

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

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

Also in attendance:
Barbara Pearce (Clerk)
4 Members of the Public

001/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr. M Hatfield
Cllr. J Harrison

002/2026 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year. The focus of the January meeting is to consider the parish budget and set the 2026/27 Precept. The Chair gave a parish financial overview. Chair reminded all that the monthly CEPC meetings are private meetings of the councillors' which are held in public. The public are very welcome to attend and engage; however, Standing Orders must be adhered to when public members wish to speak. Chair is working to clarify parish planning issues, but he is finding communication with SC increasingly difficult and frustrating. He will escalate this issue with Mark Pritchard MP.

003/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

Parishioners in attendance with concerns regarding current planning applications.

004/2026 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:

None

005/2026 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th December 2025 as being correct.

006/2026 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Written report provided by Cllr. Bentley attached.



Unitary Cllr
Report_Jan26.pdf

Updates from Cllr. Bentley directly concerning CEPC:
25/03922/FUL – Been in contact with Case Officer and re-iterated PC's objections.
The Fold – Contacted Portfolio Holder – no response.
25/03608/FUL – Cllr. Bentley understands that this may go to Committee.

23/03138/FUL – No further update.

Signs and Speed Testing – PCC John Campion confirmed to Cllr. Bentley that funding is still available and Cllr. Bentley will chase.

Concerning “Shropshire Together” SC have been asked for a list of services they are legally obliged to provide. Once this is obtained a minimum service provision can be forwarded to PCs. Chair and Cllr. Hatfield are working on producing a list of provisions that SC provide to CEPC.

Cllr. Bentley gave an overview of Shropshire Council’s financial position, with the council seeking emergency funding from central government.

007/2026 Safety in the Parish

Chair to attend a meeting with PCC and Mark Pritchard MP scheduled for 23rd January to discuss rural crime.

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

Road safety has been compromised during the recent storm. Roads have not been gritted. Issues are notified to “Fix My Street” with no action taken.

Action: Cllr. Bentley to enquire if a grit bin can be acquired for the parish.

008/2026 Parish Matters

a. Correspondence – update on important PC matters received via NALC/SALC Bulletins etc.
None.

b. Shropshire Council – review of Memorandum of Understanding

Chair and Cllr. Hatfield are working on services provided by SC. Cllr. Hatfield attended a “Shropshire Together” meeting at Stoke-on-Tern.

PC have declined to sign the MOU until further details are available, no communication received from SC regarding details moving forward.

c. Best Kept Village 2025

Chair has shared BKVC feedback with parish committee. There is a meeting organised by BKVC organisers regarding 2025 outcomes and to gain initial interest for the 2026 competition which Cllr. Barnes will attend.

009/2026 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 - £103.64 (November) DD 23/12/2025
- ii. Administration January 2026 - £318.83
- iii. Lloyds Bank - £6.75 Bank Charges 10/10/25-909/11/25

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

b. 2026/2027 Budget

RESOLVED: Precept agreed at 5% increase to £16,178.00.

Action: Budget to be published on Community Website.

010/2026 To receive updates from parish community organisations – CECA, Church, Club

Chair attended CECA meeting on 12th January 2026. Changes are due in the CECA Constitution with a new Treasurer to be inaugurated. Income from Hall bookings etc are declining, therefore, CECA are relying more on their reserves to cover running costs. Chair emphasised CEPC Small Grants availability to CECA. Chair to attend CECA AGM.

Cllr. Sale gave a financial overview of the Church funding position.

No update from CE Club.

011/2026 Highways and footpaths

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

Large signs have been erected at Sambrook crossroads. 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.

Chair has proposed two further locations to SC for speed assessment on existing highway furniture (posts) opposite the old post office on the Newport Road, and on the junction of Narrow Lane and St Michaels Way.

No further update.

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

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

SCC and T & W are still reviewing options for average speed cameras on the A41.

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.

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

Concern regarding state of footpaths during icy weather.

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.

e. Streetlights - Lamp replacements. Dark skies initiative.

Quotes being obtained for removal of ivy from a light post on St Michaels Way.

012/2026

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

Quotes being obtained for removal of broken branches on Jubilee Hall field following recent storm.

Football pitches are wet but coping well and are playable.

b. Playground – to receive the monthly inspection report.

Inspection report received with no issues. Usage of playground has been lower during the winter months; however the bins will need emptying shortly.

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

Action (continued): Chair to complete work.

013/2026 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan

a. On-going maintenance and repairs to assets.

Residents have dealt with branches on Howle Road which were taken down by a high sided vehicle.

Damage to the wall adjacent to the concrete path at St Michaels Way, has been repaired by the landowner.

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.

State of litter in the parish discussed.

Action: Litter pick to be organised for early 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.

014/2026 Advertising and social media/website

Feedback from website continues to be very good, a little less traffic over the festive period.

Cllr. Griffin continues with the production of newsletters which are going well. Councillors asked to forward relevant content for the February issue to Cllr. Griffin.

Community Clothes Bank has been a great success.

Action: Cllr. Griffin to organise replacing with larger bank.

015/2026 Grants and Donations

No new applications received.

016/2026 Planning Applications

a. New Planning applications.

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

Action: Planning Sub-committee to make decision on response.

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 to be made as this is an appeal against enforcement.

b. Existing Applications

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.

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)

Update received from Chair and Steering Group. Consultation date extended to 27th January 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

Update: Application at Recommendation Stage. No further update.

i. Withdrawn - None

ii. Refused - None

iii. Granted

25/03820/VAR Variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans, Drawings and Documents), Condition 5 (Soft Landscape Scheme), Condition 8 (Construction Traffic Routing Scheme), Condition 9 (Tree Protection Measures) and Condition 15 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) attached to planning permission reference number 22/01866/FUL for the construction of solar farm with all associated infrastructure

c. Any other planning matters.

a. Land to the Rear of the Birches – Enforcement
No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

b. Land adjoining Eaton Road (old Peplow Airfield) – Enforcement
No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

c. Land at Ercall Heath – Enforcement
No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

017/2026 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

SALC has been allocated 4 tickets to Buckingham Palace Garden Party on 12th May 2026.

RESOLVED: PC to nominate Christine Murphy

Cllr. Griffin asked for views on whether a “Vulnerable Residents Register” should be set up in the parish.

Action: Councillors to consider and discuss at February meeting.

018/2026 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 February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.