

**MINUTES OF**  
**THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Held in the Parish Church Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.15pm**

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

**Open Forum:**

**Police Report:**

I would like to bring to your attention that over the last week we have taken several reports of theft from motor vehicles in Potterne and Worton and theft of heating oil also from Worton. There have also been non dwelling burglaries occurring in our area and in particular to outbuildings in Potterne and at West Lavington Manor where 3 sheds were broken into. I think it comes as a timely reminder to reiterate some crime prevention advise. Everyone should remain vigilant and alert and if you notice anything you think is suspicious please don't hesitate to contact us. Officer's would much rather send a patrol unit to an area and make checks and there be no cause for concern rather than the next day take a report of a crime. Non Dwelling Burglaries - Continue to check the security of outbuildings and sheds. If you have security lighting with motion sensors, alarms or even personal CCTV it is good practice to make sure that these are in good working order and used. Good strong padlocks on fold over latches so screws are concealed are useful. It is often worth replacing screws with nut and bolts. Keep photo's and serial numbers of any equipment including bikes and where possible security mark. Vehicle Crime - Always keep your car locked. This includes closing the sunroof and windows, even if you leave it for a few seconds. Don't leave anything in your car or on display particularly when it's parked overnight. Never leave documents or spare keys inside the car or your keys in the ignition, not even in a garage when paying for fuel. When you're driving, keep doors locked and windows up, especially in slow moving traffic. Keep bags and mobile phones out of view. A thief can lean in and steal what's on your passenger seat in the time it takes for a red light to turn green. Park in a busy well-lit area and if possible near to CCTV cameras. Always chain bikes, motorbikes and scooters to something fixed like security rails. If anyone is interested I have several more of the shed alarms on sale from The Bobby Van Trust at £6 per item. I also have several permanent UV marker pens, although I do not have these for sale they are very cheap to pick up, and if needs be it may be possible for us to security mark property. It is usual to security mark with the pens using your postcode and house name or number. We will continue to patrol the area and keep you updated. If you need to contact a member of the team please either email Olly, Pete or I or call us on 101.

**Mr G Phillips addressed the council as follows:**

The agenda does not appear to be on the website. The donated seat by the church railings has been placed on church land so they should have been asked before it was fitted. A resident of the village has claimed a right of way across the secret garden.

**17/13 Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllr Durham.

**18/13 Declaration of Interest** – No declarations of interest where made.

**19/13 To approve the minutes of the meeting held 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013**

The minutes were accepted as presented.

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

**20/13 Wiltshire Council Report – Cllr Gamble**

The idea that there could be a formal road crossing in the village as not reached a solution as yet. This is something to review after the May elections. The area board still have £1200 to spend. With the election coming up he will not be able to attend any parish council meetings or the annual parish meeting in April.

**21/13 Devizes Area Board**

Cllr Moore attended the area board meeting which was attended by the New Police Commissioner Angus MacPherson and Cllr Jane Scott.

**22/13 County and Parish Council Election of Councillors – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013**

The clerk advised that the Parish Council and Wiltshire Council elections take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2013. The notice of election will be put up on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March giving details of where to obtain a nomination pack.

**23/13 Planning - Application for comment**

**E/2013/0058/FUL and E/2013/0067/LBC – 4 Park View Cottages** – replacement of single storey side and rear extension with part single/part two storey extensions

**No objections but provision for off road parking would be a benefit to the area.**

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

**24/13 Making it safer for the school children to cross the B3098 in order to catch or alight from the school bus** - follow on including installation of sign on boundary wall of The Lodge

The new sign has been installed and the addition of a saying children crossing is to be made.

**25/13 Prison update** – None other than Cllr Pinnington is due to attend a meeting.

**26/13 Highways issues including Parish Steward**

Could the clerk please write to highways to ask if the 30mph signs could be moved further out of the village on all roads.

The clerk was asked to notify the police of a vehicle which regularly parks on the High Street blocking the pavement and encroaching on the highway. The clerk was also asked to write to the vehicle owner and Aster Housing

**27/13 Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April from 7.30pm in the village church.

**28/13 Secret Garden** – MOD re garden road, New disclaimer sign.

MOD Garden Road

A draft letter had been circulated to all the councillors prior to this meeting regarding the purchase of the Garden Road by the Erlestoke and Coulston cricket club. After lengthy discussion the wording of the letter was agreed upon as follows:

For some time the Parish Council of the small community of Erlestoke in Wiltshire have been aware of the possibility of the sale of the 'walled garden', currently on MOD land, to the Erlestoke Cricket Club who have been leasing it for a number of years.

The walled garden is within the Erlestoke Parish boundary and adjacent to a plot of land called locally 'the secret garden'. This plot of land is owned by the Parish council and access is via the same road that leads to the walled garden. The secret garden is a valuable community asset and was originally purchased by Wiltshire Council as a location for a new village school and then purchased by the Parish Council through donations and grants as a local amenity with full vehicular access over the garden road which is still in the ownership of the MOD.

We wish to confirm that we have no problem with the sale of the walled garden to the cricket club. We all consider the cricket club a major asset to the local community and we wish them well and support them with their purchase.

However it became clear that the sale of the land to the cricket club might also including the shared access road. Regretfully the Parish council and owners of the secret garden, have not been informed about any of the negotiations and attempts to clarify the situation have been ignored.

[We have been advised verbally that we have no rights in this situation]

It is of great concern to the Parish council that access to our private land is being sold without consultation or notification to the Parish Council. In addition it would appear that the views of the owners of the private properties that border the access road have not been taken into account.

It would also appear that the land in front of the entrance to the secret garden is also being included in the sale to the cricket club. This land is used by visitors to the beautiful woods adjacent to the walled and secret garden.

We wish to raise very serious concerns about the process, lack of consultation and manner in which this is being dealt with. We would expect sale of MOD land to be an open and well managed process and the interest of the public and local community taken into account. The treasury guidelines regarding selling land and property requires you to obtain the best price reasonably obtainable and later paragraphs refer to "open competition". After studying "The Defence Infrastructure Interim Land and Property Disposal Strategy" we conclude that as the shared road was not part of the walled garden/cricket field area and the council knows that the MOD is aware that the Erlestoke Parish Council owns land up to this road, we assumed that the MOD would only sell this road after consultation with all parties or that the MOD would adhere to treasury guidelines and go to open competition.

We would request that the sale of the access road and land leading to the secret garden be postponed until such time as we consult on both the wisdom and legality of the process and

evaluate the impact on the value and any future plans for the secret garden that the sale of the road might have.

As we have not been made aware of the timescale for the transfer of ownership we would request an immediate reply. If this is not forthcoming we will apply for a High Court Injunction to delay the sale.

It was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would now deal with all correspondence regarding the garden road issue.

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

Disclaimer signs.

The clerk is in the process of purchasing this along with the plaque for Rogers tree.

### **29/13 MOD wood adjacent to the Secret Garden – possible purchase**

### **30/13 Ongoing matters**

#### **Play Area Sign re-siting adjacent to The Park Road,**

I have chased this with Wiltshire Council, who advised that they haven't had a team available to undertake the job due to the roads issues after the recent bad weather. They should be able to get a team out within the next 2 weeks.

#### **Moles in the Park Field,**

Ongoing

#### **Grant application,**

Application is with the Area Board for approval as soon as possible.

#### **Emptying of the sludge pit on the park field,**

Due to the wetness of the ground I am only now asking for quotes as the work could not be undertaken while the ground was sodden. I have three companies to get quotes from in time for next months meeting.

#### **How to utilise parish council land between the car park behind the church and the boundary with the B3098,**

Awaiting reply from the church re its views on the suggestion for allotments.

#### **Replacement of the old goal post on the Park Field,**

Ongoing

#### **Plaque for Rogers tree,**

I will endeavour to purchase the plaque before the next meeting.

#### **Donation of a wooden seat**

Installed by Mr Sandford.

### **31/13 Correspondence** Devizes Food Bank AGM – 12<sup>th</sup> March, Bobby Van News

Wessex Water re 1-15 the Park Stop taps – the clerk was asked to write back to Wessex Water Stating that the councils understanding is that water services include a stop cock outside the property.

### **32/13 To confirm the Financial Statement for January and February 2013 & accounts for payment**

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses - £261.69 HM Customs and Excise – PAYE month- £44.40  
Erlestoke PCC – Donation to Meeting costs - £150.00 S Jonik – expenses - £23.69

### **33/13 To receive reports from Village Representatives**

Cllr Moore reported the problem of dog fouling on the park field and the clerk said she would provide more signs to put up.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

#### **The next meeting**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
All meetings start at 7.15pm and are held in the village church.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

Starting at 7.30pm in the village church  
More details to follow

**Erlestoke Village website – [www.erlestoke.org](http://www.erlestoke.org)**