

# CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

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

Also in attendance:  
Barbara Pearce (Clerk)  
2 members of the public

## **19/2024 Apologies for absence**

Cllr. R Crookes

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

## **20/2024 Chairman's Welcome**

Chair has spoken with the Club regarding timings of the Quiz Bingo as this has clashed with this month's PC meeting. PC may consider moving their meetings to avoid future clashes, if required. Item to be added to the Agenda for March.

## **21/2024 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.

## **22/2024 Public Question Time and Participation**

Presentation from Church regarding a Small Grant Application which they intend to submit to repair the listed wall within the church grounds. For review in March or April once fully completed application is submitted.

Confirmation received that the memorial tree agreed at Minute Point 188/2023 d. has been planted on the Green.

Confirmed that the memorial plaque for Cllr. J Luscombe has been positioned with the tree on the Green.

## **23/2024 Minutes**

**RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as being correct.**

## **24/2024 Matters arising/action taken from the Minutes not otherwise included in the agenda.**

None.

## **25/2024 Safety in the Parish**

PCSO Tara Carruthers is the new officer for Childs Ercall. She has been given the dates of upcoming PC meetings and indicated that she will join as regularly as possible.

Chair completed the Police Charter matrix, provided by PCSO Carruthers indicating the following areas as current priorities:

Road safety – speeding and poor driving

### **26/2024 Highways and footpaths**

#### **a. Update on Crow Lane Weight Limit**

Installation not complete with Cllr. Gittins to chase up with SCC and obtain timeline. Chair has contacted PCSO Carruthers for a generic contact for parishioners to log issues if drivers ignore.

#### **b. Other safety enhancements**

VAS/SID (speed indicator devices) on the Eaton Road. It has been confirmed that PC can use CIL money to install a VAS/SID. Cllr. Gittins is chasing Highways for an appointment to discuss feasibility and locations. Potential cost of £5,000 plus posts for solar devices.

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

No further update.

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

Cllr. Gittins has provided the details for SCC footpaths officer. Public Right of Way plan to be added to community website (if copyright approved). Cllr. Letts is working on producing a plan noting issues.

#### **e. Streetlights.**

Chair continues to chase EON to repair lamp outside No 4 St Michaels which is broken. First advised in November, bulb is now with EON so should be replaced shortly. Replacement of remaining bulbs paused noting other asset costs.

### **27/2024 Parish Matters**

#### **a. Land Transfer – update on land registration.**

Chair to continue to monitor with the item staying on the agenda until completion.

#### **b. Airband – FTTP roll out in the parish.**

Nothing further to report. Item to stay on the agenda as FTTP (Fibre to the Premises) or Gigabit Rollout.

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

Childs Ercall Hall – TPO management plan has been approved by the tree officer and the TPO is in place.

Cllr. Clifton checked on the platinum trees with a view to whether they will need replacing in the spring. One tree not doing well so it was agreed to plant a further oak tree. Cllr. Clifton will source and plant – cost agreed at £89.

### **28/2024**

#### **Grounds Maintenance/Playground**

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

Grounds maintenance looking at the costs for a new path (stepped out from the trees) from the gate to the Hall/playground. Cllr. Hatfield continues to obtain quotations with a view to putting a motion forward at the March meeting on whether to repair/replace both or note their condition and monitor. It is a legal PC requirement to maintain both (the boundaries and path).

Localised repair made to the hedge/post and rail fence along the Eaton Road, where there was a gap by Bernard Sale.

**RESOLVED: Make payment of £97.50 to Bernard Sale.**

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

Cllr. Barnes provided the maintenance report, only issue was grass getting long, this has now been cut.

**29/2024 Parish infrastructure projects – Community Plan**

**a. Community and Place Plan.**

Chair is working on an Asset Plan and costings for future work.

**b. Improvements to the village green/bus stop – picnic benches and bike rack.**

Chair has contacted Bernard Sale for cost of fixing the bike rack.

**c. Improvement to the playing fields - commitment to football pitches, path and boundary fences.**

Noted July 2023 minute commitment to pay for, or fund re-sizing, of goal posts. For review with football groups. Potential for clubs to apply for PC grant.

**d. Sport England Grant Application.**

On hold until financial position regarding the repair to the boundary fence is concluded.

**e. Nature trail (between the trees adjoining the playground), tree planting and conservation.**

No further discussion. Item to remain on agenda.

**f. Rural bus services – North Salop Wheelers – currently in Cheswardine, Hinstock and possibly Stoke-on-Tern. Potential subsidy.**

No further discussion. Item to remain on agenda.

**g. Environment**

PC discusses LED lighting, dark skies initiatives and tree and hedge planting as part of monthly meetings.

**h. Larger village project.**

**30/2024 Advertising and social media / website**

Cllr. Barnes again reported that the website continues to do well, and has been well received in the parish, with the 'Events' channel up and running. Cllr. Barnes to continue to liaise with all the village organisations to encourage them to add their events to the channel.

March's PC page for Church newsletter approved with positive comments. Many thanks to Cllr. Griffin. Cllr. Griffin, Cllr. Barnes and Cllr. Crookes are discussing a linked advertising strategy joining the website, Facebook and leaflet/poster advertising. Banner to be added to the bus stop.

Councillors agreed a new PC logo, provided by Cllr. Crookes, small design detail to be finalised then the logo will be ready to use.

**31/2024 Small Grant Policy 2023-24**

Church is intending to submit a Small Grants Application to repair the listed wall within the Church grounds. For review in March or April potentially if submitted. See point 22/2024. PC likely to receive applications from the Club, Bowling Club and football teams. CECA's second Small Grant Application is to be considered during an Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to be held during weeks commencing 26th February. Agenda to be published on website 3 days before meeting.

### **32/2024 Planning Applications.**

a. New Planning applications.

Reference: 24/00049/TPO (validated: 09/01/2024)

Address: Childs Ercall Hall Crow Lane Childs Ercall Market Drayton TF9 2DB

Proposal: Work to be carried out and woodland management over a 5 year period (See Report) on trees protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at Childs Ercall Hall, Childs Ercall) TPO 2023 (Ref: SC/00512/23)

Childs Ercall Hall TPO Management Plan has been approved by the tree officer and the TPO is in place. Chair has liaised with the tree officer and confirmed that the PC has no objection to the management plan.

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

Submitted their discharge of conditions application. Chair to monitor, as if approved, activity may begin.

iii. Furbers application – 28 homes

Additional information has been added to the portal for review by the planning sub-committee.

### **33/2024 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor**

Shropshire Council has been nominated for two awards by the LGC, one in the Innovation Category for a new mixed economy model for highways maintenance and the other in the Public and Partnership Working Category relating to the River Severn Partnership.

Cllr. Lezley Picton has e-mailed Parish Councils regarding Shropshire Council's budgetary challenges, which Chair has forwarded to councillors. Rising costs of Adult Social Care and Childrens Services continue to cause pressure on FY25 budget.

### **34/2024 Financial Matters**

**Members are asked to:**

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

III. Southern Electric – £22.81

Southern Electric - £51.64

Southern Electric - £18.84

December DD due 27/02/2024

IV. Administration December - £296.60

V. Hugo Fox – £244.68 Website Subscription 1 Year

VI. Office Expenses £12.95 Stamps and printer paper.

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

VII. Reconciliation

	<u>Balance as at</u> <u>07/01/2024</u>	<u>Outgoings</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Closing</u> <u>Balance</u> <u>11/02/2024</u>
Treasurers A/C	£32,853.89	£1,871.58	£75.00	£31,057.31
Business A/C	£7,102.28	£0.00	£15.19	£7,117.47
Playground Account	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total PC available cash	<b>£39,956.17</b>	<b>£1,871.58</b>	<b>£90.19</b>	<b>£38,174.78</b>

**ESTIMATED CASH MOVEMENTS**

**2023/24**

2023/24	Remaining Annual running			
commitments	cost		£1,106.01	
	Contingency		£11,500.00	
	CIL Infrastructure Projects		£16,865.86	
	2023/24 Small Grants (£1K			
	CECA 2 <sup>nd</sup> Application)		£3,000.00	
	Un presented cheques		£1,695.60	
Future Income	VAT owed		£729.05	
Uncommitted cash position				£4,736.36

VIII. **Bank Accounts**

Agreed that Chair should progress putting £15,000 into a higher interest savings account, at 4% on a 95-day Notice account.

**35/2024 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.**

Dead Cert have been to site to address the rat burrows at the back of the Hall and in the roadside hedge– costs should be around £200.00

Chair to replace the padlocks on the playing fields at PC cost.

Clerk to donate the A3 printer to the village as the printer cartridges are so expensive and it is rarely used (for A3 printing).

D of E student is litter picking in the Parish and has so far collected two bags of rubbish. He will continue for the next 4-6 weeks.

**36/ 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 March 20th 2024 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.