

## **CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Erccall Parish Council held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. J Maddocks (Chair)  
Cllr. G Barnes  
Cllr. M Hatfield  
Cllr. B Sale  
Cllr. P Clifton  
Cllr. J Griffin

Also in attendance:  
1 Member of the Public

### **018/2025 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. J Letts  
Cllr. R Crookes  
Cllr. R Gittins  
Barbara Pearce (Clerk)

**RESOLVED: To receive apologies of absence for this meeting.**

### **019/2025 Chairman's Welcome**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including a member of the public in attendance with regard to the Best Kept Village Competition.

### **020/2025 Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED: that the following declaration of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and under The Relevant Authorities (Shropshire Council disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 was received:**

None.

### **021/2025 Public Question Time and Participation**

BKVC to be discussed at point 030/2025.

### **022/2025 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as being correct.**

### **023/2025 Matters arising/action taken from the Minutes not otherwise included in the agenda.**

Cllr. Hatfield confirmed that the work on the path from Jubilee Hall to the Eaton Road gate has been completed to a satisfactory standard and the invoice from A Dixon Fencing Contractors Ltd for £2340.00 has been paid.

Tim Simmonds has completed work on the playground and provided photographs to confirm.

### **024/2025 Safety in the Parish**

Meeting with PCC Jon Campion, Road Safety Team (possible) and Shropshire Highways and Cllr. Gittins originally arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> January 2025 has been re-arranged to 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 1000 Jubilee Hall.

Councillors and parish residents welcome to attend.

Points for discussion at meeting:

- Viability and positioning of SIDs on Eaton Road / Narrow Lane / Newport Road.

- Other traffic calming ideas such as 20mph signage, speed bumps, chicanes, dragon's teeth etc.
- Weight restriction on Crow Lane. Chair continues to monitor images and report to Operation SNAP and PC Heathcote visits businesses at Ollerton Park.  
Chair provided updated data on number and size of vehicles using Crow Lane:
  - There are currently up to 400 vehicle movements per day at the intersection of Narrow Lane and St Michaels Way.
  - Breaches of the weight restriction are on average 2/3 per day. Chair has contacted companies that consistently ignore the weight restriction.
- Ollerton Business Park and non-installation of passing places in breach of planning conditions.

Wagon parked on St Michaels Way is from the contractor who are working on properties on St Michaels Way. Chair has contacted company with a view to having it removed.

#### **025/2025 Highways and footpaths**

- St Michaels/Crow Lane 7.5 tonne weight restriction – on-going management, reporting, enforcement and further options.**  
Chair will update following the meeting detailed above.
- Eaton Road (village part) safety improvements.**  
No further update.
- A41 working group – updates on new cross county group.**  
No further update from Cllr. Gittins. Chair is aware of drainage repair work which is due to continue until end of March.
- Footpaths and public rights of way – to consider any queries which may impact on the parish.**  
No issues. Currently all footpaths well lit. Work completed on the path between Jubilee Hall and Eaton Road gate.
- Streetlights - Lamp replacements. Dark skies initiative.**  
3 streetlamps obscured by vegetation on St Michaels Way.  
**Action: Chair to obtain quote from tree contractor for trimming.**

#### **026/2025 Parish Matters**

- Correspondence – update on important PC matters received via NALC/SALC Bulletins etc.**  
Nothing to report from NALC/SALC.
- FTTP / Gigabit roll out in the Parish**  
Freedom Fibre have erected approximately 20 statutory notices to erect poles around the parish. Mostly on the highways but some outside properties.  
**Action: Chair to contact Freedom Fibre to request those planned for outside properties to be relocated.**

#### **027/2025**

##### **Grounds Maintenance/Playground**

- To receive an update from the grounds sub-committee.**  
Work on the footpath from Jubilee Hall to Eaton Road gate now complete. No further update; grass not being cut as yet, contract begins in April.

**b. Playground – to receive the monthly inspection report.**

Inspection report received from Cllr. Barnes. Fixings completed for the tables to be anchored to the ground, but no chain or padlock provided by contractor.

**Action: Cllr. Barnes to obtain chain and padlock.**

**c. Mechanical inspection of the playground – Kompan to Tim Simmons.**

Tim Simmons completed work on 15/01/2025 and provided photographs.

**Action: Cllr. Barnes to forward information/photographs to Playsafety in advance of next ROSPA inspection.**

**028/2025 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan**

**a. On-going maintenance and repairs to assets.**

Cllr. Hatfield / Cllr. Sale to carry out investigation on state of assets around the parish to form a plan of maintenance and repairs to be included in the upcoming budget notification.

Cllr. Sale to carry out repair work on bus shelter.

Cllr. Clifton informed that the hot water heater system in Jubilee Hall is leaking, and CECA are obtaining quote for repair/replacement.

**b. Commitment to the football pitches and Clubs.**

Pitch fee remains unchanged for this season, PC to discuss fees for 25/26 season later in the year.

**029/2025 Advertising and social media/website**

Domain name successfully changed to a .gov.uk domain. PC will no longer need to pay domain name fee. Subscription due in March.

Individual visitors remain consistent at 250 – 300 per month.

Further discussion on using the survey facility on the website, to gauge the opinion of villagers on a range of topics. Chair to look at survey carried out in 2012.

**Action: Cllr. Barnes to reach out to all Councillors as to what questions to include. Discuss and finalise at March meeting.**

**030/2025 Grants and Donations**

**To consider any new applications.**

Enquiry received from CE Club re funding for defib battery replacement. Small Grant Application form sent but not returned.

**Best Kept Village Competition**

Sub committee has now been formed to steer the BKV application for 2025. A representative of the group outlined floral displays suggested at the entrance signs to the village, hanging baskets and ad hoc planting around the village. Other initiatives such as a fairy glen, stone painting and sunflower competition to involve the village children also outlined. Community Garden at bus stop discussed. Village tidy ups and litter picks to be included. Sponsorship from local businesses will be sought and fundraising will also be carried out. £250.00 was awarded as prize in the 2024 competition and it was asked that this be donated towards costs for the 2025 competition.

**RESOLVED: £250 to be donated for the BKVC 2025.**

**031/2025 Planning Applications.**

**a. New Planning applications.**

None

**b. Existing Applications**

Reference: 24/04794/FUL (validated: 06/01/2025)

Address: The Meadows, Village Road, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2BZ

Proposal: Construction of a new vehicular access

Applicant: Mr Mark Jones

PC has made no comment as it neither supports nor objects to the application.

However, it was noted that concerns have been raised by local neighbour regarding suitability of proposed new access which will impact on their use and enjoyment of their property including their privacy.

Reference: 24/03791/VAR (validated: 02/10/2024)

Address: Ollerton Business Park, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire

Proposal: Variation of Condition 7 (Highways Improvements) of Application Reference Number 23/02475/FUL

Applicant: Mr Glen James

Last communication to Cllr. Gittins is that the applicant is committed to providing passing places with work to commence once the section 278 agreement has been completed.

No further update from Cllr. Gittins. Case not yet determined.

i. Withdrawn

None.

ii. Refused

None.

iii. Granted

None

c. Any other planning matters.

i. Land at Steppes Way.

No planning application currently received.

ii. Eaton on Tern Solar Farm

No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

iii. Furburs application – 28 homes

No further update.

### **032/2025 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.**

No report received from Cllr. Gittins prior to the meeting.

No further updates from January's meeting, notes below:

Cllr. Gittins reported on the ongoing challenges to the draft Local Plan by the Inspectorate. No further update from Chair.

English Devolution White Paper released on 16/12/2024 outlining proposals to merge some councils (District and County), which may be extended to include smaller unitary councils.

SC continues to operate under challenging circumstances, being £37m over budget.

### **033/2025 Financial Matters**

PC currently only makes payments by cheque which require two authorised signatures. PC discussed making payments by BACS and either Clerk or Chair are able to make these payments through the bank account. However, to comply with Financial Regulations any payments to be made by BACS must be listed in the agenda / minutes and a resolution made before payment is made.

**Members are asked to:**

**a. Receive and confirm the payment of the items to be presented to the meeting**

- i. SSE Energy Solutions DD – £194.68 (December 2024) by DD 27/01/2025
- ii. Administration February - £308.88 by Cheque
- iii. Tim Simmonds Playground Repairs/Maintenance £576.00 BACS Payment

Invoice from A Dixon £2340.00 re path from Jubilee Hall to Eaton Road Gate paid on 06/02/2025 following satisfactory completion of work.

**RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices**

Balance at 04/01/2025 **£33,253.98**

Outgoings: £3327.71

Receipts: £239.60

Balance at 10/02/2025 **£30165.87**

The above reconciliation was discussed and there were no questions.

**c. Budget/Precept**

Precept application made at 4.8% increase, £15408.00 due in April.

**034/2025 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.**

Chair has contacted Environmental Protection with decibel readings from scrambler meetings discussed at previous meetings. Organisers are allowed 14 events per calendar year.

Cllr. Hatfield has received a suggestion from a parishioner for a path across the Village Green from the gate at Manor Green to path. Cost may be prohibitive.

**Action: Cllr. Hatfield / Cllr. Sale to investigate and obtain quote.**

**035/2025 Date of next meeting.**

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.