

MINUTES OF
THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church Wednesday 8th August 2012 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr D Moore (Vice-Chairman), Mr. A. Pinnington, Mrs. D. Oram and Mrs A Whittle (Clerk)

Open Forum:

Police – PCSO Oliver Nash gave a report. Having checked the system there have been 8 recorded incidents around Erlestoke, 6 were prison related, 1 was related to the Secret Garden and 1 was a minor incident at Erlestoke Golf Club. There has been an increase in beauty spot thefts and farmers should contact 101 if they have any concerns about theft of fuel.

With regards to the incidents at the prison it was confirmed that they were mainly issues within the prison not around its boundary. Cllr Jonik explained about the meeting that he had recently attended at the prison where it was thought that residents in Erlestoke could call in any suspicious persons who are around the boundary of the Prison. He explained the concerns of reprisals from reporting any issues.

Mr G Phillips – Mr Phillips advised the meeting of the incident at the Secret Garden which had involved him. He said that 13 cars had parked on the Secret Garden and how could a responsible Parish Council allow cars to park on the Secret Garden. Cllr Jonik responded on behalf of the Parish Council. Minutes – line 5 of the open forum report should read: "saying no parking. Gravel from some driveways is spilling onto the pavements in the High Street"; and 79/12 should read "crumbling church boundary wall".

Mr S Jonik addressed the council as follows:

As chairman of the Parish Council, over the years I have been subject to numerous insults, accusations and threats. These are usually by single minded people who never see other people's views. However I have received threats recently by people who I would not normally place as this type, it just goes to show you can never tell. I say this because it leads me to make a statement to be recorded in these minutes for future reference.

The secret garden is a beautiful area used by the residents of Erlestoke and surrounding villages. I have always thought of it as a positive resource and something we should cherish. What I have never considered until the last two weeks is what might happen if we sold, released, or gifted the secret garden to another owner. It becomes apparent that the village residents would not have automatic access to the woodland and lakes south of Erlestoke let alone access to the picnic area in the secret garden. In effect this could end up as a private no go area for the village residents with a private road. For this reason it is important to redefine the use of the secret garden and dare I say it the rules of engagement so everybody knows where we stand, and this will be done as soon as possible.

84/12 Apologies - Apologies were received from Cllr Lewcock.

85/12 Declaration of Interest - No declarations were made.

86/12 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 27th June 2012

The minutes of the meeting on the 27th June were accepted after the following amendments:

– line 5 of the open forum report should read: "saying no parking. Gravel from some driveways is spilling onto the pavements in the High Street"; and 79/12 should read "crumbling church boundary wall".

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

87/12 Parish Councillor Vacancies – application received

The clerk had received a letter of introduction from James Durham of Erlestoke. After discussion it was resolved to co-opt James as a new Parish Councillor for Erlestoke Parish Council.

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

88/12 Planning

Decisions Received from Wiltshire Council

E/2012/0619/FUL – Dogwood farm (Formerly South Farm) Erection of agricultural building to be used for storage of machinery, fertilizer hay and straw – Approved

E/2012/0737/FUL – 60 High Street – single storey side and rear extension, erection of detached garage with studio over, creation of timber walkway - Approved

Applications to discuss

E/2012/0878/FUL – Pudnell Cottage Pudnell Lane – Demolition of single garage and erection of single storey side extension

No Objection

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

89/12 Wiltshire Council Report – Cllr Gamble

Cllr Gamble explained he had little to report. Great Cheverell are very interested in keeping the 20mph speed restriction and to try and direct the heavy vehicles away from the B3098. The next area board meeting is on the 24th of September and its main topic will be a transport strategy for Devizes.

90/12 Prison update.

Cllr Jonik explained that he had written to Claire Perry MP regarding the village’s issues with the prison boundary etc. The clerk read out her reply as follows:

I do appreciate your concerns and I am pleased to read you are already in contact with Cllr Richard Gamble on this matter. As you may know, in my role as a Member of Parliament, my ability to influence matters such as this which lie in the hands of the local authority is limited. Nevertheless, I have written to Mandy Bradley, Service Director for Public Protection and Community Safety at Wiltshire Council, attaching your correspondence and asking for her comments on this matter. I will of course inform you as soon as I receive a response. In the meantime please do not hesitate to get in touch about any other matter.

It was suggested that the council write to Ken Clarke MP for his view on the matter. Cllr Gamble agreed to write to Mandy Bradley and Andy Rogers to suggest a meeting to discuss the village’s issues.

91/12 Devizes Area Board update

The next meeting is on 24th September 2012 at 7pm at Lavington School

92/12 New Code of Conduct

The clerk explained that as the council had accepted the new code of conduct at the last meeting, each Councillor now had to complete a new declaration of interest form on the Wiltshire Council website. She gave out the log on details to each councillor. Cllr Oram explained she had arranged for a paper copy to be sent to her for completion.

93/12 Highways issues including Parish Steward visits 9th August, 4th & 26th Sept

Cllr Pinnington advised that the weeds along Lower Road have been removed.

94/12 Secret Garden Issues

The Chairman addressed the council.

Proposal for parking in the secret garden:

The secret garden will be divided to produce a clear picnic area to the east side or right hand side of the main entrance, and a public parking area for users who pursue recreational activity to the west or left side of the main entrance between dawn and dusk.

Proposal for installing a bench in the secret garden:

Use Dave Seabourne to build a bench and seating in the secret garden using the felled trees where possible.

Proposal for clearing the felled trees in the secret garden:

Use Dave Seabourne to log up the remainder of the trees place in suitable piles and auction the log piles at the earliest convenience. The money goes back to the council funds.

The quote received from Dave Seabourne is to clean up the trees, chop into chunks that can be sold - £150, to make a slab table and benches - £300, to make bollards from felled wood - £75, total £525.00.

Cllr Jonik’s proposal was accepted as presented

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

Cllr Jonik will liaise with Dave Seabourne and write to the interested parties regarding the future use of the Secret Garden.

It was also agreed that the cost of replacing the fence around the MOD Land would be investigated for the next council meeting.

95/12 Issue of Church Boundary Wall

The clerk was asked to email Mrs E Kemp to ask her to keep the council up to date on the issue of the repairs required to the wall.

96/12 Trees felled in the Secret Garden

After discussion it was agreed to pay the contractor who felled the trees.

97/12 Resurfacing of rubber matting under the swings in the Play Area – quotes received

The clerk had spent some time recently obtaining quotes for the repairs to the matting under the large swings. Both companies who attended the site couldn't understand why the work was being undertaken as they had seen far worse areas and they advised the clerk to review the play area report.

Having reviewed the report, which gave the matting as very low risk and in view of the cost of repairing or replacing it at between £2500 and £5500, the council resolved to defer any decision on replacing etc until after the next play area inspection in September.

98/12 Litter bin in the bus shelter – to discuss removal or paying Wiltshire Council to empty it.

It was resolved to remove the bin

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

99/12 Ongoing matters

Moving of play area sign

The sign will be moved in September once Mark Stansby has returned from leave.

White Gates

I have ascertained that the approximate cost for a pair of white gates made out of wood is £600. The council would need to purchase 2 sets if not 3. A grant could be applied for from Devizes Area Board but the council would have to put up half the cost i.e. £600 to install 2 sets and £900 to install 3. How does the council want to proceed?

The council have looked into the cost of purchasing and installing 3 sets of White Gates.

Unfortunately the council is not in a position to fund this at present but the council is looking into all other traffic calming options

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

Erlestoke Name signs

These will be installed as soon as the 50mph comes into effect in the near future.

The Water House

I have written again to Mr Johnson at Stokes Marsh Farm enclosing a copy of a letter sent in November 2010. I have asked for someone from the family to contact Cllr Jonik re the ongoing situation and for the supply of a key to the building. The residents on either side of the building have cut the ivy at the roots which has now died. The clerk has also found possible evidence of the ownership of the building by the Hampton family.

Moles in Park Field

The clerk will contact the Mole Man.

Blocked sludge pit in the Park Area

100/12 To confirm the Financial Statement for June and July & accounts for payment

The financial statement for June and July was accepted that the following approved for payment.

Mrs A Whittle – Hours & Exp - £422.36 HM Customs and Excise – PAYE month 5&6 - £88.80

Miles and Francis – Grass Cutting - £395.00 Acer Tree Surgeons – tree felling - £96.00

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

The clerk was asked to find out the cost for next years grass cutting from Bob Miles.

101/12 To receive reports from Village Representatives - None

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

The next meetings,

Wednesday 26th September 2012 at 7.15pm in the Village Church

Wednesday 31st October 2012 at 7.15pm in the Village Church

Erlestoke Village website – www.erlestoke.org