

MINUTES OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church 29th September 2010 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. M. Gilbert, Mrs. D. Oram, Mr D Moore,
Mr R Loraine-Smith, Mr K Lewcock (arrived at 8pm) and Mrs A Whittle (Clerk).

Open Forum:

Cllr Jonik – Cllr Jonik advised the council of the recent passing of both Basil Chapman who was a Parish Councillor and Jim Foote who was both a Councillor and Chairman. Both Jim and Basil put in a lot of time and effort for the village. The councillor's thoughts go to both families concerned.

Mr G Phillips commented on the following:

1. Why did it take so long for the minutes to be issued from the meeting on the 18th of August?
2. The open forum minutes should read spring water house not the pump house
3. 110/10 Cllr Lewcock report should read notice boards off the pavement.
4. Item 120/10. The church can not make a hire charge to the Parish Council for use of the building but can ask for help towards the electricity and heating costs.
5. Marditch Road – He had spoken to Esther Daly regarding footpath 6 and she hopes to re instate the damaged signs on Marditch. She has also advised that she awaits planings before pot holes in Pear Tree Lane can be repaired.
6. 42 High Street – the hedge is still over hanging the footpath. He was advised that the issue was now in the hands of Wiltshire Council highways.
7. Gully covers are covered in silt.

Cllr Gilbert asked if the play area sign at the entrance to the Park Area was going to be moved. The clerk advised that she had spoken to the engineer who sited the signs and has agreed to send him a digital photograph of the height in view of the window of the property. It was suggested that maybe the sign could be moved to the opposite side of the road by the electric sub station. He also asked about the horse signs for Lower Road. The clerk explained that she had been asked to write to highways asking for the signs, this will be noted on the waiting list for signs but it may be that the residents are Parish Council will have to purchase them. The clerk will look into grant monies from Devizes Area Board

Cllr Loraine-Smith made the following statement – minute 90/10. I was not able to comment on the content of the minutes dated 7th July 2010 as I was away on holiday the following correction I believe is more accurate as I took an active part in the issue when it was raised. "The chairman has had calls about parking at the junction of Lower Road and the corner at Yewtree Cottages a blind bend in Erlestoke. Cars parked on the junction have attracted attention from the Community Police Officer and one car has had a warning sticker placed on it. Cars are regularly parked with 10metres of the junction and these cause an obstruction. R Loraine-Smiths car parked outside his gate does not help the situation as it is close to a blind bend and a complaint was received regarding his car. He confirmed at the meeting that he would make efforts to park on his drive to help the situation in the future. My car is not the only one that is causing the problem as it is parked outside the 10 metre/15 yard zone but is closer to the blind bend".

111/10 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr A Pinnington.

112/10 Declaration of Interest - None

113/10 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th August 2010

The minutes were accepted after the following amendments:

1. Open Forum – The pump house should read The Spring Water House
2. 110/10 - Lewcock report should read notice boards off the pavement.
3. 107/10 – sat should read state

Proposed Cllr Jonik **Seconded** Cllr Gilbert All in favour

114/10 Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Gamble not present

The clerk had presented the councillors will a copy of the Wiltshire Council briefing note – the next four years – the challenges we face.

115/10 Prison update – Andy Rogers Prison Governor not present

The clerk was asked to formally write to ask Governor Rogers to attend the next Parish Council meeting. The council would also like an urgent update on the building project at the prison.

116/10 Devizes Area Board – 4th October – Devizes Corn Exchange – 6.30pm for 7pm

Cllr Jonik will attend for the Parish Council and report back at the November meeting.

117/10 Spring Water House Update

With reference to the Parish Council meeting on the 18th August 2010, the council was asked to look into the issues of doing maintenance work on the Well House in the High Street.

State of building:

- 1) Village Water House is listed building
- 2) Pipe Out flow system is listed
- 3) It is in a conservation area
- 4) Roofed with stone tiles
- 5) Walls red brick
- 6) Locked front door
- 7) Ivy and trees have overgrown and taken root in the walls and roof.
- 8) Path leading to the building overgrown with hedge and weeds.
- 9) Key to the door held by Mr Brian Johnson (Farmer from Coulston)
- 10) Mr Johnson replaced the door and does some maintenance work when required.
- 11) Water board have stopped testing the water for clarity and bugs.
- 12) Water runs from the spring into the Well House down the High Street, across lower road to the park turning north parallel with Lower road under the railway line and down to Pudnell farm. There is a tee off before Pudnell going east to Coulston.
- 13) Water feeds farms in Erlestoke, Pudnell, and Coulston, possibly houses on the way.

Ownership:

- 1) Mr Roger Hampton alleged has deeds going back to the 1950s
- 2) Mr Johnson who knew Rogers farther believes Mr Bob Hampton tried to sell the building to the water board years ago but the transactions never took place because ownership could not be defined.
- 3) Mrs Kate Cooper 52 High Street would like it tidied up as it is an eye sore.
- 4) Mr Bill Pidduck 56 High Street would like it tidied up but has concerns about pulling the tree growth away from the building for fears of damage to the building.

Maintenance:

- 1) Everybody concerned have said they are prepared to help on maintenance work if it is cleared and organized.
- 2) Conservation department at Wiltshire Council must be kept informed
- 3) Conserve department Suggest cutting back Ivy and branches. If trees are to be cut then may need to apply for permission normal routes. After this has died back maybe next year then look at the state of building.
- 4) Take photographs as work is being done must not damage walls or roof.

Costs: Wessex Water Board to test the water, £100+Vat basic test, £385+VAT Full test.

It was resolved that the clerk will write to Roger Hampton, Brian Johnson and Pippa Card at Wiltshire Council conservation department passing on the information provided above by Cllr Jonik. It was felt that this is not a matter for the Parish Council to get involved in and should be rectified by the three parties concerned.

118/10 New Parish Steward Scheme

Cllr Jonik had received the following resume from Wiltshire Council on changes to the Parish Steward scheme.

1. Monthly report of work carried out by all work gangs broken down into Town-Parishes (i.e. you will only see your Parish report)
2. More fluid visits based on demand (i.e. if there is a high work load in your Parish one month, the steward will stay for longer then the current programme allows to achieve this and if the demand is less he will move to another Parish where the demand is higher.
3. Parish contacts to have a link with the steward and vice versa. You will be contacted prior to his intended visit which will no longer be on a set day (i.e. you will receive a visit either in the first or second two weeks of the month)
4. No longer receive a reminder from the Office Manager for visits
5. No longer be asked to complete a feedback form scoring the stewards
6. Better contact with Wiltshire Council Officers outside of the highways teams
7. Work towards one list of hotspots(i.e. currently the parish have a list of priorities of where their problems are as does the steward, the highways technician and the highways engineer)
8. Seasonal schedule (i.e. of the same work comes up at the same time year after year at the same locations work with the highway teams to identify them and create an annual programme of work)
9. Produce a report at the end of the year which shows everything that has been completed within the Parishes
10. Work with Parishes to draw up a highway inventory on a plan (i.e. grit bins, drainage class or road etc)

11. Access to member's packs showing lists of agreed works for the forthcoming financial year although it will not have set starting dates.

It was agreed that any task which the council wants the steward to look at undertaking will be notified to highways by either the Chairman or the clerk after every Parish Council meeting. Therefore the Parish Steward tasks will be a permanent item on the agenda for every meeting.

Further to this the council asked for the following items to be reported to highways. Blocked drains throughout the village, Footpath 11 needs to be cleared of growing sycamore trees and Sarcen Housing need to be contacted regarding the hedge at No15 the Park overhanging the footpath.

The clerk was also asked to confirm to highways that the village requires every grit bin to be refilled fully before the winter weather arrives. The chairman was asked to include the following statement in his report for the News magazine: It is illegal for people to take grit from the grit bins to use on their private property. The grit is for highways use only. Anyone seen taking grit from the bins and using it on their private property will be reported to highways and may be fined.

119/10 Signage – Purchase of signs for car park and Secret Garden

Further to a previous discussion regarding a sign for the new car park in the Park and the Secret Garden the clerk had contacted a number of companies to obtain quotes. It was agreed by all companies contacted that to keep delivery costs etc to a minimum a quote for both signs would be more feasible. The council had already agreed that the new car park signs would read as follows: Car Park Provided by Erlestoke Parish Council. The parish Council takes no responsibility for loss from or damage to any vehicle or person whilst using the car park. No overnight parking or camping

A decision was required on the size and wording on the sign for the Secret garden. The clerk circulated a possible design which the council resolved to accept after a slight amendment. The sign will be A3 landscape size and will read as follows:

The Secret Garden. For the use of the community. Please leave the Secret Garden as you find it. Erlestoke Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any loss or personal injury suffered whilst on the Secret Garden.

The clerk will now continue to obtain quotes in time for the next meeting in November.

120/10 Play area Maintenance

Cllr Pinnington was not present at the meeting but the meeting was advised that the goal posts had been painted and the nets put back on. This is an ongoing project.

121/10 Possible future costs of using the church for meetings

Further to an email received from Roger Hampton regarding future charging for the use of the church as a meeting place, and taking into consideration Mr Phillips comment in the open forum regarding the Parish Council not being charged a hiring fee for the use of the church but being asked to contribute towards the heating and electric costs, the parish council resolved to send a donation of £75 to the Parochial Church Council to cover any expenses incurred by the Parish Council holding its meetings in the church until the 31st of March 2011.

Proposed Cllr Jonik **Seconded** Cllr Moore All in favour

In order for the council to issue the cheque for £75 the clerk asked for a resolution to be agreed to transfer £125 from the under spent insurance budget for 2010/11 to the halls budget.

Proposed Cllr Lewcock **Seconded** Cllr Gilbert All in favour

It was agreed that the council will include a sum in the budget for 2011/12 for expenses incurred whilst using the church for its meetings.

122/10 To consider items of Correspondence needing a reply - None

123/10 To confirm the Financial Statement for August & accounts for payment

The accounts for June, July and August were accepted and the following approved for payment:
Mrs A Whittle – Hours & Exp October - £219.30 HM Customs and Excise – PAYE mth 7 - £44.40
Erlestoke PCC – Donation - electricity and heating costs during Parish Council meetings - £75.00
Viking Direct – stationary - £45.65

124/10 To receive reports from Village Representatives - No reports submitted.

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10th November from 7.15pm in the Parish Church.