

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th May 2022 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. Cadden (Chair)
Cllr M. Mackay
Cllr. Maddocks
Cllr F Norfolk
Cllr R Gittins (Shropshire Cllr)

Also, in attendance:

Mrs Barbara Pearce – Parish Clerk
PCSO Andrew King
3 Members of the public

51/2022 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED To receive apologies of absence for this meeting.

Cllr Clifton
Cllr N Henderson
Cllr J Letts
Cllr. J. Longdon

52/2022 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Cllr Cadden put herself forward to continue Chair of the Council.

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

Cllr Mackay put himself forward as Vice Chair of the Council.

RESOLVED That Cllr Mackay was elected as Chair of Childs Ercall Parish Council.

53/2022 Declaration of Acceptance/Disclosable Interest Forms

Not required this year, Elections are every four years with last election in 2021.

54/2022 Declarations of Interest

There were no declared interests in the agenda.

55/2022 Approval of the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 2021

RESOLVED. To accept the minutes from the AGM of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th May 2021 as being correct.

56/2022 Report from Councillor Ann Cadden, Chairman of Childs Ercall Parish Council

Written report received from Cllr Cadden:

Welcome everybody to the Childs Ercall Parish Council AGM for 2022. Looking back I am surprised at how quickly this seems to have come around and just how much we as a Parish have come through and achieved.

Many of the issues that we were dealing with last year are still around; much of this is to do with the nature of running a Parish. We will always have to give attention to issues such as our roads, planning, maintenance and repair of assets such as the sandstone wall on the green, grass cutting, the playing field and the playground.

We started the year still very much under the shadow of the pandemic, only able to meet in limited numbers in public we conducted our business, nonetheless. Thankfully Covid loosened it's grip and we were gradually able to resume normal meetings. We had problems again with the Omicron

variant this didn't stop us holding our December meeting using every Covid precaution. In January 2022 there was a heightened Covid risk so we had no alternative but to cancel the PC meeting but we still managed an 'Extraordinary meeting' on the car park to take care of the decision around our precept from Shropshire Council.

The fact that we managed to keep going and continue with Parish business almost uninterrupted is a source of pride for me and I have to thank my fellow councillors for their support in this. Now thankfully we appear to have come through the other side and are stronger for it. We have challenges ahead no doubt with the escalating costs of fuel and food but we, along with CECA, the Church & the Club will continue to support our community. To this end we have set up a Joint Working Group so that we can share resources and support each organization in both good and bad times.

I would like to review some of our key actions over the past year:

- Crow Lane – was in desperate need of resurfacing and this has been achieved. I would like to thank Cllr Rob Gittins for all his help in keeping this on the table in Shropshire Council during a very difficult funding situation. We are now nearer to getting the much-needed Weight Restriction on Crow Lane, which should prevent HGV traffic coming into the Village endangering residents especially on St Michaels Way, and undoing the newly surfaced road.
- Our Planning Sub Group continues to meet to review planning applications and policy decisions which impact the parish. We are consistent in our desire to support quality policy compliant applications whilst standing against anything that is detrimental to the residents of the parish. Apart from day to day reviews we will also be participating in the Boundary Review and Shropshire Councils Draft Housing Policy. We welcome residents to come to the parish meetings and take part in these discussions.
- The Playground continues to be very successful and popular, we take pride in keeping it as clean, tidy and safe as possible, with regular safety inspections both by Cllr Henderson on a monthly basis and independent checks by ROSPA and others. It has recently been jet washed and we will ensure it is spic and span for the upcoming picnic in July.
- Likewise the Playing Field itself has seen some changes, we have planted in excess of 30 saplings to form a copse at the top of the field in place of the old playground, and we have added a number of large fruit bushes for wildlife and children to enjoy. Thanks go out to the volunteers who helped with planting, watering and so on. Three oak saplings front the copse and these will be dedicated to the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We continue to maintain the Nature Trail and will soon be doing our regular maintenance on that. Please look out for our calls for volunteers for work groups for this and litter picking etc. I am happy to say that our pitch is in regular use throughout the football season by both Newport Girls & Telford Nova's it is good to see the Playing Field put to such good use throughout the year and it is a much-valued space for our community.
- We have also been visited by the Leader of Shropshire Council the then newly elected Cllr Lezley Picton she answered our questions and shared her vision for Shropshire Council.
- We have also been successful in settling some older outstanding actions such as 'The Land Around the Bus Shelter' and the 'Deed Of Grant for Manor Farm' both now being settled.

We have welcomed a new Parish Clerk, Barbara Pearce who is a great addition to our team; again I wish to thank Len Sambrook who has been such a help in this important change.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to two very valued residents. Colin Macklin and his wife Maria have been stalwarts of our community. Although Colin was never a Parish Councilor nevertheless he has been a very active member of the community and has dedicated a great deal of time and effort in

support of the Parish throughout his time here. Colin was heavily involved in recruiting support to prevent the expansion of the Steppes Estate, organizing the petition and no doubt going door to door to drum up support and explain what was planned. This ultimately was a successful campaign. Colin also played a key role in the replacement of the Children's Playground, which was much needed and is now such a success. Colin was the Chair of the Playground Committee hosting meetings at his home while Maria kept us all in tea, coffee etc. Colin was a driving force among a number of others. I am sure he has lost count of the number of cars he helped wash and all the other fundraising activities for which he was a catalyst. Colin has attended Parish Council meetings on a very regular basis taking a keen interest in everything affecting Childs Ercall. Both Colin and Maria will be sorely missed and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work and to wish them every happiness in their new home.

We have successfully agreed a budget and remain solvent with our precept of £12,818.00 to run the parish will be stretched to this limit this year. In this new era of funding cuts, inflation and potential fuel and food poverty we have some big challenges ahead of us. But I am confident that our parish council, our Cllr Rob Gittins and our community are up to the challenge. We remain very positive and will as a council work diligently to continue to support the parish.

Finally I wish to thank my fellow members of the Parish Council and Cllr Gittins for all their hard work and for supporting me over the past year and I am looking forward to seeing what this next parish year will bring. THANK YOU.

57/2022 Bank Account Signatories

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the current signatories to the Council's bank accounts Cllr Longdon, Cllr Clifton and Cllr Cadden, should continue. The new Clerk, Mrs B Pearce has been added and Cllr Luscombe and the previous clerk Mr L Sambrook have been removed.

58/2022 Report from County Councillor

Written report received from Cllr Gittins:

Over the past year as we have started the recovery from the pandemic, things are starting to get back to some form of normality and I've been pleased to see the state of the roads gradually improve, from numerous resurfacing and re-dressing programmes around the division most notably in Childs Ercall where Crow Lane has an a full resurface and Narrow Lane most recently been fixed and re-dressed. Little Soudley has also seen their road fixed, re-dressed and had a full drainage scheme put in place to reduce water sitting on the highway, and I look forward to seeing many more of these schemes over the coming next year. Over the past year I have been working hard with residents, parish councils, and Shropshire council officers to help deliver on un-met housing need especially for local people who can sometimes be priced out of their local area, and helping to deliver local needs and agricultural dwellings goes along way to helping with this, and I'm also pleased to see Sutton-upon-Tern PC embarking on a community led housing project to look at this un-met housing need within their parish. I've also been really pleased and proud that Hinstock PC was successful in their CIL local bid to re-develop and refurbish the Jubilee rooms in Hinstock which will provide a great space for community meetings, snooker club and changing facilities for local teams. On a Shropshire level we have been busy delivering on commitments made in last years local elections such as increasing the amount of money we spend on the counties road network, we pledged £40m but since revised this up to £60m over the next 4 years. We are now also in the process of delivering on the new recycling wheelie bin and this should arrive in houses within this division in July of this year, our council owned property company Convolti developments have also completed their first site increasing the number of homes for the people of Shropshire and addressing that un-met housing need. The council is also undergoing a library strategy review to look at how we can better use community space within our market towns. I am also pleased to report that over 98.3% of the county now has access to superfast broadband which in a rural county like Shropshire is a great achievement, although we are still working with our partners to fill

any gaps in both broadband and mobile coverage. Its also good to see that Shropshire Council achieved a “Good” in their recent Ofsted inspection of Children’s services. Shropshire council continues to be known as an exemplar council in its delivering of its adult social care services winning nationwide awards for regeneration in health care, and one of our wellbeing managers nominated as a rising star. The council’s highways department was also nominated by the LGC for its Texpatch pothole repair technique.

Looking Forward.....

The councils budget remains extremely challenging with around 86% of the council budget now dedicated to some form of social care and work on next years budget starts now, we will continue to review our capital programme as well as look for savings in order to reach a balanced budget. To help with this a cross party LGA financial peer review will be taking place over the coming months to help us with an outside view of how these savings could be achieved under these difficult circumstances. The council will also be putting into place its new Shropshire plan as well as the digital & library strategies. On a local level I look forward to work progressing on the A529 programme with work taking place at Pell Wall, Woodseaves and the A529 / A41 Junction south of Hinstock. I will also be looking at progressing work on the weight restriction on Crow Lane (CE) and looking at collecting data for a possible new speed limit for Soudley and lobbying the council for work to be done at Red Barn Junction near Cheswardine. As well as campaigning for more money for improving safety on the A41.

I look forward to continuing to listen and work with parish councils and residents on the things that matter to them and I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents and all the parish councils of the division for the support they have shown me over the past year and look forward to continuing this great work over the coming year.

59/2022 Questions and concerns raised by residents

There were no questions or concerns raised.

60/2022 Confirmation of special responsibilities: -

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

- i. Playground officer – Cllr Henderson
- ii. Tree officer(s) - Cllrs Clifton and Longdon
- iii. Planning sub-group – Cllr MacKay/Cllr Maddocks/Cllr Cadden
- iv. Representative on SALC committee – B Pearce will take over from Cllr Cadden
The responsibility of grass cutting officer to be discussed at the June Meeting of the CEPC.

61/2022 Matters arising from Parish Councillors in relation to any area of special responsibility

There were no matters raised.

62/2022 Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return AGAR

RESOLVED To approve the 2021/22 accounts as circulated to Councillors and approve the completed AGAR for submission to the external auditors of the council.

RESOLVED To approve the dates of 13th June to 22nd July as the “Period for the exercise of public rights”.

63/2022 Any updates arising from the meeting.

There were no updates arising from the meeting.

Signed Date

Chair