

CHILDS ERCALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2026 in the Jubilee Hall at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. J Maddocks (Chair)
Cllr. R Griffin
Cllr. P Clifton
Cllr. B Sale
Cllr. N Bentley (Unitary Councillor)

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

037/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr. M Hatfield
Cllr. G Barnes
Cllr. J Letts
Absent - Cllr. J Harrison

038/2026 Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, no further notices from the chair at this point.

038/2026 Public Question Time and Participation

Representative of CECA in attendance regarding Agenda point 8.

039/2026 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.

040/2026 Minutes

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

041 /2026 To receive reports from Unitary Councillor.

Written report for March provided by Cllr. Bentley attached.



Unitary Cllr
Report_Mar26.pdf

Matters arising in the report particular to CE Parish:

Signs and Speed Testing – Cllr. Bentley and Chair to meet Tracey Onslow, Deputy PCC, on site to solidify sites for speed testing and discuss other safety issues around the parish on Tuesday 24th March.

Chair has received confirmation that The Fold has been adopted by SCC.

Cllr. Bentley remains in contact with the action group relating to the egg production facility at Caynton, no further update.

No Grit Bins mapped for Childs Ercall Parish, Cllr. Bentley will follow up prior to next winter.

Cllr. Bentley gave an overview of Shropshire Council's financial position and confirmed that Shropshire Council Tax has been increased by 8.99 percent without referendum. Cllr. Bentley issued a breakdown of Council Tax which Chair will share with the parish via social media.

EFS applications have been granted to SCC of £71m this year and £132m the following year.

Local Plan is still under development. The outcome will affect development within the parish if CE are designate a Hub rather than as open countryside. Cllr. Bentley to check on timescale and deadline. No further update.

041/2026 Safety in the Parish

SNT attended Hinstock and Childs Ercall (in January), however, very little notice is given of the visits.

Rural safety is compromised around the parish in winter months due to adverse weather, roads deteriorating with potholes. However, no acknowledgement or action from "Fix My Street" when reporting issues. Cllr. Bentley to escalate issues around "Fix My Street".

Chair and Cllr. Bentley to meet Tracey Onslow on site to discuss various safety issues around the parish. Invitation sent to Harry Guest from SC Highways to assess safety issues around the parish including breaches of overweight vehicles through the village and parish which are well documented, with no enforcement being carried out.

042/2026 Parish Matters

a. Correspondence – update on important PC matters received via NALC/SALC Bulletins etc.

Correspondence received from Deputy Leader of SC, Alex Wagner, regarding devolution and assets of the parish which Chair has forwarded to councillors to respond if they wish.

b. Shropshire Council – Update on "Shropshire Together" Proposals

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

Action: Cllr. Bentley to confirm the current status of the EMG.

State of litter across the parish discussed with Litter Pick provisionally organised for March 28th March.

c. Best Kept Village Competition

Chair has meet with a "Village Gardening Group" (approximately 8 parishioners) who are willing to take on areas for planting in 2026.

Deadline for entering BKVC is April with no decision made regarding CE entering this year.

Water Butts discussed and the back of bus shelter was decided as a good location. The bus shelter roof requires repair and once done guttering will be attached to feed a water butt.

RESOLVED: Cllr. Sale to repair roof, install guttering and water butt to a maximum budget of £500.

043/2026 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 - £104.15 (January) DD 18/02/2026
 - ii. Administration March 2026 - £318.83
 - iii. Office expenses - £13.92 Stamps
 - iv. Hugo Fox – Monthly DD for e-mail addresses £20.99 (09/03/2026)
 - v. Hugo Fox – Annual DD for website £287.86 (03/03/2026)
 - vi. Lloyds Bank - £6.25 Bank Charges
 - vii. Ivor Godwin – Hedge Cutting - £120.00
 - viii. K&S Landscapes Grass Cut - £310.20

RESOLVED: Clerk is authorised to pay the above invoices.

044/2026 To receive updates from parish community organisations – CECA, Church, Club

CECA proposed delivery lockers to be fixed to the Jubilee Hall as a community hub for deliveries and to increase income for CECA. CECA have provided the technical specification for fitting which was shared to councillors by Clerk. No queries or concerns raised by councillors.

RESOLVED - The Parish Council consents to CECA's alteration to the Jubilee Hall, namely the installation of delivery lockers.

Initial discussion on amending collection of fees for the use of the football pitches to annual subscription.

CECA investigating costs etc to replace guttering and paint roof of Jubilee Hall.

Church holding Spring Lunch in Jubilee Hall on Sunday 22nd March.

045/2026 Highways and footpaths

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

No update.

Action: Chair has invited Derek Buchanan and /or Harry Guest from SC Highways to site.

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.

Action: Chair has invited Derek Buchanan and /or Harry Guest from SC to site to discuss safety improvements along Eaton Road.

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

Cllr. Bentley confirmed at last meeting that average speed cameras are to be installed on the A41 but no update on locations and timescales.

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

On-going concern regarding state of footpaths in icy weather.

Action): Cllr. Bentley to continue to investigate installing a grit bin in the village before next winter.

No footpath between Jubilee Hall and Steppes Way. Chair to raise issue again with SC Highways, Harry Guest, see above.

Issue with prescribed ROW adjacent to 25/03608/FUL was discussed. Residents have applied for footpath to be designated as a Public Right of Way. No update from SC.

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

e. **Streetlights - Lamp replacements. Dark skies initiative.**

Currently all in operation.

Quote received for removing ivy from one column on St Michaels estate. Chair to speak with contractor regarding completion of work.

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.

SC will take running of the lamps on the Fold now that the street has been adopted.

National Grid have confirmed a programme of planned tree trimming on 11th May along Crow Lane following fire last year. Chair will convey details of road closure to residents.

046/2026

Grounds Maintenance/Playground

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

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: Chair to contact Contractor.

Football pitches are wet but coping and are playable. Chair is completing a Grant Application from Shropshire Football Association for work on the pitches.

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

Playground last inspected on 6th February. ROSPA playground inspection due in June.

Action: Chair to complete inspection report. Bins are currently full.

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

Action (continued): Chair to complete work.

047/2026 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.

Bus stop roof requires attention.

RESOLVED: See 042/2026 c

b. Commitment to the football pitches and Clubs.

Initial discussions taking place with Football Managers regarding funding applications.

048/2026 Advertising and social media/website

Feedback from website continues to be very good.

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

049/2026 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.

Action: Clerk to circulate policy for consideration by councillors and update / adopt at April meeting.

050/2026 Planning Applications

a. New Planning applications.

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

Application currently lodged on enforcement portal.

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

Action: Objection made by planning sub-committee and submitted. 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.

Action: Cllr. Bentley to contact Planning Officer for update

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.

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

Highways objection has been noted on SC Planning Portal regarding access statements.

Consultation period extended to 31/03/2026.

i. Withdrawn - None

ii. Refused - None

iii. Granted - None

c. Any other planning matters.

a. Land to the Rear of the Birches – Enforcement

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

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

Granted. Planning Sub-Committee continue to monitor.

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

No further update. Chair continues to monitor.

035/2026 Any new matters relating to the parish not included elsewhere on the agenda.

Chair reminded councillors to use their .gov.uk e-mail addresses for all parish business to ensure compliance with Assertion 10 AGAR.

Grass cutting of the Green and Playing fields has begun for this season. PC have budgeted for 15 cuts this year so these will be monitored to be mindful that the PC does not exceed budget.

036/2026 Date of next meeting.

Members are asked to note the next meeting of Childs Ercall Parish Council is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7.00pm in the Jubilee Hall.