

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

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

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

183/2023 Apologies for absence

Cllr. J Longdon
Cllr. J Letts
Cllr. G Barnes

RESOLVED: To receive apologies of absence for this meeting

184/2023 Chairman's Welcome

Chair thanked Cllr. Griffin and Cllr. Longdon for laying wreaths at the Remembrance Service at St Michaels Church on Sunday 12th November 2023.

Chair also thanked Cllr. Barnes for attending the SALC AGM and receiving the Jan Snell Award on behalf of the Parish Council, with the Chair attending the SALC Chairs Network Meeting on the 9 November 2023.

Chair thanked Cllr. Barnes for his continued work on the community website, and all councillors and the Clerk for their support since taking over as Chair.

185/2023 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.

186/2023 Public Question Time and Participation

Resident of Hatton in attendance who was concerned about the level of ongoing activity at two sites at Hatton, being the Land to the Rear of the Birches and Land off Hatton Road.

Parishioner attended to discuss the planting of a memorial tree on the village green.

187/2023 Minutes

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th October 2023 as being correct.

188/2023 Matters arising/action taken from the Minutes not otherwise included in the agenda.

None.

189/2023 Safety in the Parish

Chair reported on the recent findings of the West Mercia Police Survey ~~MP (John Campion) survey~~ into town and parish crime. Feedback reaffirmed the Parish's concerns over rural crime and road safety, which were reported to be the main concerns of Parish and Town Councils.

The survey also highlighted the reducing visibility of police teams; with the Chair noting that the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) had not attended the Parish for some time, either by way of attendance at a parish meeting or their roadshows on the club car park.

190/2023 Highways and footpaths

a. Update on Crow Lane Weight Limit

Cllr. Gittins reported that progress is being made to complete the project, with an anticipated completion date of early 2024.

b. Eaton Road assessment with SCC Highways

Cllr. Maddocks to liaise with Cllr. Barnes and Cllr. Gittins to consider road safety improvements along the section of the Eaton Road between the Club junction and the vehicular access to the Jubilee Hall, before liaising with Shropshire Council Highways. The Council had been waiting for a feasibility study off SC Highways which has not been received.

c. Highway issues

Cllr. Barnes had reported on the costs and requirements of VAS devices and community speed cameras at the Annual Meeting in May, with little interest shown at the time. Chair to consider this again with Cllr. Barnes to assess whether VAS devices could be erected on the Eaton Road, as per 190/2023 b (as above).

Chair added that cutting back the overgrown laurel hedge, which is currently obscuring the existing signage and restricting visibility, might be a possibility. *Post meeting note – this has now been cut.*

A41 Working Group had been formed, including both Shropshire Council's and Telford and Wrekin's Highways Teams. No further update provided. Cllr. Gittins will keep PC informed.

d. Footpaths

Cllr. Letts and Cllr. Barnes will add a footpath map to the website.

Complaint received regarding the condition of the path from the Jubilee Hall to the Eaton Road gate. Cllr. Hatfield and Cllr. Barnes to assess as part of the ground's maintenance group, and then report back to the Parish Council.

e. Streetlights.

Chair to report broken streetlight, No1 on inventory. It was a sodium (SON) so will request quote to replace with LED. No 13, opposite the green is leaning. Chair will request quote to straighten and replace with LED. Chair to obtain quote to replace the remaining SON's. Chair reported that indicative costs for replacement are approximately £250.00 plus VAT.

191/2023 Parish Matters

a. Land Transfer – update on land registration and Aaron and Partners account.

Chair noted that the matter is pending (transfer) on the Land Registry website. Chair to continue to monitor with the item staying on the agenda until completion. The Parish Council are likely to receive a final account off the solicitors.

b. Air monitoring station – update following presentation at the June meeting.

No further contact received from Environment Agency / Bureau Veritas. Item will be removed from the agenda.

c. Airband – FTTP roll out in the parish.

Airband/Open Reach vehicles continue to be seen in the parish. If parishioners have any questions/concerns information can be fed into the Connecting Shropshire Team. Item to stay on the agenda.

d. Trees

TPO at Childs Ercall Hall was made on the 18th August and is provisional for 6 months. TPO will be confirmed early next year unless otherwise advised.

Concern over the low hanging trees on the Newport/Howle Road has been passed to the Highways Team at Shropshire Council. SC report that the site has been logged although there is a delay with sites waiting for inspection or work to be carried out.

Some of the Queen's Jubilee Platinum Trees and whips are not growing well, Cllr. Maddocks meeting former Chair, Anne Cadden, and a parishioner to assess and apply some stakes and guards.

It was agreed that a parishioner could plant a memorial handkerchief tree on the village green.

e. Proposed Christmas social

Agreed that the social be deferred until March/April 2024, ahead of the Annual Meeting in May. December meeting to be held as per normal.

192/2023

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

Cllr. Hatfield has contacted K&S Landscapes to confirm that they have been successful and is waiting for a copy of their contract. It has been agreed with the football teams that they will pay for any cuts required between November to March.

b. Playground

Cllr. Barnes provided the maintenance report, with no issues reported.

Cllr. Maddocks to liaise with Ivor Godwin regarding hedge cutting.

CEPC has been awarded the Jan Snell Award by Shropshire Association of Local Councils.

CEPC was one of 3 councils to receive the prestigious award in recognition of the Community Park Project.

193/2023 Parish infrastructure projects – Strategic Objectives

a. Strategic Objectives Plan and Place Plan.

Chair shared the CEPC Community Plan 2023-2024. Cllrs to review first draft and provide comments or recommendations at the next meeting.

b. Improvements to the playing fields, playground, and the village green.

Picnic benches and bike rack (for the village green) to be ordered shortly, following ongoing discussions with the supplier regarding size and colour.

c. Commitment to football pitches.

Chair reminded the Cllrs of the possible costs to replace goalposts in the Spring.

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

Discussion on how to take this forward. Cllrs to consider and discuss at next meeting.

e. Rural bus services – North Salop Wheelers – community bus service operating throughout North Shropshire. Route 2 passing through Childs Ercall on a Wednesday morning on route to Market Drayton. Cllrs to gauge interest from parishioners by way of attendance at the

village coffee mornings, leaflet advertising, Facebook post and posters. Potential for the Parish Council to subsidise subscriptions if parishioners interested.

f. Environment

No comments.

g. Larger village project.

Discussed with 193/2023 a.

194/2023 Advertising and social media / website

Chair thanked Cllr. Griffin for producing the December newsletter which will be passed on for inclusion with the Church newsletter.

195/2023 Small Grant Applications 2023-24

None received since last meeting.

196/2023 Planning Applications.

a. New Planning applications.

Reference: 23/04454/FUL (validated 12/10/2023)

Address: Common View Hatton Road Hinstock Market Drayton Shropshire TF9 2TS

Proposal: Erection of extension to farm building

Status: Pending Consideration

RESOLVED: PC to make No Comment

Reference: 23/04381/FUL (validated 18/10/2023)

Address: Land East Hatton Road Hungry Hatton Hinstock Shropshire TF9 2TS

Proposal: Erection of a bungalow with associated vehicular and pedestrian access

Status: Pending Consideration

RESOLVED: PC to object to this application

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

No further update.

iii. Furbers

No further update.

197/2023 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor

Cllr Gittins reported that the collaboration between Shropshire, Hereford and Monmouthshire Councils has been officially launched, and has already attracted £3.5 million to boost digital connectivity.

Update provided on Shropshire Council's finances with Q2 figures scrutinised on the same day of the Parish meeting. Cllr Gittins reported that the deficit had increased to £23 million, for the year, due to in year inflationary cost increases.

Initial budget forecast for Financial Year (FY) 2024-25 reporting a deficit of £51 million, however £38 million of savings have already been identified, plus use of some reserves.

198/2023 Financial Matters

Members are asked to:

- a. Receive and confirm the payment of the items to be presented to the meeting:
 - i. Southern Electric – £21.34
Southern Electric - £48.31
Southern Electric - £17.63 October (Direct Debit 06/12/2023)
 - ii. Administration – November
£277.09
 - iii. Hugo Fox – £11.99 Website Subscription
 - iv. Les Blaney
Football pitches grass cut 12/10/2023 - £110.00
Football pitches grass cut 19/10/2023 - £55.00
Total = £165.00
 - v. K&S Landscapes – £540.00 Grass Cutting

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay these invoices.

- b. Reconciliation

<u>Balance as at</u> <u>08-10-2023</u>	<u>Outgoings</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Closing</u> <u>Balance</u> <u>06/11/2023</u>
£36,718.13	£2,572.50	£97.50	£34,145.63
£7,079.85	£0.00	£6.52	£7,086.37
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£43,797.98	£2,572.50	£104.02	£41,232.00

ESTIMATED CASH MOVEMENTS 2023/24

Remaining Annual running cost	£5,009.90	
Contingency	£11,500.00	
CIL Infrastructure Projects	£16,865.86	
2023/24 Small Grants	£4,000.00	
Un presented cheques	£540.00	
VAT owed	£216.52	
Uncommitted cash position		£3,532.76

- c. **2023/2024 Budget Review.**

Chair provided a schedule showing a breakdown of costs spent to date for FY24, and a first look at the budget for the next financial year (2024-2025) in line with the Council's timetable. Chair suggested that the Council will be looking at a deficit for FY24-25 due to the increase in costs of electricity (as we come out of a 2-year fixed contract) and increases in grass cutting and other costs.

199/2023 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

a. Bank Signatories.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Maddocks to be added as bank signatory and Cllr. Cadden to be removed.

b. Benches on the Green.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Maddocks to place order for benches and bike rack.

200/ 2023 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.