

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Ercall Magna Parish Council held on Tuesday, 19th April 2022 at 7.00p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr K Connor (Chairman of Ercall Magna Parish Council)

In Attendance:

Katrina Baker (Clerk)	Cllr E Aston
Cllr S Bentley (TWC and EMPC)	Cllr L Hughes
Cllr C Purves	Cllr Walker
Cllr R Wickson	Cllr Hartshorn
Cllr A Price	Cllr M Ward
C Connor	E Muir
K Jones	D Haston (CPC)
M Ziola	G Howlett
J Henderson	S Raffell
C Furnival (Rodington PC)	K Silverster
Hilary & Steve	Sandra
Jenny	N Fancett
C Harris	L Haston
J Ziola Sammonds	D Edwards
D Fletcher	C Pearson (TWC)

718/04/22.C Welcome & Introductions

The Chairman, Councillor Connor, opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. A warm welcome was extended to the guests and to all local residents who are in attendance.

719/04/22.C Apologies for Absence

Cllr G Barrow
West Mercia Police

720/04/22.C Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, held on 20th April 2021.

The Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting had been circulated and had appeared on the website, it was proposed by Councillor Wickson and seconded by Councillor Purves that they were an accurate record of the meeting, and would be signed by the Chairman.

721/04/22.C Chairman's Report 2021 / 2022

The Chairman read his report which referred to information included in the Parish reports which have been made available and will appear on the website.

A copy of the report is attached to the Minutes and will appear on the website.

The report included a resume of the activities of the Parish Council and highlighted some ongoing issues.

Thanks were extended to all the Members and to the local community for their continued support.

Thanks were recorded to Amy Glenholmes and Yvonne Homer who have recently left the Parish Council due to their individual personal circumstances. Anyone interested in the position of a Parish Councillor can contact the Clerk for more details.

722/04/22.C Financial Report

Ercall Magna Parish Council started the financial year with a balance of £40,515.81, although a significant amount of the money was set aside as Earmarked Reserves. Due to covid, some of the planned projects had not been possible – especially those relating to Telford & Wrekin Council. Many officers had been redeployed to covid response initiatives. However, as we move forward it is hoped that site visits will be possible and our outstanding projects, such as the provision of the Speed Indicator Devices, will come forward to completion.

The total income received throughout the financial year, to 31st March 2022 was £55,453.26 and the total expenditure was £35,316.70.

Your Parish Council has worked within budget throughout the year and has made significant savings in some budget areas, such as the Street Lighting – the upgrade to the

LED lights has brought the total expenditure for energy down to just over £3000 – although we are aware that this year will see it increase again and have budgeted accordingly.

The Balance at the end of the financial year is £60,652.37.

When considering the budget for 2022/23, the Parish Councillors were very aware of the difficult couple of years that many residents had experienced and therefore, the Members unanimously resolved to set the precept at £49,900 – with no increase for this financial year. Following completion of the Audit, Members will ensure that their budget reflects the needs of Ercall Magna Parish Council without an increase payable by the residents towards the services it provides.

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

723/04/22.C Highways in the Parish

The Chairman welcomed Chris Pearson, Road Safety and Traffic Engineering Team Leader in Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services at Telford & Wrekin Council.

Chris has been in post for 6 months, following the departure of the officer who had been dealing with the outstanding matters in our Parish for some time. Chris gave a short update on the SID project and the review of the Roden speed limit. He confirmed his commitment to working in partnership with the Parish Council and had already driven around the Parish to get to know the area and its issues.

There was an opportunity for questions and Chris gave a commitment to investigating and reporting a range of matters that were raised including:

- a) Roden, Section 106 funding – plan of intended highway improvement works
- b) Cotwall Bend, traffic calming or warning signs, also the camber of the road
- c) Surface of highway Cleveland Arms to junction with Shirlowe Lane on the B5062
- d) Island at top of Cotwall Bank – priority and visibility issues
- e) Condition of road surfaces (particularly Shrewsbury Road) – below national standards
- f) Shirlowe Lane – part private / part highway – extensive potholes
- g) Speed of traffic in Roden Lane
- h) Use of lanes by HGVs, especially when two cannot safely pass
- i) Erosion of road edges and kerbs

Chris agreed to pass on maintenance issues and requests to the relevant department and to ascertain the details of the planning consent relating to Greenhouse Village, especially in relation to operating hours and routes – as far as he is aware, there are no restrictions on the number of vehicles. Chris confirmed that a request for Average Speed Cameras would have to be made to the WMP Traffic and Road Safety team. With regards to requests for maintenance, such as pothole reports, Chris asked that everyone registers for My Telford, downloads the APP and then reports can be made direct to the relevant team. Chris thanked everyone for the invitation to attend and for the information that had been shared with him. He will respond as soon as possible to the outstanding matters and he hopes to visit the Parish Council at a meeting again in around 6 months time.

724/04/22.C The Cleveland Phoenix Charity

A report was presented by David Haston, to update those in attendance on the work carried out since 1st December 2017 when the Charity was established for the purpose of acquiring, reinstating and enabled the operation of the Cleveland Arms for the benefit of the residents of High Ercall and the surrounding areas.

The CPC is a corporate member of the Plunkett Foundation, which is an organization that assist community groups with technical and business advice on acquiring and operating public houses. A specialist valuer has been commissioned, through the Foundation, to undertake a Market Appraisal Valuation Report of the Cleveland Arms. The valuer was granted access by the owner in order to undertake his inspection.

With the benefit of the valuation prepared in accordance with RICS Global Standards 2020, the CPC had approached the owner / agent. The members of the Charity, like local residents are very frustrated by the situation. Despite information given by the Agent, it appears that the owners are not supportive of the sale as a public house.

The site, a strategic and important part of the centre of the village, is an eyesore and concerns were expressed about the safety inside and outside of the building.

The Asset of Community Value remains in place, however, this will need to be reviewed and renewed in the coming months.

It was confirmed that there are other parties interested in the purchase of the property as a public house, which meets the needs of the ACV.

The Parish Council was asked to liaise with TWC Enforcement Team with regards to the condition and appearance of the site.

A question was asked about compulsory purchase.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to attempt to liaise with TWC Legal and Planning Officers and to continue to support the Phoenix Charity and other parties interested in the purchase and return of the Cleveland Arms Public House.

725/04/22.C Telford & Wrekin Council

Councillor Stephen Bentley had submitted an Annual Report from TWC which will be attached to the Minutes and will appear on the website.

Steve also shared updated information regarding his work with Planning Officers on the Cleveland Arms matters. He updated the meeting on the relation of the bats from the Mill Bend property. He confirmed that TWC had not been successful (along with Shropshire Council) in obtaining funding for a rural bus service. He shared information regarding his commitment to investigating all opportunities to bring a rural transport scheme back, albeit in a different format as it had been confirmed that the previous provision was not commercially viable.

Steve remains disappointed that the long awaiting schemes in the rural areas have been delayed for too long and has raised this issue with senior officers and the Cabinet Member. However, he is pleased that after many meetings and discussions, the planning application for Crudgington came forward including the provision of a roundabout to make the junction of the B5062 and A442 safer for all road users.

Finally, he continues to request average speed cameras for the A442 and will discuss with the Police and Crime Commissioner any opportunity that these can be considered for Roden. In the meantime, he gave a commitment to continue to represent the residents and confirmed that he will not give up.

726/04/22.C West Mercia Police

PCSO Collumbell had sent his apologies for this meeting but it committed to the rural area and can often be seen in the Parish. The community have appreciated his regular presence in and around the area. A short report had been received and will appear on the website. Regular newsletters are also available.

727/04/22.C Other Reports

a) Ellerdine Village Hall

A written report will be added to the website.

b) High Ercall Village Hall

A written report will be added to the website.

c) High Ercall Primary School

It is hoped that a report will be received after the Easter holiday and will appear on the website.

d) Crudgington Primary School

It is hoped that a report will be received after the Easter holiday and will appear on the website.

d) St Michael's and All Hallows Churches

It is hoped that a report will be received from both churches after the Easter period and will appear on the website.

e) Ercall Magna Education Endowment Fund

The annual meeting of the above was held at Wetherfield Cottage on September 6th 2021. Officers were elected and accounts presented which were signed as correct by the Chairperson. Eleven applications for grants were received and all were considered to be worthy of support, but due to the small amount of money available it was decided that each would receive the same amount. Therefore the amount of £583.32 was divided equally and each received £53.00.

728/04/22.C Parish Matters

a) Matters Received in Writing prior to the meeting

- i) The surface of the play area at Roden
- ii) The provision of a path from the B5062 to Marlbrook Way

b) The following matters were raised at the meeting

- i) TW Bus User Group will be taking up the issue of lack of rural transport
- ii) An ANPR camera for Roden?

729/04/22.C Date of the next meeting

17 th May 2022	7pm	Annual General Meeting Followed by May monthly meeting
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These meetings will take place in High Ercall Village Hall

SignedDate

Please note that these minutes remain draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 17th May 2022, but will not be signed until the APM in 2022.