

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. J Maddocks (Chair)
Cllr. M Hatfield
Cllr. R Griffin
Cllr. P Clifton
Cllr. B Sale
Cllr. J Letts
Cllr. N Bentley (Unitary Councillor)

Also in attendance:
4 Members of the Public

019/2026 Apologies for absence

Mrs B Pearce (Clerk) – Chair to act as Clerk for this meeting.
Cllr. G Barnes
Cllr. J Harrison

020/2026 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, no further notices from the chair at this point.

021/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

None.

022/2026 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:

Cllr. Hatfield, Cllr. Clifton and Cllr. Griffin in relation to CECA.

023/2026 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2026 as being correct.

024/2026 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Written report provided by Cllr. Bentley attached.



Unitary Cllr
Report_Feb26.pdf

Signs and Speed Testing – Cllr. Bentley to arrange site meeting with Tracey Onslow, PCC John Campion's Deputy, to solidify sites for speed testing around the parish.

Cllr. Bentley is chasing Fix My Street issues, including Dodecote Drive, with some being resolved and some not.

Further information on parish issues can be found in Cllr. Bentley's report, attached.

Cllr. Bentley gave an overview of Shropshire Council's financial position, with the council seeking emergency funding from government, details in his report. Cllr. Bentley informed that central government have recommended that SC to increase Council Tax by 8.99 percent without referendum, originally set at 4.99 percent maximum. However, this will not cover the loss from cuts to rural grants.

Local Plan is still under development. The outcome will affect development within the parish if CE are designate a Hub rather than as open countryside. Cllr. Bentley to check on timescale and deadline.

025/2026 Safety in the Parish

SNT to attend Hinstock – details will be shared on parish FB page.

Rural safety is compromised around the parish in winter months due to adverse weather, roads deteriorating with potholes.

Councillors discussed “dark spots” around the village, they are aware of issues however there are no plans to increase street lighting due to prohibitive costs.

Chair attended a meeting with PCC and Mark Pritchard MP on 23rd January to discuss rural crime. **Childs Erccall Parish is a low crime area. Parishioners to be encouraged to report crime via 999 or 101.**

026/2026 Parish Matters

a. Correspondence – update on important PC matters received via NALC/SALC Bulletins etc.

None.

b. Shropshire Council – review of Memorandum of Understanding

Cllr. Hatfield attended a “Shropshire Together” meeting at Stoke-on-Tern.

Focus is currently on Town Councils with Parishes possibly to follow next year.

Chair and Cllr. Hatfield are working on which services provided by SC directly to the PC and also lobbying for the Environmental Grant to be increased with a view to sharing resources with neighbouring parishes once funds are obtained.

State of litter across the parish discussed with Litter Pick to be organised in March.

c. Best Kept Village Competition

Chair to organise an initial meeting for the 2026 Competition during week commencing 4th

March as interest has been shown by Parishioners to take part again this year. Deadline for the application is in April. Emphasis for competition in 2026 is how the community work together as well how the village looks.

027/2026 Financial Matters

Members are asked to:

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

- i. DRAX Energy Solutions - £108.80 (December) DD 23/01/2026
- ii. Administration February 2026 - £318.83
- iii. Hugo Fox – Monthly DD for e-mail addresses
- iv. Lloyds Bank - £6.25 Bank Charges 10/11/25-09/12/25

- v. Kenny Warren – Work carried out following storm damage - £300.00

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

028/2026 To receive updates from parish community organisations – CECA, Church, Club

CECA proposed delivery lockers to be fixed to the Jubilee Hall as a community hub for deliveries and to increase income for CECA.

Resolved- The Parish Council consents to CECA's proposed alteration to the Jubilee Hall, namely the installation of delivery lockers to be fixed to the brickwork between the existing doors on the gable end facing Eaton-upon-Tern.

029/2026 Highways and footpaths

- a. **St Michaels/Crow Lane 7.5 tonne weight restriction – on-going management, reporting, enforcement and further options.**

No further update on local signage in the parish.

Action (On-going): Cllr. Bentley to chase local signage for the parish.

- b. **Eaton Road (village part) safety improvements.**

Planning Variation 25/03820/VAR has been granted which will increase traffic to the Solar Farm site through the parish during construction.

Action: Chair to invite SC to visit site and to request again suggestions for safety improvements along Eaton Road.

- c. **A41 working group – updates on new cross county group.**

Cllr. Bentley confirmed that average speed cameras are to be installed on the A41 but no update on locations and timescales.

PC very concerned regarding the Mill Green crossroads which continues to be hazardous. The hedge continues to be overgrown and impede vision despite being reported. Cllr. Bentley confirmed that quotations are being obtained for safety work at the Mill Green junction (Amey Report).

- d. **Footpaths and public rights of way – to consider any queries which may impact on the parish.**

Concern raised regarding state of footpaths during icy weather at the January meeting. Cllr. Bentley is investigating whether a grit bin can be installed in the village. No update at present.

Footpath around the bus stop has been repaired.

No footpath between Jubilee Hall and Steppes Way. Chair to raise issue again with SC Highways, Harry Guest, see above.

Issue with prescribed ROW adjacent to 25/03608/FUL was discussed. Residents have applied for footpath to be designated as a Public Right of Way. No update from SC.

Cllr. Letts continues to raise issues with local landowners regarding parish footpaths.

- e. **Streetlights - Lamp replacements. Dark skies initiative.**

Quote received for removing ivy from streetlight on St Michaels.

Possible crack in concrete column on St Michaels Way noted when Chair asked EON to replace the bulb, which was faulty. Chair discussing with EON regarding action to be taken. The column may need replacing and will be considered alongside the PC Asset Register Review in May/June and with 27/28 budgeting.

SC will take running of the lamps on the Fold now that the street has been adopted.

030/2026

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

a. To receive an update from the grounds sub-committee.

Signs on the dog litter bins are broken.

Action: Chair to inform SC Dog Warden.

Damaged branches on Jubilee Hall field following recent storm have been removed.

Tree survey discussed and will be considered at March meeting.

Bollard on playing field has been replaced.

Football pitches are wet but coping and are playable. Grass cover is a little low.

PC considering application for Grant Funding re the pitches. Further investigation required with Team Managers.

Action: Chair to arrange informal meeting with football manager.

b. Playground – to receive the monthly inspection report.

Inspection report received with no issues.

Following the advisory note in the ROSPA Safety Inspection, remedial paintwork is required to the adult gym equipment.

Action (continued): Chair to complete work.

031/2026 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan

a. On-going maintenance and repairs to assets.

Benches on playing field require attention.

Action: (continued) Chair to investigate.

Sandstone blocks dislodged from wall at Village Green.

Action (continued): Investigation required.

Grass seed required on the area around the bus stop following the repairs to the footpath.

Action: (continued) Chair to put seed down in the Spring.

Bus stop roof requires attention.

Action: (continued) Cllr. Sale to investigate and produce a quote in the Spring.

b. Commitment to the football pitches and Clubs.

CECA continue to take and manage bookings. Hire costs will be reviewed after the end of the season.

032/2026 Advertising and social media/website

Feedback from website continues to be very good, traffic has returned to normal levels following the Christmas period with 300 visits and 750 page views.

Cllr. Griffin continues with the production of newsletters which are going well. Councillors asked to forward any content to Cllr. Griffin.

033/2026 Grants and Donations

No new applications received.

034/2026 Planning Applications

a. New Planning applications.

None

b. Existing Applications

Appeal on Planning Application

Reference: 24/03791/VAR

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

Description of development: Variation of condition 7 (highways improvements) of planning application 23/02475/FUL Application reference: 24/03791/VAR

Appellant's name: Mr Glen James

Action: Objection made by planning sub-committee and submitted.

Reference: 23/03138/FUL

Proposal: Mixed residential development of a brownfield site for 35 dwellings and associated development.

Address: Former Motor Salvage Yard The Firs Childs Ercall Shropshire TF9 2DL

Chair and Cllr. Bentley continue to monitor, no further update. Last update was October 2025.

Reference: 25/03608/FUL (validated: 08/10/2025)

Address: Land Adjacent Wood Farm, Caynton, Newport, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of a free-range egg production unit and associated infrastructure

Applicant: Mr Andrew Hollins (Holly Cottage, Ightfield, Whitchurch, SY13 4BW, Shropshire)

Consultation period ends 27/02/2026.

Reference: 25/03922/FUL (validated: 28/10/2025)

Address: Land At Hatton Road, Hinstock, Shropshire

Proposal: Change of use of land to a mixed use comprising of 1No. pitch family gypsy and traveller site, 1No. day room and the keeping of horses (Retrospective)

Applicant: Mr A Quinn

Highways objection has been noted on SC Planning Portal.

i. Withdrawn - None

ii. Refused - None

iii. Granted

Reference: 25/04644/FUL

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension

Address: Orchard Cottage Hatton Road Hinstock Shropshire TF9 2TS

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Pennill

Status: Granted

c. Any other planning matters.

- a. Land to the Rear of the Birches – Enforcement
No further update. Planning Sub-Committee continue to monitor.
- b. Solar Farm – 25/03820/VAR Construction Traffic Routing Scheme
Granted. Planning Sub-Committee continue to monitor.
- c. Land adjoining Eaton Road (old Peplow Airfield) – Enforcement
No further update. Chair continues to monitor.
- d. Land at Ercall Heath – Enforcement
No update. Item to be removed from Agenda

035/2026 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

None

036/2026 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.