

MINUTES OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church 15th June 2011 at 7.15pm

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

Open Forum:

Lise Griffiths – Good Neighbour Co-Ordinator. Lise came to update the council on the progress of the programme. She reported that she had made 24 new contacts across the area, 9 home visits where she talked about general needs. She had referred a new contact to the social care team to see if they could get a grant to improve the access to their bathroom. She has helped people contact the 4 village's link re hospital appointments etc. People seem to be finding out via leaflets through the door or at a group, notices in parish magazines but most importantly by word of mouth. A coffee morning was held in the church on the 14th of June and thanks go to Doreen, Chris and heather for all their hard work.

George Phillips. George passed his congratulations to the clerk for getting the minutes from the last meeting out within a week. He then advised the village of various concerns he had about footpaths, hedges and the Secret garden.

Andy Rogers – Erlestoke Prison Governor. Andy apologised for not having attended any recent meetings. He asked if there were any concerns for him to take away. Thanks to the village for putting up with the heavy vehicles going through the village. The 23rd of July will see the handover of the new facilities to the prison and the prisoners will return by the end of August. Cllr Loraine Smith asked if the Southern Electric contractors could be asked to slow down when using Lower Road. Andy was also asked to contact highways about getting the verge cutback outside the prison boundary. Andy explained that the prisoners will be growing their own vegetables on the site to save money. There is also the possibility of a shop on site which could include items normally stocked by a village shop. Andy advertised the charity lock in taking place on the 30th of July in the new unit. More details are available from the prison.

64/11 Apologies – were received from Cllr Pinnington and Cllr Gamble

65/11 Declaration of Interest – no declarations were made.

66/11 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 4th May 2011

The minutes for the 4th of May were accepted after the following amendments:

Item 62/11 should read: The council confirmed the statements for March and April and confirmed the following payments. Mrs A Whittle – Hours/Expenses - £202.63, HM Customs & Excise – PAYE month 2 - £44.41, WALC membership - £68.83, Community First – Insurance - £671.40

Proposed: **Cllr Loraine-Smith** Seconded: **Cllr Gilbert** All in favour

67/11 Election of Vice Chairman

Following requests for proposals for Vice Chairman, Cllr Dean Moore was elected as Vice Chairman for 2011/12.

Proposed: **Cllr Oram** Seconded: **Cllr Jonik** All in favour

68/11 Appointment of representatives 11/12 – Appointments were made as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Footpaths | Cllrs Gilbert and Oram |
| Police Liaison | Cllr Jonik |
| HM Prison Erlestoke | Cllrs Pinnington and Lewcock |
| MOD | Cllrs Loraine-Smith and Moore |
| Website | Cllr Jonik |
| Parish Steward | Cllrs Loraine-Smith and Oram |
| Cluster Group | Cllrs Moore |
| Budget Group | Cllrs Pinnington, Jonik, Lewcock & the clerk |
| General Liaison Officer | Cllr Lewcock |
| Devizes Area Board | Appointed for each meeting |

69/11 Wiltshire Council – Cllr Richard Gamble – not present

70/11 Devizes Area Board update – Cllr Jonik –

Next meeting 18th July 7pm at Lavington School.

The clerk advised that the minutes of the last meeting were in the circulation file for reading. The following are some extracts from the minutes. Councillor Laura Mayes was elected Chairman of the Devizes Area Board for the 2011/12 forthcoming year. Councillor Jane Burton was elected Vice-

Chairman of the Devizes Area Board for the 2011/12 forthcoming year. Transport to Denominational Schools. The Chairman considered the issue of transport to denominational Schools as an urgent item of business. This was because Wiltshire Council proposed change to its transport to denominational schools policy and an important meeting on this issue was forthcoming. Funding transport to primary and secondary denominational schools had taken place by Wiltshire Council in partnership with the church concerned. In this tight economic time, all non statutory funding was under review. The proposal was to cease this funding in September 2012, though transport for pupils from low income families would continue and Wiltshire Council would offer support to schools providing their own transport. Concern was raised that consultation with the community had not been sufficient. A letter had been written to head teachers and the parents of pupils who would be affected notifying them of the proposal. A second letter had explained that the issue would be considered at a Cabinet meeting to be held on 26 July and there would be the opportunity for members of the public to comment on the proposal. Councillor Gamble commented that while proposed change such as this was bound to be unwelcome news, the process had been deemed as fair by the local authority ombudsman. Cabinet Representative - Councillor Stuart Wheeler provided a short overview of his role as Cabinet Member for Campus Development and Culture, including Leisure, Sport and Libraries. His main role was the launch of eight campus projects in the county. The intention of the new campuses would be to bring facilities and services together into one modern building. This would be more efficient and generate cost savings. Councillor Wheeler also spoke about the Women of Wiltshire (WoW) scheme to encourage women to become more active in the county. This was because women exercise proportionally less than men in the same age group. Councillor Wheeler's overview was followed by a short question and answer session. This included the following: Concerns were raised regarding the closure of Devizes Tourist Information Centre - 'Visit Wiltshire' had been created to attract visitors to the county, often from overseas. Tourist Information Centres had been found to cater mostly for people already within the county. Concern was raised regarding the capital cost of moving facilities and services into one building - some of the old buildings were not fit for purpose and new buildings would be less expensive to build and run. Capital receipts from the sale of old buildings would go into the budget for the new buildings. A letter had been received by Wiltshire Heritage Museum regarding the pay back of rate relief. Councillor Wheeler was aware of the issue and working to resolve it.

71/11 Big Society and the Localism Bill – report from seminar 7th April – Cllr Moore

Cllr Moore gave a short resume of the meeting he attended re the Localism Bill. He feels that the bill is a lot of philosophy and policies around it. It introduces local referendums that can be called by 5% of the population but the council executive can refuse them. It seems to give contradictory messages. Planning – the old development plan is still in operation until a new document is bought together. The parish Council need to think about and consult the wider community as to whether they would want extra housing in the village or local area. The consensus of opinion is that Erlestoke is in favour of new building in the village. In the existing plan Great Cheverell is listed as an area for large scale new development which they do not want.

72/11 Audit 2010/11

The clerk presented the formal audit papers for acceptance by the council before being sent to Mazars LLP, the external auditors.

The council resolved to accept the figures as presented

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

73/11 Signs for the Secret Garden and Car park (The Park) – to receive quotes

The clerk had only received 1 quote for the Car park signs from the 3 that she had asked for and the council resolved to accept this so that a sign could be installed as soon as possible. The quote was for £124.90 plus Vat from Enterprise works in Swindon.

Proposed: **Cllr Gilbert** Seconded: **Cllr Moore** All in favour

Due to the recent incident of a large fire being lit at the Secret Garden, the clerk felt the council should review its wording decision before she applied for any further quotes. After discussion it was resolved to amend the sign to read as follows: Owned by the village of Erlestoke, Managed by Erlestoke Parish Council for the use of the community of Erlestoke. Please leave the Secret garden as you find it. No fires without permission of the Parish Council. Erlestoke Parish Council accepts no responsibility for any loss or personal injury suffered whilst on the Secret Garden.

Proposed: **Cllr Moore** Seconded: **Cllr Oram** All in favour

The clerk will now seek 3 quotes and present at an extra ordinary meeting of the council on the 29th of June.

74/11 Highways issues to include Parish Steward visit 21st June and 7th July

The clerk was asked to advise the following issues for the Parish Steward

1. Weeds on Lower Road along edge of the wall
2. Could he assess all hedges next to pavements and footpaths

Cllr Jonik had talked to Cllr gamble regarding the condition of the B3098. It was pointed out that the entrance to the Park is very bad as is the condition of the church wall. Stones are falling from the wall into the highway. The clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the church and highways.

75/11 White fencing at entrances to the village – request from Annual Parish Meeting

This was postponed until the next meeting.

76/11 New Erlestoke name Signs at the entrances to the village

Before any further discussion takes place the clerk was asked to find out the average cost of new village name signs. She will contact Edington Parish Council to ask what their signs had cost.

77/11 Church request to erect a marquee in the park for the church event on the 25th June.

The council resolved to allow the request.

Proposed: **Cllr Gilbert** Seconded: **Cllr Moore** All in favour

78/11 to consider items of Correspondence

Circulation file

WALC newsletter May and June, The Wiltshire Bobby Van newsletter, Clerks and Councils Direct, Devizes Police – Neighbourhood News, Wiltshire Council – letter confirming permission to remove a dying walnut tree from the garden of 28 High Street

79/11 to confirm the Financial Statement for May & accounts for payment

The council resolved to accept the financial statement for May and the following for payment:

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|--|---|
| Mrs A Whittle – Hours/Expenses - £202.64 | HM Customs & Excise – PAYE month 3 - £44.40 |
| Mrs A Whittle – Hours/Expenses - £202.64 | HM Customs & Excise – PAYE month 4 - £44.40 |
| W Smith – Internal Audit 10/11 - £50.00 | Community First – Membership - £36.00 |
| Viking Direct – Stationery - £41.53 | |

Proposed: **Cllr Oram** Seconded: **Cllr Jonik** All in favour

80/11 to receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Jonik explained to the council the recent problem of youths lighting a bonfire at the Secret garden.

The clerk was asked to put a notice up regarding the removal and disposal of ragwort.

The number for Salisbury Plain operations is 01980 674951 and Plain Watch is 01980 674700.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**The next meetings,
Thursday 28th July,
Wednesday 7th September
and Wednesday 19th October
at 7.15pm
in the Village Church.**