

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 17th May 2023 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. Cadden (Chair)
Cllr. Maddocks
Cllr. Clifton
Cllr. Gary Barnes
Cllr. Jane Letts
Cllr. Martyn Hatfield

Also, in attendance:

Mrs Barbara Pearce – Parish Clerk
6 Members of the public

66/2023 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED To receive apologies of absence for this meeting.

Cllr. Jon Longdon
Cllr. Rob Gittins

67/2023 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr. Cadden nominated to continue as Chair of the Council, no other applicants.

RESOLVED Cllr. Cadden re-elected as Chair of Childs Ercall Parish Council.

Cllr. Maddocks nominated as Vice Chair of the Council, no other applicants.

RESOLVED Cllr. Maddocks elected as Chair of Childs Ercall Parish Council.

68/2023 Declaration of Acceptance/Disclosable Interest Forms

Cllr. Martyn Hatfield completed the Declaration of Acceptance form.

69/2023 Declarations of Interest

None.

70/2023 Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 2021

RESOLVED. To accept the minutes of the APM of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th May 2022 as being correct.

71/2023 Report from Councillor Ann Cadden, Chairman of Childs Ercall Parish Council

Written report received from Cllr Cadden:

Childs Ercall Parish Council AGM

Chairman's Report

17th May 2023

Welcome everyone to the Childs Ercall Parish Council Annual Meeting for 2023.

Thank you all for coming and I hope you will find this meeting useful and informative. Another year has passed and like the country as a whole we have experienced our fair share of highs and lows, from the Queens Platinum Jubilee to her sad passing and the recent happier occasion of the Coronation. I would like to acknowledge and thank our fellow organisations CECA, The Club & The Church for organizing commemorative events for these and many other important dates throughout our year.

I'd like to give a brief explanation or reminder of what the function of the Parish Council is. All of our councillors are unpaid volunteers and we are the first tier of local government. We are responsible for the day-to-day administration of the parish, we make sure that the bills are paid, the lights are on, and the grass is cut. We consult on planning applications, local and national government policies and procedures, and we are here to provide help and advice for the community. We are here to support you.

We have had a busy and overall a very successful year. Crow Lane has been resurfaced, and a weight restriction has been approved and is in process. This will hopefully reduce the number of HGVs coming into the village and using the lanes around parish.

The land around the bus stop has been transferred to the Parish Council.

We have successfully negotiated a Community Benefit payment from the developers of the Solar Farm at Eaton on Tern, for both Childs Ercall and Eaton on Tern. The amount of £50,000 will be split equally between the two communities. £25,000 allocated to each will become payable when work on the solar farm commences. The developer was under no legal obligation to pay any community benefit whatsoever so these negotiations were very significant. Using this as the basis we had a motion accepted by SALC (Shropshire Association of Local Councils) to lobby Shropshire Council to include a requirement for developers to provide some kind of community benefit whenever a planning application for a solar farm or other alternative energy development is being considered. Shropshire Council have agreed to include this in their planning guidance ensuring that all future developments of this kind are required to provide some kind of community benefit. I'm pleased to report that despite our small size Childs Ercall Parish Council is influencing countywide decisions. As at the time of this report it is estimated that there are at least another 11 such planning applications up for consideration.

Most importantly we have secured a lease extension on Jubilee playing field for a further 99 years thus protecting this land for the community for a number of generations to come. This action protects the land from being sold to developers and allows us to look to the future for further investment in a much loved community asset.

Unfortunately, we have been unsuccessful in our attempts to curtail further expansion of Ollerton Business Park, despite a large amount of opposition Shropshire Council has approved two planning applications. The Weight Restriction on Crow Lane will hopefully mitigate some of our traffic concerns. The Old Schoolhouse opposite the church and Furbers yard are unresolved issues that we will continue to work on.

The Parish Council looks very different, I reported the sad passing of John Luscombe a councilor of over 47 years standing last October. We have planted a tree on the Village Green dedicated to his memory. During the course of the year we had resignations from Neil Henderson, Marcus Mackay and Fiona Norfolk, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their work on behalf of the community. We have welcomed two new councillors Gary Barnes and Martyn Hatfield I would like to thank them for joining the council and wish them every success in the future. We currently have one councillor vacancy which we will be advertising shortly if you wish to be part of the team please watch for the announcement or simply contact myself or one the councillors.

Going forward there are Governmental proposed changes to both the Community Infrastructure Levy and the council boundaries under the Boundary Review. We will continue to play our part in the consultation process.

We have agreed our budget and remain solvent with our precept of £13,587.00 and a CIL payment of £16,865.00. Our plans for the future include:

- Further potential investments in Jubilee.

- Road Safety on Eaton Road, we are hoping to secure funding for road improvements, which may include Vehicle Activated Signs.
- There are a number of smaller jobs such as replacement benches and painting of the bus stop.
- We intend to run a small grants scheme for organisations or smaller projects within the community, the details of this are being finalised at the moment.
- We are also working hard to improve our communications and plan to launch a new and improved website starting later this summer.

But we really want to hear from you, what are the issues that are close to your heart? What are the things that you would like to see us work on? Please share your suggestions on what you would like to see in the Parish. We have a suggestion box by the door, and you are always welcome and encouraged to attend the parish council meetings or contact any one of our council members.

In conclusion I wish to thank my fellow members of the Parish Council for all their hard work and Cllr. Gittins (who is on paternity leave at the moment) for all his hard work and support. The next twelve months promise to be an exciting time.

72/2023 Bank Account Signatories

RESOLVED: Signatories are Cllr. Cadden, Cllr. Clifton, Cllr. Longdon, Mrs B Pearce.

73/2023 Report from County Councillor

No report from Cllr. Gittins, currently on paternity leave.

74/2023 Questions and concerns raised by residents.

Resident asked where the signage for the weight restriction on Crow Lane would be placed on the A41. Council not sure at this time, Chair will check with Cllr. Gittins on his return.

Residents asked for improved lighting between Steppes Way and the club and on the footpath across the playground towards the Jubilee Hall. Discussion on road safety improvements being considered and whether “dark skies” would be an option for the parish. Chair to investigate cost of installing further lighting.

Traffic through the village was discussed. Farm vehicles and speeding can be an issue. Narrow Lane can be dangerous. Cllr. Barnes has been looking into solutions to resolve speed issues and a decision will be made whether to progress further.

Garden theft was discussed, and a resident asked if there is a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. There is no Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the parish because there was no take up from the public when last considered. Chair to invite the local PCSO to a future meeting as he has not visited for several months. She will inform through social media when this has been arranged so members of the public can attend and discuss issues with him. “Neighbourhood Matters” is a website platform to report issues and receive news regarding local crime and this could be linked to the new PC website.

Resident asked if the Parish Newsletter could be re-instated. PC add items to the Church newsletter and the website is being upgraded.

75/2023 Confirmation of special responsibilities: -

It was confirmed that the named Councillors will continue with the following responsibilities:

- i. Playground officer - Cllr. Barnes
- ii. Tree officer(s) – Cllr. Clifton and Cllr. Longdon
- iii. Planning sub-group – Cllr. Cadden, Cllr. Maddocks, Cllr. Hatfield
- iv. Grass cutting officer – Cllr. Hatfield

v. Representative on SALC committee – Cllr. Cadden and B Pearce

76/2023 Matters arising from Parish Councillors in relation to any area of special responsibility.

There were no matters raised.

77/2023 Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR
RESOLVED: 2022/23 accounts approved. The completed AGAR to be submitted to the PC's external auditors.

RESOLVED To approve the dates of 5th June to 14th July as the "Period for the Exercise of Public Rights".

78/2023 Any updates arising from the meeting.

There were no updates arising from the meeting.

Signed Date

Chair