

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th April 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. J Harrison
Cllr. N Bentley (Unitary Councillor)

Also in attendance:
Mrs B Pearce (Clerk)
25 Members of the Public

052/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr. G Barnes

053/2026 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

As of May, there will be a vacancy for a Parish Councillor following the resignation of Cllr. Barnes. Any interested person should contact Cllr. Maddocks or Clerk in the first instance.

The APM for CEPC is scheduled for 20th May 2026 at 7pm followed immediately by the monthly meeting at 7.30pm.

054/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

Members of the Public in attendance regarding Agenda point 14a.

Discussion took place regarding Planning Application 26/01212/FUL.

Actions:

Community to meet to discuss and possibly form a Planning Steering Group.

Chair to contact Mark Pritchard regarding strength of feeling in the Parish.

Cllr. Bentley to support parishioners and will request that application is called into committee.

055/2026 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.

056/2026 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th March 2026 as being correct.

057 /2026 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Written report for April provided by Cllr. Bentley attached.



Unitary Cllr
Report4_Apr26.pdf

Matters arising in the report particular to CE Parish:

Signs and Speed Testing – Cllr. Bentley and Chair met with Tracey Onslow, Deputy PCC, on site on Tuesday 24th March to discuss safety issues around the parish. Cllr. Bentley has now provided the PCC's Grant Application for speed testing equipment, and this has been drafted by Chair. Two locations, Newport Road and Eaton Road have been identified for speed testing and once results are known this will lead to the next steps of addressing the speed issue which the PC can progress.

Cllr. Bentley and PC have received a resident's enquiry regarding inappropriate parking around the parish i.e on footpaths and Cllr. Bentley is investigating. Parking on the footpath is not illegal, and the issue has arisen due to older properties in the village being built without parking spaces.

058/2026 Safety in the Parish

Chair and Cllr. Bentley met Tracey Onslow on site and discussed various safety issues around the parish. A meeting was proposed with Harry Guest, Highways SCC, to discuss various road safety issues in the parish.

059/2026 Parish Matters

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

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

Shropshire Together is evolving through Shropshire Council with further information due shortly regarding next steps.

Chair is lobbying for the Environmental Grant to be increased with a view to sharing resources with neighbouring parishes once funds are obtained.

Cllr. Bentley confirms the EMG is still available.

c. Best Kept Village Competition

CEPC will not enter the Best Kept Village Competition 2026. If another parish organisation would like to enter the competition, they are more than welcome to do so.

The “Village Gardening Group” (approximately 8 parishioners) are moving forward with the gardening initiative and has begun planting for the 2026 season.

Cllr. Sale has installed replacement roofing to the bus shelter with fascia and guttering and installed a water butt within the budget allocated by the PC. Many thanks to Cllr. Sale.

060/2026 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 - £91.23 (February) DD 24/03/2026
- ii. Administration April 2026 - £318.83
- iii. K&S Landscapes Grass Cut - £310.20 – Grass Cut 12/03/2026
- iv. Hugo Fox – Monthly DD for e-mail addresses £20.99 (09/04/2026)
- v. Childs Ercall Church - £750.00 – 2026 PC contribution to churchyard maintenance

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

061/2026 To receive updates from parish community organisations – CECA, Church, Club, Bowls

CECA Treasurer informed that the gas heaters for the Jubilee Hall have been condemned following the recent gas inspection. CECA are investigating proposals to replace and upgrade. They will be seeking funding for the project via various sources and will also apply for a grant from the parish council. Work is required over the summer months to ensure the hall is useable in the coming winter.

CECA have painted the Hall roof and are to install insulation in the Hall's false ceiling.

Church weathervane which blew down has been retrieved and has gone to contractor for quote on refurbishment.

062/2026 Highways and footpaths

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

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

Action: Cllr. Bentley continues to investigate.

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.

Discussed with Tracy Onslow Deputy PCC on her visit to site and she expressed concerns.

Harry Guest from Shropshire Highways has agreed to visit parish to discuss safety improvements along Eaton Road, the meeting may be more useful once speed assessments have been completed.

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

No update.

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

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

Action: Cllr. Bentley to investigate if SC have a Public Footpaths Officer and if so forward details to Chair/Cllr. Letts.

e. Streetlights - Lamp replacements. Dark skies initiative.

Currently all in operation.

Invoice received from EON for replacement of bulb at St Michaels Way, Chair to confirm replacement as it appears to be a sodium bulb rather than LED as required. No update from EON.

Resident has reported light post which is leaning on footpath opposite Village Green.

Action: Chair to contact NGED.

063/2026

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

Grass cutting for the 2026 season has now started. Cutting for pitches has been out of sync but this should now settle.

Signs on the dog litter bins are broken.

Action (on-going): Chair to inform SC Dog Warden.

Tree survey considered; however, bird nesting season has now begun.

Action (on-going): Chair to contact Contractor.

b. Playground – to receive the monthly inspection report.

ROSPA playground inspection booked for June.

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

Action (on-going): Chair to complete work.

064/2026 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan

a. On-going maintenance and repairs to assets.

Benches on playing field require attention.

Action: (continued) Chair to investigate.

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.

b. Commitment to the football pitches and Clubs.

Chair is completing a Grant Application from Shropshire Football Association for work on the pitches. Assessment of the pitches has now been carried out. Chair continues to work on the funding application and is meeting with grass cutting contractor regarding work required to upgrade the pitches.

065/2026 Advertising and social media/website

No feedback from website.

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

066/2026 Grants and Donations

a. To consider any new applications.

No new applications received.

b. To review the Small Grants Policy to update if necessary and adopt.

Resolved: CEPC have reviewed the Small Grants Policy and adopt as at 15th April 2026.

067/2026 Planning Applications

a. New Planning applications.

Reference: 26/01084/OHL (validated: Fri 20 Mar 2026)

Address: Land At Crow Lane Childs Ercall Shropshire TF9 2DB

Proposal: Replace approx 400M of existing open wire overhead conductor with new bunched ABC I insulated conductor and replace existing 10 wood poles with new wooden poles.

Status: Pending Consideration

No action required by PC. Work subject to a road closure in May which has been communicated to the community.

Reference: 26/01023/FUL (validated: 17/03/2026)
Address: 1 Dodecote Drive, Childs Ercall, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2DN
Proposal: Two storey rear extension and detached garage/workshop
Applicant: Mr Lee Evans (1 Dodecote Drive, Childs Ercall, Shropshire, TF9 2DN)
Resolved: PC to make no comment.

Reference: 26/01008/CPE (validated: 16/03/2026)
Address: Caravan Adjacent Stables South Of, Eaton Road, Childs Ercall, Shropshire
Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the keeping of a caravan on site in connection with the equestrian use at Trinity Acres
Applicant: Tracey Buchanon (42 Shenley Lane, Birmingham, B29 5PN)
No action required by PC regarding application for one caravan.
Further development on this site is with enforcement – no update received from SC Planning.

Reference: 26/01076/FUL (validated: 25/03/2026)
Address: The Woodlands, Hatton Road, Hinstock, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 2TX
Proposal: Proposed 3 bay car garage
Applicant: Mr Darren Millington
Resolved: PC to make no comment.

Reference: 26/01212/FUL (validated: 09/04/2026)
Address: Land West Of Eaton Road, Childs Ercall, Shropshire
Proposal: Proposed Mixed Residential Development of 25 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)
Public discussion took place at minute point 54/2026.
Resolved: PC to object and will meet as Planning sub-committee to formulate response by 1st May deadline.

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
PC have objected to the applicant's appeal. No further update.

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. Original application submitted October 2023.
Cllr. Bentley has contacted new Planning Officer but no response.
Tree Preservation Order now implemented on site.

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 ended 27/02/2026. Assumption is that application will go to committee.
Steering Group continue to monitor and challenge where appropriate.

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

Case Officer Report expected but no update at this time.

i. Withdrawn - None

ii. Refused - None

iii. Granted - None

c. Any other planning matters.

a. Land to the Rear of the Birches – Enforcement

Planning Sub-Committee continue to monitor. Case on-going for 5 years with legal process continuing with Shropshire Council.

b. Solar Farm – 25/03820/VAR Construction Traffic Routing Scheme

Granted. Planning Sub-Committee continue to monitor. No further update.

c. Land adjoining Eaton Road (old Peplow Airfield) – Enforcement

No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

068/2026 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

Clerk is in the process of producing the AGAR for external audit. Many thanks to Len Sambrook for his work on the internal audit. Statements will be forwarded to councillors for consideration prior to May's meeting.

069/2026 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the CEPC APM is scheduled for May 20th 2026 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Hall, immediately following the APM.