

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 21st July 2026 in High Ercall Village Hall at 7pm.

PRESENT:

Cllr K Connor	Cllr S Noyes-Thomas
Cllr S Bentley	Cllr R Wickson
Cllr R Higgins	Cllr C Purves
Cllr R Bruckshaw	Cllr M Bould

In Attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
Craig Bethel, Community Resource

084/7/26.C Welcome & Introductions

Councillor Connor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There were no members of the public in attendance.

Craig Bethel, Rural Housing Enabler, Community Resource

The Chairman and Members welcomed Craig to the meeting. A final draft of the Housing Needs Survey Report had been circulated to Members, for information.

This version now includes a Parish Housing Profile, which is useful as a starting point.

The summary confirmed that there is a recognized need for around 19 homes in the Parish to meet the local connection needs over the next 5 years. The methodology to survey 'those in need' rather than everyone is a process that has proved the most useful across other counties within this type of survey. The Report is aimed at being part of a library of information available for the parish as we proactively try to help 19 people with local connections reach their aspirations.

Craig explained that his role is to connect different organisations in order to move forward and to establish what is available here in Ercall Magna. Community-led housing can often address local issues best and should be seen by TWC as a proactive way to engage and it is hoped that this will foster a positive relationship with the Planning Officers, landowners and the Parish Council as it represents the communities.

The next steps will be to look at the wider perspective – supporting communities, facilitating discussions and identifying land availability. The parish council is looking to put local people first and this report will continue to be a 'living document' and will evolve to meet the needs of local residents as it moves forward.

There is currently funding available to assist with any 'next steps' that are identified. The parish council will encourage landowners to bring forward their plans at an early opportunity and they will have access to the Survey Report & Summary to assist with their ideas.

West Mercia Police

Members were, once again, disappointed that there had been no report received for tonight's meeting and no contact with the parish council since recent incidents in the parish. Members who had attended the meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Inspector and our MP, recalled the guarantees given regarding rural policing and in particular the promise that information would be available, and attendance, where possible, for parish council meetings despite the cut-backs and reduction in PCSO hours of work. This clear lack of engagement results in a reduction in public confidence and means there is no constructive input into local issues and the community is left under-represented.

When considering the priorities for the next 3 months, members wanted to include 'lack of communication' as the main priority and this would be followed by Speeding and Poor Driving and Rural Crime / fear of crime.

085/7/26.C Apologies for Absence

Cllr Aston	Attending an alternative engagement
Cllr Hartshorn	Work Commitments
Cllr Taylor	Family Commitments
Cllr Walker	Work Commitments

RESOLVED that the apologies be accepted.

Absent
Cllr Priest

086/7/26.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 Higgins	High Ercall Village Hall
Councillor Bould	High Ercall Village Hall
Councillor Purves	Member of Waters Upton Parish Council

087/26.C

Minutes of the Meetings held on 16th June 2026 and 30th June 2026

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the two meetings held in June should be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

088/7/26.C

Chairman's Communications and Report

Councillor Connor, and Mrs Connor, had attended two local fund-raising events in the Parish recently. The first took place at Ellerdine Lakes and was a very enjoyable evening, at a perfect location raising funds for High Ercall Church. The second was an equally enjoyable event, which has become an annual event in the local calendar, the Rowtonbury Festival – this was raising funds for Rowton Church.

The Parish Council will write to the organisers of both events to congratulate them on their success and to record thanks to the organisers, sponsors and supporters.

089/7/26.C

Finance & Governance

Finance

a) Current Financial Position

A copy of the bank reconciliation had been circulated to all Members. The balance reflects the receipt of a refund on Street Lighting and the VAT refund for 2025/26.

b) Payments

Details of the payments for authorization had been circulated. Invoices were available for perusal. It was proposed by Councillor Brucksahw, seconded by Councillor Higgins, all were in favour that the payments, as listed be authorized.

HMRC	PAYE – July 2026	LGA 1972 s112	£238.45
K Baker	Salary – July 2026	LGA 1972 s 112	£688.00
AC Maintenance	Church RoW, and new 3 foot high h/d farm gate with self closing spring	LGA 1972 s 101	£519.00
HMRC	PAYE – August 2026	LGA 1972 s112	£238.45
K Baker	Salary – August 2026	LGA 1972 s 112	£688.00

Members also agreed that two additional invoices, recently received, should also be paid.

TWC	Dog Waste / Litter Bins	LA 1983 s5	£1125.00
Sutton Plants	Plants for High Ercall Planters	HA 1980 s96	£150.00

c) Risk Management

This will appear on the Finance & Governance Meeting, early in September.

d) Gifts & Hospitality

Members were reminded of the need to declare any offers, whether accepted or not, to the value of £25 or more.

e) CCLA Investment Account

As we are nearing completion of the End of Year accounts, the additional £20,000 previously agreed, will be transferred to the CCLA Investment Account.

090/7/26.C

Planning

a) Report

The Chairman of the Planning Committee updated Members on recent determinations:

TWC/2026/0369 2 Coppice Drive

Permission Granted

b) New Planning Applications for consideration

TWC/2024/0933 Poultry Units at Roden

The application confirmed that the technical information, as required by the Planning Officers, is now available.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would confirm its continued support for this application.

Other Planning Matters

i) Housing Needs Survey Report

Members recorded their thanks to Craig and to Community Resource, the report reflects the views of the community and will be useful document, especially when reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan.

ii) Delegation

Following receipt of the information from the Head of Planning & Development regarding the proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation, Members shared their concerns that, although this is in response to national direction, TWC has taken the opportunity to remove the ability for PTCs, or Ward Members, to call-in an application for determination by the Planning Committee. There were strong feelings that this removes a democratic process which enabled elected members to represent their communities. This would also result in planning officers not having the benefit of local knowledge and they would miss the opportunity to understand local circumstances, such as cumulative effect. Members also recalled recent discussions regarding the Devolution Bill, and this proposal is contrary to the wish to devolve functions to the most local tier of local government – grassroots of communities.

RESOLVED to forward the views of the Parish Council in time for the Planning Committee meeting, scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22nd July and also include this council's support for the emails already submitted by Lilleshall Parish and Newport Town Council.
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091/7/26.C

Environmental Matters

The current periods of exceptionally dry weather have resulted in a lack of maintenance of highway verges and some green spaces. This has been due to the 'teams' having to move to other roles to assist other departments. There will be continued delays in verge maintenance and Members also asked the public to be aware of the significant dangers of fire in these conditions.

a) Church Road to Talbot Fields

The Parish Council has maintained the footpath and replaced the gate to Talbot Fields.

b) Dog Waste and Litter Bins

The new bin has been installed by the bus shelter in Ellerdine village.

The TWC bin from opposite the Cleveland Arms has been relocated to Park Lane, at the end of the path from High Ercall Stores. The Parish Council has funded these projects as additional support for the communities in response to their requests.

092/7/26.C

Highway Matters

a) Updates

Thanks were recorded for the much-needed work on the path from Coppice Drive to Cleveland Avenue. Some pothole requests have not yet been completed, this includes the one near the roundabout on the B5062 in Roden.

b) TW Transport Plan

Councillors Connor & Wickson had attended a meeting with consultants, who have been employed by TWC to write the upcoming Transport Plan. Attendance was disappointing as only 3 parish & town council representatives attended. Matters raised on behalf of Ercall Magna included rural buses. Connectivity, 106 funding, traffic movements and moving people.

We have been given an assurance that we will be kept informed throughout the process of consultation and adoption.

c) Roden Traffic Scheme

Concerns have been raised regarding the two significant accidents, since installation, that had resulted in damage to the build-outs of the new scheme. Members believed that this could be due to the fact that, despite assurances by Senior Highway Officers, the scheme is still not complete as the countdown markers are not in position. These would have given drivers warning of the build-outs - so some drivers are still being caught-out when approaching the areas.

The road is clearly marked and according to local reports and data, the scheme has proved effective.

No reply has been received to our request to update the SID to one that will record traffic movements and speed so that it can be monitored.

d) Traffic Road Safety Update

The document provided by TWC had been circulated to all Members and it was good to see the areas included. However, the priorities are limited. It is hoped that the TWC will prioritise the issues. We will also request that 'linking communities' be included – such as the footpath from Marlbrook Way to Roden Nurseries.

093/7/26.C

Play Areas

a) High Ercall

Nothing to report

b) Roden

Nothing to report

094/7/26.C

Matters from Telford & Wrekin Council

a) Ercall Magna Ward

Councillor Bentley proposed that the Parish Council recognizes the sterling work of the Fire Authority at this difficult time and Members agreed to pass this to the Fire & Rescue Service recognizing the work of the employees and retained fire fighters.

b) Wrockwardine Ward

Councillor Thomas sends his apologies as he recovers from an operation.

095/7/26.C

Village Halls

a) Ellerdine

Nothing to report

b) High Ercall

Two pop-up food banks have visited the car park and been well received by the community. Bookings remain healthy – the hall was used to show the England World Cup games, which were very popular. There has been a recent end-of-school event which was very popular and two Pride & Joy events had taken place.

With regards to the Car Park, the Management Committee is concerned regarding the two ‘potholed’ areas of the car park, near to the front fence. Quotations are required for temporary repairs. If the report, when received, identifies significant work needed, grants will be required to assist in funding the work. Discussions will be needed with TWC and the School (as this is used as part of the walking bus initiative).

096/7/26.C

Correspondence

a) General Correspondence

Councillors receive all correspondence, for information – there had been no requests for any to be added to the agenda.

b) Shropshire Association of Local Councils

- i) Regular information bulletins are circulated for information.
- ii) There is to be an LNRS Conference for Telford & Wrekin, this is scheduled for 27th November at High Ercall Village Hall. All are welcome.

097/7/26.C

Clerk’s Report

a) TW Bus User Group

A recent meeting gave Members the opportunity to discuss the services, with options for changes to route and services, with representatives of Arriva and TWC.

b) Rowton Meteorite

A local Rowton resident has provided additional historical information, with attachments and maps. These are being added to the website for information. Thanks are extended to Andy, our Web Provider, who carries out this additional work on our behalf.

Councillors Reports

None

098/7/26.C

Parish Matters

None

099/6/26.C

Next Meeting

15th September 2026

7.00pm

Full Council Meeting

High Ercall Village Hall

A Finance & Governance Meeting will be arranged early in September.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their important contributions to a successful meeting and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

SignedDate

The minutes remain draft, until agreed at the next meeting in September 2026.