

MINUTES OF THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

31st July 2008

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. A. Pinnington (Vice Chairman), Mr. M. Gilbert, Mr. R.L. Smith, Mr. G. Chapman, Mrs. D. Oram, Ms. F. Morgan-Frise and Mrs. A. Whittle (Clerk).
Cllr Grundy (Kennet DC) also joined the meeting from 7.15pm to approximately 8pm.

Open Forum:

Cllr Jonik explained the situation with the Boundary Committee and what it does as a body. He then explained that their recommendation for Erlestoke to move into the Whitehorse division from the Lavingtons is purely numbers based. There will be 98 new councillors to cover Wiltshire Unitary Council in 2009 and they have divided the number of electorate in Wiltshire by 98. This gives an average of 3525 electors per new councillor. If Erlestoke stay in The Lavingtons the new councillor will have 12% more electors than the average. If Erlestoke is moved to Westbury Whitehorse Division the number of electors over the average will be reduced to 8%. The parish has a chance now to put together a case for staying with The Lavingtons. It was decided after members of the village had made their concerns known and Cllr Grundy had spoken that a special meeting would be held in the very near future to compile a list of objections for the clerk to put into a letter of response to the Boundary Committee before the 24th of August. It was noted that everyone at this meeting was against the change of division.

Cllr Gilbert asked for the clerk to include the possible appointment of a village handyman on the September agenda.

88/08 Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr Rugg (Wiltshire County Council).

89/08 Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Oram declared an interest in the payment of Miles and Francis invoice at item 101/08.

90/08 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 19th June 2008

These were accepted after the following addition:

81/08. Paragraph 2, line 4. It was proposed by Cllr Loraine-Smith that we ask the village if allotments are required. This was seconded by Cllr Pinnington and all were in favour.

Prop: Cllr Loraine-Smith, 2nd Cllr Gilbert, All in favour.

91/08 Planning

K/58828/F – Mr & Mrs Brackstone – South Farm – Addition of 2 looseboxes and small feed store to existing stables and barn - **Permission**

92/08 District report

Cllr Grundy explained that Kennet is now working with a skeleton staff as many are now working to prepare for the new council. Under the new council approximately 20 area boards will work to 4 hubs which will contain representatives from the unitary authority, police, fire service, parish and town councils etc.

93/08 Possible electoral boundary change for Erlestoke in April 2009

Further to the open forum Cllr Jonik proposed and Cllr Pinnington seconded that an extra ordinary meeting of the council be held on the 14th of August at 7.30pm possibly in the village church. This will be an open meeting for members of the village to make their representations about the proposed change. It was decided that a leaflet would be put through each door asking people to attend and various people will be invited such as Michael Ancram MP and the press.

94/08 Small Grants Scheme applications to Kennet DC

The clerk advised the council that following her letters of application for three possible grants, confirmation had been received that the council had been awarded £2000 towards benches and allotments, £3000 towards the rebound wall and £1500 towards possible traffic calming in The Park area.

95/08 Car Park in The Park Area

The idea of a car park in the Park area has been spoken about a few times in the past. According to Cllr Rugg, monies are still available at Kennet DC for such projects. This could be an opportunity for the council to apply and install a very useful amenity for the village as planning permission has already been granted for a car park on the plans for the new village hall. Cllr Grundy advised that the community grant scheme from which all these grants were paid from closed in December. Although this information may put a different light on the project Cllr Jonik proposed that he continue and get a quote on the cost of having a car park installed. Cllr Pinnington seconded the

proposal and the council voted 6 in favour and 1 abstention. Cllr Gilbert noted that this car park should it come to fruition will be for the use of everyone in the village not just the residents of the Park area.

96/08 Section 106 Funds Update

1. To view responses to allotment and seating notices and finalise orders as required.

Cllr Smith expressed his dismay at the leaflet that was put through doors to ask for responses regarding wanting allotments. He proposed that a second leaflet be designed solely for the allotments issue. Cllr Pinnington seconded the proposal but the council voted 4 against and 2 in favour hence the proposal was not carried.

Cllr Oram then proposed that a special meeting be called to discuss future plans for the secret garden in October. Cllr Gilbert seconded and the proposal was carried by 5 in favour and 2 against. However it was decided to purchase the following seating for the park area as soon as possible.

1. Replace the bench in the play area with a Turnberry 5ft seat from GB Sport and Leisure
2. Install a St Georges 7ft seat from GB Sport and Leisure in the churchyard. (exact site to be confirmed with the church)
3. Install a seat made by green man woodcrafts adjacent to the existing seat on the sports area. The clerk will now place an order for these items.

2. To decide where the cost of the swing refurbishment should be paid from.

The swing refurbishment will be paid for from normal accounts not section 106 monies.

97/08 The Park Area and Secret Garden – problem of children riding bicycles on the play area.

It was brought to the councils attention that children are riding their bicycles dangerously along the road in the park area and then up onto the grass, which could cause a serious accident to either another child or to themselves should a car be travelling along the road.

It was resolved that Cllr Jonik would speak to the community Police Officer and ask her to visit the area during the holidays.

98/08 Future uses of the Secret Garden

It was resolved to hold a special meeting in October to discuss the future options for the Secret Garden. The date of this meeting will be confirmed at the meeting on the 3rd of September.

99/08 SSEB Sub Station – Siting of new larger station

Cllr Jonik reported that he had not received an answer to his recent email to the SSEB about the size of the proposed new sub station. He would chase this for the next meeting.

100/08 To consider items of Correspondence needing a reply

Community First – Invitation to AGM – 8th October

101/08 To confirm the Financial Statement for June & July & accounts for payment

The accounts for June and July were accepted and the following invoices agreed for payment.

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses - £330.06 Inland Revenue – Months 1,2,3,4 - £67.80

Playdale – deposit for new play equip - £4897.40 Miles and Francis – Grass cutting - £470.00

The clerk was asked to get a new bank account signatory form.

102/08 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Pinnington. Cllr Pinnington advised that the third notice board is being refurbished and will be put up inside the bus shelter when completed. The new Governor at the Prison Mr Rogers has started his new job and Cllr Pinnington has spoken to him to introduce himself. He is very keen to get involved in community projects. It was commented that a plant trough under the village signs as you enter both ends of the village would look good. Cllr Pinnington will ask if the prison can make the troughs. Cllr Gilbert asked if the prison would be happy for inmates to work in the village.

Cllr Gilbert. Cllr Gilbert commented that the prison had cut the bank from George Phillips house down to the church but the trees need cutting back. Cllr Pinnington said he would take this forward. Cllr Gilbert also noted that the tree that had fallen over the footpath at the bottom of the golf course had been removed and he was on the case of getting the grass cut across the field.

Cllr Oram. Cllr Oram asked when the Parish Steward was in the village again. Cllr Loraine-Smith advised her that it was the 9th of September. They will liaise re a list of tasks for him to undertake.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm

The next meeting will be Wednesday 3rd September 2008 7.15pm In the upstairs room of The George and Dragon public house.