

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. J Maddocks
Cllr. G Barnes
Cllr. P Clifton
Cllr. M Hatfield
Cllr. R Griffin
Cllr. J Letts
Cllr. B Sale
Cllr. N Bentley

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

080/2025 Apologies for absence

None

081/2025 Election 2025

a. Election of the Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Resolved: Cllr. J Maddocks elected Chair of CEPC.

b. Election of the Vice Chairman & Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Vice Chair position not filled, decision deferred until next meeting.

All councillors signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office Forms for the new term.

082/2025 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. CEPC now have 7 councillors who were accepted for the new term in the recent election, leaving one vacant seat on the Parish Council. New Councillor vacancy details have been posted on the Community Website and Parish Noticeboard. Anyone wishing to apply for the vacant position should contact either the Chair or Clerk.

083/2025 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.

084/2025 Public Question Time and Participation

None

085/2025 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th April 2025 as being correct. Minutes were approved by Cllr. Clifton and Cllr. Maddocks, as the only two Cllrs present at the April meeting that are still on the Parish Council.

086/2025 Councillor Vacancy – To Consider applicants for vacant councillor position.

No applications received. Item to stay on Agenda, application deadline date to be extended on Parish notices.

087/2025 To agree Councillor Responsibilities

RESOLVED: As follows

- i. Planning Subgroup – Cllr. J Maddocks, Cllr. J Letts, Cllr. M Hatfield
- ii. Grounds Maintenance Subgroup – Cllr. M Hatfield, Cllr. Barnes
- iii. Playground Maintenance, producing monthly inspection reports – Cllr. Barnes
- iv. Website Management – Cllr. Barnes
- v. Newsletter Production – Cllr. R Griffin, with responsibility taken by all councillors to submit content to Cllr. Griffin
- vi. SALC Representative – Cllr. J Maddocks

088/2025 Safety in the Parish

No new issues.

089/2025 Highways and footpaths

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

Meeting with Chair, Councillors, PCC Jon Campion, Rod Lake from West Mercia Road Safety Team, Harry Guest from Shropshire Highways, Cllr. Gittins and residents took place on 20th February 2025.

PCC Jon Campion confirmed funding is available for “No Access to Ollerton Business Park” signage which Shropshire Highways would need to erect. 5 locations have been provided; Stanford crossroads, Four Crosses crossroad, potentially outside the club, at the Village Green and entrance to St Michaels Way. Shropshire Council to approve locations and provide cost.

No further update on the above, Chair will continue to follow-up.

Inspection due by SC Highways on 6th June regarding installation of passing places on Crow Lane.

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

5 potential locations provided to Shropshire Council for installation of a VAS/SID. SC require evidence of speeding which will involve laying tapes across the road and there is a cost involved with this. Waiting for further communication from SC regarding costs.

No further update on the above, Chair will continue to follow-up.

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

No further update from Cllr. Bentley. One of the options being considered is average speed cameras on the section of the A41 from Tong to Tern Hill. Assessments and feasibility studies are ongoing.

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

Footpath around the bus shelter is deteriorating. Looking at work to be carried out before winter. One quote obtained at £1300. Cllr. Hatfield to obtain further quotes.

Cllr. Letts continues to monitor footpath access and contact landowners where footpaths are missing but with little response.

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

No issues.

090/2025 Parish Matters

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

None

- b. **FTTP / Gigabit roll out in the Parish**

Freedom Fibre have erected approximately 15 statutory notices to erect poles around the parish. Mostly on the highways but some outside properties.

Action (continued): Chair to contact Freedom Fibre to request those planned for outside properties to be relocated wherever possible.

- c. **Best Kept Village 2025**

Date for Village Tidy Up prior to judging TBC, provisionally 7th June.

091/2025

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

Footpath around bus stop in need of repair – discussed above.

Grass cutting continues to be carried out to a high standard.

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

Inspection reports carried out bi-weekly by Cllr. Barnes, no issues.

Safety Inspection booked for June, CEPC representative to attend, date TBC.

092/2025 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan

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

Path around Bus Shelter discussed above.

Sandstone blocks dislodged from wall at Village Green. Roof on bus shelter requires repair/re-felt. **Action: Cllr. Sale to investigate both issues.**

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

Chair, Cllr. Hatfield and Cllr. Barnes to meet with the clubs regarding 2025/26 season. Cost of hiring pitches for next season to be confirmed.

093/2025 Advertising and social media/website

250 visits on the Website in April, average 3 pages per visit. Popular pages are Minutes, Jubilee Hall, Events, Parish Council, Community Association and Agendas.

Chair thanked Cllr. Griffin for taking over production of newsletters.

094/2025 Planning Applications.

- a. New Planning applications.

None

- b. Existing Applications

Reference: 23/03138/FUL

Proposal: Mixed residential development of a brownfield site for 28 dwellings and associated development|

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

Status: Pending Consideration **No further update.**

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

No further update.

i. Withdrawn

None.

ii. Refused

None

iii. Granted

Reference: 25/00930/FUL (validated: 04/04/2025)

Address: Ercall Lodge, The Arboretum, Crow Lane, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2DB

Proposal: Proposed garage extension

Applicant: Mr Gary Parsons

Status: Granted

Reference: 25/01344/FUL (validated: 02/04/2025)

Address: 5 Village Barns, Village Road, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2DA

Proposal: Replacement of timber with stonework to front walls of existing link from barn to garage,

Applicant: Mr Ant Brown

Status: Granted

Reference: 25/00498/FUL (validated: 05/03/2025)

Address: HMS Godwit, Ollerton Lane, Ollerton, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2BS

Proposal: Proposed conversion to form a single dwelling, and associated works

Applicant: Mr R Appleton

Status: Granted

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. Benbows

No planning application currently received.

095/2025 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Cllr. Bentley introduced himself as the new Shropshire Unitary Councillor for Cheswardine Division.

Moving forward Cllr. Bentley will produce a written monthly report for the Parish and circulate via the Clerk, which will allow councillors information prior to the monthly meetings.

Cllr. Bentley's report for May:

Liberal Democrats now have overall control of the council with 42 councillors. Leader Elect is Cllr.

Heather Kidd and Deputy Leader is Cllr. Alex Wagner and both have Cllr. Bentley's full support. The party

wish to make Shropshire council more open; all decisions should be made public. All scrutiny panels are now politically balanced to ensure openness. Physically, the Guildhall is now much more accessible to the public, with open space to meet councillors. The ethos of the council is “Residents First” and the council will always work towards this.

Financially, the council is in a poor position. The budget for 25/26 financial year was set in the spring, and there is concern that it will run into deficit similar to recent years (over £30 million in FY24/25). Council will be looking closely at all contracts and subcontracts with a view to making considerable savings. Adult Social Care still takes the majority of budget and with Shropshire’s ageing population this will only ever increase.

Cllr. Bentley was asked what was to happen with Shirehall; it is currently shutdown and not used. SC have not yet decided on the future of the building/land.

096/2025 Financial Matters

Members are asked to:

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

- i. SSE Energy Solutions – £194.68 (March) DD 25/04/2025
- ii. Administration May - £308.88
- iii. CECA - £144.00 Monthly Hall rental for PC Meetings April 25 – March 26
- iv. SALC - £450.38 SALC Affiliation Fees
- v. BKVC Expenses - £43.99
- vi. K&S Landscapes – Grass Cutting 07/05/2025 - £310.20

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

b. Reconciliation

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

| | <u>Balance as at</u> <u>01/04/2025</u> | <u>Outgoings</u> | <u>Income</u> | <u>Closing</u> <u>Balance</u> <u>08/05/2025</u> |
|-------------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Treasurers A/C | £6,210.33 | £3,445.76 | £20,408.00 | £23,172.57 |
| Business A/C | £7,204.81 | £5,000.00 | £5.65 | £2,210.46 |
| 95 Day Notice Account | £15,637.81 | £0.00 | £37.87 | £15,675.68 |
| Total PC available cash | £29,052.95 | £8,445.76 | £20,451.52 | £41,058.71 |

ESTIMATED CASH MOVEMENTS

2025/26

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2025/26 commitments | Remaining Annual running cost | £14,257.06 |
| | Contingency | £15,000.00 |
| | Un presented cheques | £594.38 |
| | Grants | £0.00 |
| | Cil | £11,209.86 |
| Future Income | VAT owed | £362.53 |

Uncommitted cash position £359.94

097/2025 Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR

- i. Annual Governance Statement
- ii. Accounting Statement and
- iii. Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year ending 31st March 2025.
- iv. Agreement on dates for “The Exercise of Public Rights”.

Many thanks to Len Sambrook for carrying out the Internal Audit for the AGAR and assisting the Clerk. Above forms were distributed prior to the meeting, and discussed with no questions.

RESOLVED: AGAR Forms approved for submission to auditor.

098/2025 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

None

099/2025 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 18th June 2025 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.