

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in the Parish Church 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 7.15pm**

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

**Open Forum:**

**G Phillips.** Mr Phillips brought forward the following amendments required to the minutes of the 28<sup>th</sup> of July: Open forum last two lines should read: "fixed and footpath 6 now has hedges cut back on both sides by Esther Daly's contractors. Mr Jones asked for his letter received by the council to be placed on the next agenda and 95/11 and 96/11 should end with "The clerk will send a letter in response".

He expressed his concern regarding the barrel drain and the ground works required by Scottish and Southern electric in moving the electricity sub station.

He commented that if anyone rings the Clarence number 0800 232323 from a mobile phone they get Edinburgh Council instead. Please only ring Clarence from a land line.

**Mr Gilbert** reported that 16 tyres had been dumped on Stoke Hill but Wiltshire Council had cleared them away within 3 hours of him reporting the tyres having being dumped.

**PC Milne** introduced himself to the Parish Council and commented that he had grown up in the village. He noted changes in the Wiltshire Police response teams advising that as of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October there would be various hubs around the county where response officers will be based and deployed from. The 0845 408 7000 non emergency number is changing to 101. He advised of the emergency services road show on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. **Mr Loraine Smith** advised of the incidents of rural crime being on the increase and advised about the theft of 3 clay pigeon traps from Barbury Clay shoot. Pc Milne said that unfortunately rural crime is on the increase and detection rates are low due to the nature of the crimes. **Mr Lewcock** spoke about the speed and volume of traffic through the village as being a major concern to all the residents. 30 or so children have to be bussed to school from the village and the most treacherous part of their journey is walking to the bus stop in the mornings. The problem is exacerbated by large heavy traffic and farm vehicles trying to negotiate the B3098. Pc Milne noted his concerns and said he would visit the village as often as possible to view the situation. Finally PC Milne advised of discussions he had recently had with residents from The Park regarding the speed of vehicles entering and exiting the area. He had advised various options, sleeping policemen installed on the road, fencing off the Park area so children can't run out onto the road.

**100/11 Apologies** – were received from Cllr Gamble.

**101/11 Declaration of Interest** – No declarations were made.

**102/11 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2011**

The minutes from the 28th of July were accepted after the following amendments:

Open forum last two lines should read:

"fixed and footpath 6 now has hedges cut back on both sides by Esther Daly's contractors.

Mr Jones asked for his letter received by the council to be placed on the next agenda.

95/11 and 96/11 should end with "The clerk will send a letter in response".

**Proposed** Cllr Moore **Seconded** Cllr Gilbert All in Favour

**103/11 Planning**

**E/2011/0997/TCA** – 60 High Street – remove one apple and one Pear tree

No Comment

**Proposed** Cllr Gilbert **Seconded** Cllr Moore All in Favour

**E/2011/1138/TCA** – 52 High Street – Works to trees to consist of the crown reduction of three silver birch trees by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>, the crown raising of a willow tree to allow passage underneath and to allow light in and the felling of a cherry plum tree and a lilac.

**Proposed** Cllr Gilbert **Seconded** Cllr Moore All in Favour

**104/11 Wiltshire Council – Cllr Richard Gamble – Not Present**

Cllr Gamble could not be present at this meeting but sent a brief report as follows:

I must report one item that may be of interest. Traffic Regulation Orders for 50 mph speed limits on the B3098 on either side of the village will be published in October with a view to implementation in January 2012. I hope that is welcome news!

The clerk was asked to email with the following request: Could Cllr gamble please give a full update on the speed limit reviews in the area and can the village do anything to help lower the speed limits. Why is the speed limit in all villages not 20 and the council feels that 40mph would have been a safer option for the B3098 than the proposed 50mph.

The clerk was asked to place this issue on the October agenda.

**105/11 Prison update – Andy Rogers Prison Governor – Not Present**

The clerk was asked to contact the prison regarding having the Schumach trees cut back on the Prisons bank alongside the B3098 towards Great Cheverell.

**106/11 Devizes Area Board – next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2011 at Devizes Bowls Club from 7pm**

Cllrs Jonik and Moore will attend.

**107/11 Highways issues to include Parish Steward tasks**

It seems the steward did not turn up in the village for the last planned visit hence no tasks were undertaken or completed. The clerk was asked to find out what had happened and to bring the previous issues forward for his next visit.

**108/11 Request for White fencing at entrances to the village and New Erlestoke name Signs**

After discussion it was decided that all Councillors would look into the subject of Speed Indication devices for the village and bring to the next meeting. The clerk will continue to arrange a site meeting with Wiltshire Highways to discuss the option of white gates at the entrances to the village. Cllr Jonik had received a number of submissions for the Village Name Signs and they will be circulated in the file and the item placed on the next agenda.

**109/11 Possible Memorial to Roger Hampton**

The clerk advised that until she had received a reply to her recent letter to the Rev Graham Southgate the item could not be discussed further. She will place this on the next agenda.

**110/11 Clerks Report**

**Sub station.** I have written as requested to Geoff Roberts in reply to his letter. I have asked him to attend the October meeting to advise the council further on the programme of works etc. The wording of my letter was as follows: The council are happy to accept the scheme as presented but would like a condition added that any damage to the site will be reinstated by SSE Power Distribution at cost to SSE. During discussions on site some time ago the installation of a light to make the car park safer was put forward as something that could be done at the same time as the sub station being installed. Could you please advise if this could be undertaken by SSE? The council would also advise that the barrel drain is installed in the area of the proposed installation and request that any damage to this and the surrounding area be made good by SSE. Could you advise of a time scale for starting the project as a Pink chestnut tree needs to be moved by the Parish Council before the work commences. Finally the Parish Council would like to invite you to the next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October to explain the degree of works expected and the time scale.

**Community Payback.** I had a site meeting in Bratton on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July with Lynn Young from Community Payback (what was community service). She has agreed that Erlestoke can request for teams of offenders to visit the site to undertake large scale tasks such as brush clearing in the Secret Garden. They bus the offenders to site with supervisors and toilet facilities are supplied via porta loos on any site they are working on as necessary.

**B3098 surface and white gates at the entrances to the village.** I have tried to speak to Paul Bollen this week without success. I have now written to him asking for an urgent update on the scheduled date for the repairs to the B3098 through the village. If I receive no reply by the 16<sup>th</sup> of September I will write to his superior. My letter also asked him to contact me to arrange a site meeting to discuss the effectiveness of the white gates as seen in some local villages and whether this is an option for Erlestoke.

**Play area sign – The Park.** I have written to Wiltshire highways advising that the council wants the play area sign moved from its existing site outside the rear of the Lodge to the opposite side of the Park Road and that the Parish Council gives its permission for the sign to be placed on its land. I also advised that the council feels that the sign is ineffective in its present location and would be seen better on the other side of the road.

**Apologies.** I have been away from the office for two weeks and have realized that I haven't sent the letter as requested to Mr Sandford and the helpers who prepared the church for Rogers Funeral. I will send this tomorrow.

**111/11 To consider items of Correspondence**

WALC newsletter August 2011

Wiltshire Police – new non emergency number from 19<sup>th</sup> September: 101

Wiltshire Police – the emergency services show – 11<sup>th</sup> September Hullavington Airfield

Clerk and Councils Direct – September 2011

Letter to Wiltshire Council from R A Jones – the council agreed to pass this to Cllr Gamble at the next meeting.

**112/11 To confirm the Financial Statement for July and August & accounts for payment**

Mrs A Whittle – Hours & Exp Sept - £202.64

HM Customs & Excise – PAYE month 6 - £44.40

S Jonik – Web site fees - £43.20

Mazars LLP – External Audit - £144.00

Eurosigns – Car park and Secret Garden signs - £152.02

**113/11 To discuss moving excess monies into a savings account.**

The clerk was asked to look further into the possibility of placing a lump sum into a high interest savings account. She advised that she would ask Lloyds TSB first as the council already banks with them.

**114/11 To receive reports from Village Representatives**

**Cllr Pinnington** advised of a precariously angled tree on the MOD bank along the B3098 on exiting the village towards Westbury. He is concerned about the tree falling into the road.

**Cllr Gilbert** commented on the footpath over the golf course stating that Esther Daly must have employed her team to clear the path and the neighbour has put up a fence.

**Cllr Lewcock** advised that Fiona Frise has set up a "Fun Committee" and the first event is a Sausage Sizzle being held this Saturday from 12noon until 2pm on the Park Field.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

**The next meeting,  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October  
at 7.15pm  
in the Village Church.**