

## **CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

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

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

### **138/2024 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. J Griffin

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

### **139/2024 Chairman's Welcome**

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair thanked all the volunteers and organisers for their hard work through CECA, The Club and Church for the continued success of events around the parish. Recently including the Dua Lipa event in the Hall, The Horse and Dog Show, Coffee Mornings and Quiz/Bingo evenings and Sunday School.

Upcoming events include Bollywood, Octoberfest and Christmas events.

Funds from these events go towards the upkeep of the community buildings so many thanks to all involved.

### **140/2024 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.

### **141/2024 Public Question Time and Participation**

Members of the public proposed that a wildlife pond be created on the Village Green.

**Action: Chair and members of the public to investigate further, including viability and funding options, with a view to discussing as an agenda item at a future meeting if viable.**

Continued concern regarding vehicles ignoring the 7.5 tonne weight restriction along Crow Lane.

Discussion on support from police regarding enforcement.

Discussion on the appropriate nature of the Ollerton Business Park at a site with no highway access for commercial vehicles.

**Action: Cllr. Gittins to contact SCC with concerns.**

### **142/2024 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2024 as being correct.**

**143/2024 Matters arising/action taken from the Minutes not otherwise included in the agenda.**  
None.

**144/2024 Safety in the Parish**

Following discussion at last month's meeting regarding speeding in the parish and footpath parking Chair has contacted the Safer Neighbourhood Team, PCSO Tara Carruthers with no response. Issue has been covered in the last newsletter. Chair to continue to monitor.

**Action: Chair to raise as a priority under the Local Policing Charter with PCSO Carruthers.**

**145/2024 Highways and footpaths**

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

Discussion regarding compiling evidence of vehicles which disregard the weight restriction including installation of further signage and/or CCTV.

**RESOLVED: Chair to source a camera and 5 x suitable signs to be added to existing weight restriction signage to a maximum of £500.**

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

VAS/SID (speed indicator devices) on the Eaton Road.

**Action: Chair to investigate cost of installation.**

**Action: Cllr. Barnes to investigate efficacy of SIDs.**

**Action: Cllr. Gittins to contact SC regarding the installation of a SID, funded by the PC, without the need to complete a traffic survey at a cost of £800.**

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

Update from Cllr. Gittins:

Chief Executive of West Mercia Police has confirmed that funding for the average speed cameras on the A41 remains available and they are committed to installation. Currently waiting on the partnership (Shropshire and T&W) to complete a viability study and to complete the necessary maps etc. Cllr. Gittins continues to monitor.

- d. Footpaths – to consider any queries which may impact on the parish.**

No issue.

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

Dark Skies. Current streetlights cannot be dimmed so part night lighting, involving turning off all streetlights at midnight, was discussed. This would need to be co-ordinated with SC. Chair to investigate with a view to consulting community.

**Action: Cllr. Gittins to provide contact details of appropriate officer, Jason Hughes, for Chair to contact.**

**146/2024 Parish Matters**

- a. Land Transfer of land around the bus stop– update on land registration.**

Land has been removed from original owner on Land Registry – registration to PC still pending. Chair to continue to monitor with the item staying on the agenda until completion.

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

No further update.

**Action: Chair to chase.**

**c. Trees – Tree Preservation, planting, and maintenance.**

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trees doing well, memorial plaque for Marcus Mackay will be positioned here.

30 free whips from the Woodland Trust as part of their large organisation carbon offsetting initiative, will arrive in November. Placing TBC, posts and guards will be required. Chair to obtain quote.

**Action: Chair to look at trees on Village Green as two are not doing well.**

**d. Best Kept Village Competition (BKVC).**

Judging was due in August but no communication received from organisers. Chair thanked all the volunteers for their work on the village tidy ups. Volunteer Village Tidy Group considered as an on-going community initiative without entering competition again.

**e. Dog Fouling in the Parish**

New dog waste bin ordered and is in budget, should be in position by next meeting.

**f. Blocked Footpaths**

Cllr. Letts has been in contact with landowner regarding a bridle path gate which was reported as broken, and this has now been replaced in conjunction with SC.

Cllr. Letts continues to work with walkers, landowners and SC regarding blocked footpaths.

**147/2024**

**Grounds Maintenance/Playground**

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

As no response received from original contractor regarding date for commencement of work on the path running from the Village Hall to the gate on Eaton Road, Cllr. Hatfield has obtained a revised quote from second choice contractor at £2750 + VAT, an increase of 10% on their original quote.

**Action: Cllr. Hatfield and Cllr. Sale to contact/meet contractor to clarify how the work will rectify the tree root issue.**

Grass cutting by K&S Landscapes is on schedule and of good standard. Contract expires October 2024. Re-quote obtained by Cllr. Barnes.

**RESOLVED: K&S Landscapes awarded 3-year contract for parish grass cutting.**

PC will consider weedkilling on the football pitches and the Village Green in the spring.

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

Inspection report received, no issues reported. Inspections are carried out bi-weekly.

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

Order has been placed with Tim Simmons – lead time for work approximately 6-8 weeks.

**148/2024 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan**

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

Inside of Bus Stop requires repair. No further update.

**Action: Chair to obtain quote.**

An asset review is undertaken annually to record the PC's assets, age, location and cost at purchase which is submitted with the accounts. PC is proposing to extend this by undertaking a separate review to include a replacement value and risk, for budgeting purposes.

Cllr. Hatfield continues to work on the review regarding maintenance/risk.

Discussion on any PC liabilities for the Village Hall and Chair confirmed that the Hall liabilities are with CECA under their full repairing and insuring lease.

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

New goalposts for the 11 a-side pitch have been erected. Goalpost for 7x7 pitch not yet put up.

5 x teams using the pitches in the coming season.

Concern raised that the footprint of 7 x7 pitch runs close to neighbouring housing.

Chair to monitor.

**c. Nature Trail, tree planting, conservation, and environment.**

**Action: Chair to contact Shropshire Wildlife Trust for advice on wildflower planting, signage, use as forest school etc to promote nature trail.**

**d. Rural bus services - North Shropshire Wheelers – currently in Cheswardine, Hinstock and maybe Stoke-on Tern. Potential subsidy.**

No further update.

**e. Environment. Tree and hedge planting, LED lights, dark skies initiatives.**

Discussed this meeting: pond, planting and part night lighting strategy.

**f. Larger community project – Place Plan.**

Place Plan Officer Lucy Roberts.

**Action: Cllr. Gittins to contact Place Plan officer regarding removing playground from Place Plan.**

**149/2024 Advertising and social media/website**

Website continues to be well used with 300 individual users reported this month. Horse Show promoted with over 200 hits; the event page is proving to be the most popular page on the site.

Audit details, Crow Lane weight restriction details, and green bin details have all been added.

Website to provide FOC domain names with .org.uk extensions. Cllr. Barnes managing how this will be achieved.

Cllr. Griffin continues to produce excellent monthly newsletters.

**150/2024 Grants and Donations**

**To consider any new applications.**

No new applications.

Fully completed Grant Application Form received from Ben Harrison representing the local football teams.

**Resolved: £500 Grant awarded and Clerk to complete grant payment.**

### **151/2024 Planning Applications.**

a. New Planning applications.

Received since Agenda was forwarded:

24/03479/FUL – Hill View Hatton

**Action: Chair to contact Case Officer to request an extension for comment.**

b. Existing Applications

i. Withdrawn

None.

ii. Refused

None.

iii. Granted

None.

Any other planning matters.

i. Land Rear of the Birches.

No further update. Due process continues with SC.

ii. Eaton on Tern Solar Farm

Reserve matters obtained in April 2024. Chair to continue to monitor.

iii. Furbers application – 28 homes

Statutory consultees have made strong objections, but the application has not been refused.

Cllr. Gittins updated that SC are engaging with the developers with a view to providing a more robust application. Cllr. Gittins to continue to monitor.

### **152/2024 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor**

Local Plan – date for next stage of inspection due in 2025, therefore the plan will not be adopted before May 2025. New government proposed changes to the national planning policy framework will not affect the current draft of the local plan.

Financials – work continues to bring current budget into a balanced situation. In year financial pressures under control, however the savings of £62m are proving difficult to achieve.

Winter Fuel Payments – if any parishioners are experiencing difficulties due to the withdrawal of the allowance please contact Cllr. Gittins directly.

### **153/2024 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 1490090012932 DD – £37.94 (July 2024)  
SSE Energy Solutions 1490080001092 DD – £743.82 (January – July 2024)  
SSE Energy Solutions 1490070001095 DD - £330.99 (January – July 2024)
- ii. Administration September - £296.60
- iii. K&S Landscapes (cut 13/08) - £282.00
- iv. Church – Horse and Dog Show Sponsorship - £30

- v. PKF Littlejohn LLP AGAR - £252.00
- vi. Office Expenses Microsoft 365 - £59.99

**RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay these invoices.**

**b. Reconciliation**

	<u>Balance as at</u> <u>12/08/2024</u>	<u>Outgoings</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Closing Balance</u> <u>11/09/2024</u>
Treasurers A/C	£15,615.51	£2,525.35	£180.00	£13,270.17
Business A/C	£7,162.91	£0.00	£6.08	£7,168.99
Playground Account	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
95 Day Notice Account	£15,256.96	£0.00	£49.98	£15,306.94
Total PC available cash	<b>£38,035.38</b>	<b>£2,525.35</b>	<b>£236.06</b>	<b>£35,746.10</b>

**ESTIMATED CASH MOVEMENTS 2024/25**

2024/25 commitments	Remaining Annual running cost	£6,007.28
	2024/25 Grants and Donations	<b>£2,000.00</b>
	Contingency	<b>£15,000.00</b>
	Un presented cheques	<b>£0.00</b>
	CIL	<b>£11,910.66</b>
Future Income	VAT owed	£1,196.61
Uncommitted cash position		£2,024.77

The above reconciliation was discussed and there were no questions.

**c. To consider Bank Signatories**

**RESOLVED: Cllr. Sale to be added to the bank mandate following the resignation of Cllr. Longdon.**

**154/2024 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.**

None

**155/2024 Date of next meeting.**

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.