor  
Cllr R Bruckshaw  
Cllr C Purves  
4 members of the public

Cllr S Bentley (TWC and EMP)(arrived 007/04/26C)  
Cllr S Noyes-Thomas  
Cllr R Higgins  
Cllr R Wickson  
Cllr A Priest (arrived 009/04/26C)  
2 representatives of West Mercia Police

**001/04/26.C Welcome & Introductions**

The Chairman, Councillor Connor, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Councillor Connor explained the format of the Annual Parish Meeting, explaining that this is a residents meeting and not a Parish Council meeting.

**002/04/26.C Apologies for Absence**

Cllr R Hartshorn	Work Commitments
Cllr L Hughes	Personal Commitments
Cllr G Thomas (TWC)	In hospital

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

**AGREED that the apologies, as listed, be accepted.**

**003/04/26.C Declaration of Interests**

As per the usual list, which is available on request and on the website.

**004/04/26.C Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and had appeared on the website, it was proposed by Councillor Higgins and seconded by Councillor Aston, with one abstention, all were in favour that they were an accurate record of the meeting and would be signed by the Chairman.

**005/04/26.C Chairman's Report 2023 / 2024**

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:

- Community Governance Review
- Planning
- Highways
- Telford & Wrekin Council
- Housing Needs Survey

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.

**006/04/26.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 2025 was just over £122,000 with income totaling £57,218. Throughout the year payments had totaled £64,180. Therefore, the balance at the end of March 2026 was £115,143. Earmarked reserves will be confirmed at the start of the new financial year.

When considering the budget for 2026/27, the Parish Councillors were very aware of the difficult period that many residents still experience, including the continued worries relating to the 'Cost of Living Crisis', and therefore, Members unanimously resolved not to increase the precept. This resulted in a small reduction for council tax payers, taking into consideration the additional housing in the Parish.

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

*Councillor S Bentley arrived.*

#### **007/04/26.C West Mercia Police**

PC Simon Webb and PC M Halliman gave a report on behalf of West Mercia Police. Speed surveys continue around the Parish in accordance with the Parish Priorities. There had been two in Roden on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> March. The new highway layout appears to be working well with a reduction in speed recorded overall.

When asked about speed limits within Ellerdine village, this is a highway issue and the Parish Council will raise it with TWC.

There has been a recent incident relating to poaching / hare coursing – anyone with information, such as registration numbers of any suspicious vehicles, are asked to contact WMP with the details.

The Chairman thanked PC Webb and his Safer Neighbourhood Team for their work in our Parish. They then left the meeting.

#### **008/04/26.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 Bentley will also take up the matter of speed limits between A442 and the Village Hall. He did confirm that the police are a statutory consultee in speed limit consultations.

When asked about devolution, Steve confirmed the importance of parish & town councils, as the grassroots of local democracy and those closest to the people. It is hoped that more local people will come forward as possible candidates in the next round of local elections (May 2027).

Councillor Wickson, as a representative of Shropshire Association of Local Councils, confirmed that SALC has been lobbying Government to ensure that there is true and proper recognition of the important role of parish & town councils. This subject has also been raised with the Shropshire Group of MPs.

Concerns regarding the effect of oil prices, for rural communities, will be raised with TWC and details of the Warm Home Schemes will be shared.

*Councillor A Priest arrived.*

#### **009/04/26.C Other Reports**

##### **a) Ellerdine Village Hall**

It was reported that there has been an increase in usage, especially regular activities. The focus is more on family friendly events and charity quizzes as well as seasonal events such as the Fete, Halloween, Christmas. The Easter Egg hunt was also popular. Repairs and maintenance continue with new doors, roof repairs and removal of the storage container. The Committee has been working on ensuring that there are sufficient trustees and that all policies are up to date.

##### **b) High Ercall Village Hall**

A written 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. When available, it will be added to the website.

**d) St Michael's and All Hallows Churches**

No reports had been received from High Ercall or Rowton Church PCCs. When received, they will be added to the website.

**e) Endowment Fund**

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

**f) Wrekin Area Committee (of SALC)**

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

**g) TW Bus User Group**

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

**010/04/26.C Parish Matters**

**a) Matters Received in writing prior to the meeting**

A request had been received for an additional litter / dog waste bin at the Ellerdine end of Twiney Lane.

TWC are not installing additional bins within parishes.

Councillor Connor agreed to fund the purchase and installation of the bin, from his Chairman's Allowance – the upkeep of this bin will be taken on by TWC.

**b) The following matters were raised at the meeting**

i) Copies of the 340 Timetable were requested – please contact the Clerk for a copy. This new service is welcomed as it is linking Market Drayton to PRH and Wellington and therefore offering a more regular opportunity for residents to use a direct route to town.

ii) Concerns remain on the use of the minor lanes for the 103 / 104 buses. Whilst the rural bus provision is welcomed and local residents are encouraged to use it, there remains a concern, which may become an issue, when the 103 and 104 buses meet – this sometimes happens near to the Village Hall car park and in Heath Lane. The road has been known to be blocked.

There is often a delay (around 7am and 3.30pm) when the buses appear to be waiting for time outside of Farriers Court (opposite the village hall car park). The Chairman of the Bus User Group confirmed that the 'waiting' should be taking place elsewhere in order to ensure that the bus meets the Shrewsbury Connection. The Clerk will take this up with Arriva.

**011/04/26.C Date of the next meeting**

The April Full Council meeting will follow this meeting

19<sup>th</sup> May 2026

7pm  
Approximately 8pm

Annual General Meeting  
Full Council

HEVH

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their important contributions, and closed the meeting at 8pm.

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

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026, but will not be signed until the APM in 2027.