

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 16th September 2026 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. J Maddocks
Cllr. M Hatfield
Cllr. J Letts
Cllr. J Haslegrave
Cllr. Clifton

Mrs B Pearce (Clerk)
Cllr. N Bentley (Unitary Councillor)

Also in attendance:
3 Members of the Public

133/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr. B Sale
Cllr. R Griffin
Absent: Cllr. J Harrison

134/2026 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair and Cllr. Clifton reported that The Horse and Dog Show church fundraising event which took place on 12th September was a success, there had been a little inclement weather, but this did not affect proceedings. Chair thanked all those involved in making the event so successful. Please note the next CEPC meeting is scheduled for 14th October 2026 (not 21st).

135/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

Member of the Public raised the issue of a large structure that has been erected at Mildene Farm. Chair confirmed that the structure was approved in 2025 under Agricultural Planning Notification reference

Action: Chair to check the allowed height of the structure via planning portal.

Chair gave an overview of current live planning applications in the parish following a request from a member of the public.

136/2026 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

137/2026 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 19th August 2026 as being correct.

138/2026 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Written report for September provided by Cllr. Bentley (Unitary Councillor) attached and can also be found on Childs Ercall Community Website.

Cllr. Bentley reported that in the 2026/27 financial year SC were granted £121m as exceptional financial government support and are currently on target to draw down £90m of this fund. SC have been given a “Best Value Notice” which scrutinises the management of this fund by government.

SC are working on procurement, current contracts etc to ensure best outcomes for residents.

Relating specifically to Childs Ercall, Cllr Bentley reported that he was pleased to see that some highway maintenance works, including pothole repairs, had now commenced.

139/2026 Safety in the Parish

Concern raised regarding potholes which have not been repaired or poorly repaired which will become hazardous as the weather deteriorates over winter. PC will continue to monitor the state of parish roads.

140/2026 Parish Matters

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

Shropshire Spatial Local Plan Consultation regarding Strategic Environmental Assessment is now open until mid to late October.

Action: Chair to share link via Facebook Page

Consultation period for Shropshire Local Transport Plan (2027-2037) is due to open shortly.

b. Shropshire Council – Update on “Shropshire Together” Proposals

No update.

141/2026 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 - £45.32 (July) DD 21/08/2026
- ii. Administration September 2026 - £382.82
- iii. Office Expenses – Microsoft Annual Subscription £59.99
Bitdefender Annual Subscription £26.99
Printer Ink £7.80
Printer Paper £8.00
Total = £102.78
- iv. K&S Landscapes Kerb Clearance - £310.20 Grass Cut on 10/09/2026
- v. Hugo Fox – Monthly DD for e-mail addresses £20.99
- vi. Lloyds Bank – £6.75 Bank Charges
- vii. PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit £252.00
- viii. Payment to CECA re Grant £4000.00
- ix. Grass Seed re smaller football pitch £45.45

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

b. Any other financial matters

CEPC Clerk's yearly appraisal has been carried out with Chair as required with no concerns. Clerk salary increase for 2026/2027 is 3.3%. Clerk carries out salary payment using the recommended HMRC PAYE Basic software package.

RESOLVED: PC authorises the Clerk to continue to calculate PAYE, submit to HMRC and arrange payroll payments. Chair to carry out PAYE checks every six months and confirmation recorded in PC minutes.

142/2026 Highways and footpaths

a. Parish Roads Update – potholes, gullies, road sweep and speed assessments.

Some repairs to potholes on the Newport Road have been carried out. Potholes on Eaton Road remain a concern but have been included in a longer-term resurfacing programme. Dodecote Drive remains on a resurfacing programme but no update on when this will happen. Chair encourages residents to report any pothole issues via Fix-My-Street.

Chair continues to report blocked gullies.

Road sweeping has not been carried out by SC this year, issue was reported by Chair in March 2025 with no action from SC. PC discussed arranging an independent road sweep. Chair has obtained quote at approx. £400. PC to consider at October meeting.

The Chair reported correspondence from the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner advising that the Road Safety Team had obtained speed data on Village Road during the week commencing 10 August 2026. The reported results indicated a mean speed of 19mph and an 85th percentile speed of 27mph, based on 2,070 recorded vehicles. Members discussed the findings and queried whether the speed monitoring had been undertaken as reported.

Action: Chair and Cllr Bentley to contact DPCC Tracey Onslow to seek clarification regarding the monitoring undertaken and the reported results.

b. St Michaels/Crow Lane 7.5 tonne weight restriction.

Enforcement of weight restrictions still not being carried out despite evidence being sent to DVSA, SC and police.

Chair and Cllr. Bentley continue to monitor. No further update.

c. Eaton Road (village part) safety improvements.

Safety on Eaton Road including speeding, the lack of a continuous footpath, narrow road widths, poor visibility, drainage issues and regular HGV movements has been a long-standing concern of the Parish Council, and these matters have formed a significant element of its objection to the Eaton Road planning application.

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

Work continues between T&W and Shropshire Councils. Cllr. Bentley continues to monitor. No update.

e. Footpaths– to consider any queries which may impact on the parish.

Continued issue of footpaths blocked by crops.

Action: Cllr. Letts to report issues on Fix My Street.

143/2026

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

Village Green has a considerable amount of weed but has recovered well following the very dry conditions.

b. Playground

To receive the monthly inspection report. Annual Inspection report to be considered

No issues on last playground inspection.

Following a report of overloading on the zipwire, Chair has contacted the playground contractor who will come to site to ascertain if any damage has been done and if repair is required.

Post to field has rotted. Chair has contacted contractor to organise replacement.

c. Football Pitches – goalposts and pitch improvements

Pitches are in quite good condition despite two consecutive very dry years. Seed patch repairs have been carried out.

Goalposts for the 7x7 pitch have been put back up.

d. Ercall Gardeners

Chair thanked all involved for a marvellous job in making the village look very appealing over the dry summer.

e. Benches – repairs /replacement

Benches on playing field require attention.

Action: Chair and Cllr. Sale to investigate.

144/2026 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan

a. Jubilee Hall

The Chair met with Helen Bourton from Newport Girls Football Team to discuss potential grant opportunities for the refurbishment of the women's toilet and changing room facilities in the Jubilee Hall.

Action (on-going): Sub-committee to be formed comprising parish councillor(s), CECA representative(s) and Helen to investigate project and possible grant funding.

Heaters in the Jubilee Hall have been off since Spring, however, they should be replaced shortly by CECA. Guttering to the hall has been replaced.

Action: Cllr. Bentley to confirm that Jubilee Hall / Playground is showing on Market Drayton Place Plan for Childs Ercall.

145/2026 Advertising and social media/website

To consider existing online and leaflet advertising, the community website and social media.

Next newsletter will be out in October; any items for inclusion please forward to Cllr. Griffin.

Action: Cllr. Hatfield to arrange handover of Community Website from G Barnes.

146/2026 Grants and Donations

To consider any new applications.

No new applications received.

Sponsorship of the Horse and Dog Show was well received.

£4000 Grant to CECA regarding heating system is now complete; PC waiting for confirmation of when the heaters have been installed.

147/2026 Planning Applications

a. New Planning applications.

None

b. Existing Applications

Reference: 26/02963/AG1/2 (validated: 05/08/2026)

Address: Land To The West Of Forge Farm, Howle, Newport, Shropshire

Proposal: Agricultural storage building for the storage of compost

Applicant: Wildflower Turf Ltd (Forge Farm, Howle, Newport, TF10 8AZ)

Agricultural Application – no response required from PC.

Reference: 26/02761/TDC (validated: 28/07/2026)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land At, Bembows Close, Childs Ercall, Shropshire

Proposal: Proposed technical matters application for the construction of 3No. dwellings (25/03953/PIP)

Applicant: Mr And Mrs S Lea (The Bembows, Village Road, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2DA)

No update

Reference: 26/01212/FUL (validated: 09/04/2026)

Address: Land West Of Eaton Road, Childs Ercall, Shropshire

Proposal: Proposed Mixed Residential Development of 27 dwellings (including 8 Affordable Housing properties), Village Shop, Public Open Space and Public Footpath/Cycleway linkage

Applicant: Mr & Mrs R. Topham (Moat Farm, Wood Lane, Wollerton, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3NY)

Application at Recommendation / Committee Stage

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)

Application at Recommendation / Committee Stage

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

Consultation Date extended to 23rd September 2026.

i. Withdrawn - None

ii. Refused - None

iii. Granted

Reference: 26/00096/FUL (validated 23/01/2026)

Address: Wood farm Cottage, Caynton, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NF

Proposal: Changr of use of land from former arable field to domestic garden, replacement of access and driveway to dwelling and diversion of public footpath.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 26/02619/VAR (validated: 13/07/2026)
Address: Land At, Hatton Road, Hinstock, Shropshire
Proposal: Variation of condition 1 and removal of condition 2 attached to planning permission 25/03922/FUL
Applicant: Mr A Quinn (Land To The North Of, Halton Road, Hinstock, TF9 2TX)
Decision: Grant Permission

c. Any other planning matters.

a. Shropshire Local Plan Spatial Consultation/The New National Planning Policy Framework
PC and residents have submitted comments next stage of the process believed to be in Spring 2027.

b. Land to the Rear of the Birches

With SC Enforcement Officer

c. Land South of the Eaton Road (caravans, access, hardstanding)

On SC Enforcement Portal

d. Land South of the Eaton Road (vehicle storage/commercial business)

On SC Enforcement Portal

e. Eaton upon Tern Solar Farm

On-going on agenda as safety concern re traffic through the village.

f. Land on the Northwest Side of The Rowans, Bolas Road, Ercall Heath

Concern from residents regarding unlawful development.

g. Ollerton Business Park

With Shropshire Council Enforcement Department.

h. Proposed Local Connection Dwelling – Hatton

Chair to complete agent information request.

148/2026 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

Cllr. Clifton shared from CECA that there is a proposed “Party in the Park” for summer 2027.

149/2026 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the next CEPC Meeting is scheduled for 14th (not 21st) October 2026 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.