

MINUTES OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church 9th February 2011 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. A. Pinnington (Vice Chairman), Mr. M. Gilbert, Mrs. D. Oram, Mr. D. Moore, Mr. R. Loraine-Smith, Mr. K. Lewcock (7.32pm) and Mrs A Whittle (Clerk).

Open Forum: Mr G Phillips commented on the following: He had spoken to Esther Daly about the signposts as requested and she will get out to the village as soon as possible. Could the following corrections be made to the minutes: open forum item 1 should read Summerfield Cottage, Item 5 was actually reported by Cllr Jonik and item 09/11 should include the footpath numbers 11 and 12. Cllr Oram then reported that she had received a complaint from Mr Macrae of the Lodge regarding signage he keeps installing on land he has cattle on being removed. The signage is advising people to keep their dogs on as lead due to cattle running with calves on the land. It was suggested that this problem be reported to Esther Daly (footpath officer) and PC Gemma Rutter. Perhaps he should photograph the signs on site as a record that he has installed them should any incident occur.

12/11 Apologies – None received

13/11 Declaration of Interest – No declarations of interest were made.

14/11 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th January 2011

The minutes were accepted after the following amendments:

Open forum item 1 should read Summerfield Cottage

Open forum item 5 should read Cllr Jonik not Mr Phillips

09/11 should read: The issue of footpath 11 adjacent to No 15 the Park was discussed as was footpath 12 between No6 the High Street and No1 the Park.

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

15/11 Planning – None to discuss

16/11 Wiltshire Council update – Cllr Gamble

Firstly Cllr Gamble apologised for his absence from the last few meetings. He then continued by saying he wholly supports Erlestoke Churches request to be a polling station. He has found at that there is not enough time and the refurbishment will not have been completed by the referendum vote in May but should be by the next Local Government elections in 2013. The recent study regarding the possibility of lowering the road at Littleton Panel Bridge has concluded that the cost of undertaking the project would be too expensive. They are also looking at directing high and heavy vehicles from the A303 via Amesbury roundabout to Devizes not through Littleton Panel and Great Cheverell. At least 30 high and 250 heavy vehicles use Great Cheverell every day. Library services will not be cut in the budget cuts but they are hoping for more volunteers. Erlestoke will continue to receive the mobile library service. More volunteers are required for the library service across the county and without them libraries may close. They are trying not to cut bus services across the county but the service may be trimmed down. Speed Limits. The traffic regulation order to reduce the speed limit on the B3098 to 50 will come into force later in the year. Speed Watch. The Police have prosecuted 4 drivers who have broken the rules across the county. Issues reported to Area Boards. If the village has any specific issues that can be looked at by the Area Board then please report them to Richard Rogers the new Community Area Manager for the Devizes Area Board. It can then be recorded and dealt with correctly.

17/11 Prison update – Andy Rogers Prison Governor – Not in attendance

18/11 Devizes Area Board – Cllr Jonik

Cllr Jonik gave a short resume of the recent Area Board meeting. a full set of minutes can be viewed on the Wiltshire Council website www.wiltshire.gov.uk

The Area Board were asked to ratify the recommendations for the provision of grit bins at seven sites in the Devizes Community Area. Twenty one grit bins had been requested, but the Area Board was able to supply seven. If a parish had somewhere where they could safely store grit, they could request a supply from Wiltshire Council. The clerk was asked to send a request for a new grit bin on Lower Road where a car hit an electric pole in the last period of icy weather. It was also suggested that a supply of grit in 1 tonne bags could be stored in the village for village use as and when required. Cllr Jonik will look into a site for this and how the grit would be distributed.

Councillor John Thomson provided an overview about his role as Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Adult Care, Community Services and Libraries. He explained this encompassed Area Boards. Wiltshire Council was committed to retaining libraries and the mobile library service. Opening hours would be reassessed in the context of neighbouring local authorities closing libraries. Input from volunteers and partnership working would be needed in small communities to

keep their libraries open. Wiltshire was set to face a big increase in the number of older people in the county and had a ten year plan to improve services. Wiltshire Council was investing in keeping people in their homes with support for as long as possible, the next stage would be extra care in home and the final stage if needed would be residential care. **Voluntary Sector/Grow.** Janice Fortune, Chief Executive of Develop, and Karen Scott gave a presentation regarding the funding of the voluntary sector and Grow, a new support service for volunteers and volunteer organisations. Services provided included connecting volunteers with opportunities, funding advice, up to date information affecting local organisations, resources and publications, a programme of training, forums and networking, low cost printing and more. 306 organisations had registered at the volunteer centre and more than 1100 volunteering opportunities had been uploaded to the database and promoted to the public. Please contact the volunteer centre on 0845 5216224 if you would be interested in volunteering or see the website: www.growwiltshire.org.uk. The Area Board were invited to lend support to a bid made to the Performance Reward Grant Scheme and recommend the panel approves the Wiltshire volunteers project. Decision The Area Board would lend support to the Wiltshire Volunteers Performance Reward Grant Scheme application. Cllr Oram commented that there is no provision in the village for older people.

19/11 Use of the village church as a polling station

Roger Hampton had re-applied to Wiltshire Council to use the church as a polling station. The council had visited the site and vetted the facilities. They had written back to Roger explaining that the facility would not be used for the referendum in May but will be used for the Local council elections in 2013. The clerk was asked to write to the Wiltshire Councils elections department giving the Parish councils full support.

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

20/11 reports of dog fighting in the village

Nothing known by the Councillors of the reports of dog fighting.

21/11 Permissive Footpath – Golf Club ground

The permissive footpath in question links footpaths 5 and 6 on the Erlestoke Golf Course. It seems there was a gentlemen’s agreement made in September 1992 which agreed that the linking footpath would be installed. This linking footpath is now being moved slightly due to the erection of a shed but will still be accessible to walkers.

The council agreed that authority from the full Parish Council must be sought before any member of the parish Council contacts the owners of the golf club in future.

22/11 Highways and Footpath issues and tasks for the Parish Steward

The drain outside Mr Northams property at 1 Park View Lower Road has not been cleared out. The clerk will report this to Clarence.

The council would also like a response to their request for information on the resurfacing of the entrances to the village on the B3098.

Cllr Jonik agreed to get copies of the map of the village so that issues can be marked on them and sent to highways so they know exactly where the problems are.

23/11 Correspondence

Request for grant from Three Villages Minibus

The Parish Council resolved to award the Three villages Minibus £25 from this year’s budget as it is a service used by residents of the village.

Proposed Cllr Pinnington **Seconded** Cllr Gilbert All in favour
Clerks and Councils Direct, WALC Newsletters January and February, Info from Volunteer Centre Wiltshire, Fields in Trust

24/11 To confirm the Financial Statement for January & accounts for payment

The accounts for January were accepted and the following approved for payment:

Mrs A Whittle – Hours & Exp Feb - £186.18 HM Customs & Excise – PAYE month 11 - £44.40
Viking Direct – Stationary - £149.74 3 Villages Minibus – donation - £25.00

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

25/11 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Oram reported that the fence between the park play area and the Hamptons land needs repairing. Cllr Gilbert agreed to purchase the wood as required and to repair the fence.

The meeting closed at 9.06pm.

The next meeting, Wednesday 23rd March 2011 at 7.15pm in the Village Church.