

**Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 18th April 2012
at 7:30 p.m. in the village Church**

Present Cllr. S. Jonik (Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council), Anita Whittle (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 12 parishioners were in attendance.

49/12 Welcome by Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council

50/12 Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs Chris Hampton.

51/12 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2011:

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: Mr G Phillips **Seconded:** Mrs E Kemp **All in favour**

52/12 Parish Council Accounts – Parish Clerk

<u>2010/11</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012</u>	<u>2011/12</u>
-	EVERY DAY MONIES	-
1519.45	OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2011	1299.87
4747.71	ADD RECEIPTS	5414.86
4967.29	DEDUCT PAYMENTS	5415.92
1299.87	CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012	1298.81
	RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS
	4540.00 PRECEPT	5300.00
	2.85 INTEREST	2.83
	107.50 GRANTS - LITTER GRANT	0.00
	97.36 VAT REFUND	112.03
4747.71	Total	Total 5414.86
	PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS
1304.95	ADMINISTRATION made up as follows:	1269.17
	100.00 AUDIT FEES	100.00
	588.46 INSURANCES	671.40
	36.00 COMMUNITY FIRST MEMBERSHIP	36.00
	7.50 SAFE CUSTODY FEE	0.00
	65.17 WALC MEMBERSHIP	68.83
	42.30 WEBSITE	43.20
	195.39 STATIONERY	70.00
	0.00 COUNCILLOR TRAINING	0.00
	145.13 POSTAGE AND MILEAGE	129.74
	125.00 DONATION TO CHURCH FOR USE FOR MEETINGS	150.00
3093.02	CLERKS WAGES, office & computer allow	3270.35
75.00	GRANTS (Sec 137) made up as follows:	
	25.00 THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS	
	50.00 Xmas party	
	0.00 THE NEWS	
380.00	VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING	790.00
114.32	MAINTENANCE made up as follows:	86.40
	84.61 PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK	86.40
	29.71 PLAY EQUIPMENT SWINGS REFURBISHMENT	
4967.29	Total	Total 5415.92
2686.96	SECTION 106 MONIES AND GRANTS	2402.08
0.00	OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2011	0.00
284.88	ADD RECEIPTS	246.02
2402.08	DEDUCT PAYMENTS	2156.06
	CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2012	
	RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS
0.00	ADD RECEIPTS	Total 0.00
	Total	
	PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS
284.88	ADMINISTRATION	94.00
	NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE PARK AREA	152.02
284.88	Total	Total 246.02
	FUNDS HELD BY ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL AT 31ST MARCH 2012	

1299.87	EVERYDAY MONIES BALANCE AT 31/03/12	1298.81
2402.08	SECTION 106 AND GRANTS BALANCE AT 31/03/12	2156.06
3701.95	TOTAL	3454.87
<u>BANK ACCOUNT</u>		
100.00	TREASURERS ACCOUNT	100.00
3601.95	SAVINGS ACCOUNT	3354.87
3701.95	Total Showing in bank accounts	Total 3454.87
0.00	Unpresented Cheques as at 31.03.12	44.40
3701.95	Total	Total 3410.47

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Proposed: Mr D Moore

Seconded: Mr J Ryan

All in favour

53/12 Wiltshire Council – Cllr Richard Gamble

I think the past year has seen some progress in Erlestoke, and there is still some work to be done. You may agree that the most tangible result in the past 12 months has been resurfacing the road. I hope you also agree that it was a job well done. Despite the fact that the road was closed for through traffic for three days, access to houses and businesses was maintained at almost all times. I don't think the road works were responsible for the broken wall to the church yard. I hope that the smooth new surface has not resulted in traffic speeds through the village increasing too much. We do not currently have plans to reduce the speed limit in the village but formal notices have now been published regarding a reduction in speed on the stretches on either side which are currently the national speed limit, i.e. 60 mph. This will reduce to 50 mph. I think that may be particularly relevant on the eastern side towards Cheverell. Implementation should be sometime later this year. I say there are no plans to reduce the limit in the village. However, you will have noted the 20 mph scheme in Great Cheverell. That has been one of 6 pilot schemes in the county and I believe it has been evaluated as successful. There is a possibility, therefore, that Wiltshire policy may become more favourable towards wider implementation of 20 mph limits in villages (although I cannot speak with authority on this). If so, in my view, there may be some hope for a 20 mph in the village in due course. On another highways matter, a resolution is still to be found to the problem that children face crossing the road by the pub to catch the school bus. That issue is still on the list. One further matter to mention relevant to the village is that the Area Board has offered funds to assist the purchase of the cricket ground in the walled garden. As far as I know, that deal has not yet been done but the money is still on the table. At the community area level, the Area Board seems to be going well. Locally, the A360 is to be resurfaced and we are trying to get high vehicles diverted away from Great and Little Cheverell. In the longer run, that may help in the ambition to reduce HGVs on the B3098. One other matter close to my portfolio is that Wiltshire is making a bid to government to improve rail services and we have managed to get a Devizes station included as an ambition in the draft Core Strategy that is now reaching its final stages. I think preparation of local plans will become an increasing part of the agenda in the months to come. Also at county level, I have to mention the budget for 2012/13. Again council tax has not been raised and we have found ways of saving over £30 million without cutting any essential services. As far as I know, no local authority in the country has done better. A short time ago, for example, Somerset County Council announced that it was cutting £1.5m subsidies to bus services, which will remove almost all non-commercial services. Wiltshire is reducing its bus budget only marginally and no one should lose services completely. The bus services in Erlestoke are, I hope, secure for the time being. Finally, at the constituency level, the principal event of the year was the proposal of the Boundary Commission to take the Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division out of the Devizes constituency and make it part of a new constituency of Warminster & Shaftesbury. This outrageous suggestion was not well received in the area and we did everything possible to express our objection. There were about 100 respondents to the consultation who opposed the idea. No one wrote in support. In addition I also spoke at the public hearing at Bournemouth and 570 people signed the petition which was delivered by Special Delivery to the Boundary Commissions offices. I have to report that they promptly lost it and I had to send a pdf copy which fortunately I had made. I am pleased to say that we had the support of our MP Claire Perry. I am grateful for the support I have received from the Parish Council, which has been regularly represented at Area Board meetings and other public gatherings. The Area Board meets every two months and everyone is invited to attend. The next meeting is on 28 May at the Sports Club in Devizes.

54/12 Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club Report - by Jasper Dorgan and read out by Anita Whittle

The Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club continues to thrive with over 40 adult playing members and 30 Juniors regularly attending weekly training sessions and many non-playing social members continuing to provide their support. The adult club has a full card of Mid-week and weekend fixtures for the 2011 season and our Junior section is now running an Under 11 team which has joined the Kennet Junior Cricket league and looks forward to a full schedule of games throughout the summer. The junior club includes girls as well as boys. This year we were contacted by the MOD with a view to encouraging ECCC to buy the ground and we have been busy negotiating

with the MOD and seeking grant funds to help us support purchase of the free hold. Negotiations are still ongoing at this stage but we hope for a satisfactory conclusion sometime this summer. As well as a successful year on the field the club has enjoyed a full year of inclusive community activity. This included a summer village camp out in the grounds, the bonfire night party, village quizzes and hosting a wide variety of informal villager leisure activities, from picnics and rounders through to grounds hire for other visiting cricket teams. The year has also brought its sadness. Eddie Look was a kind, generous and great supporter of Erlestoke Cricket Club and all that it stood for. He was a President of ECCC and he will be sadly missed by all at the club. Roger Hampton was also a great friend and stalwart of the cricket club and one who was always willing to help out with outfield cutting and grounds tidying. Roger will also be greatly missed. Erlestoke Cricket Club is in sound health both socially and financially and it continues to play an important and respected role at the heart of the Erlestoke village and its neighbouring communities.

55/12 Erlestoke Church Report – read out by Cllr Jonik

Background. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for working within the framework of the Benefice of Bratton, Edington & Imber, Coulston and Erlestoke under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev Dr Graham Southgate (until 24th September 2011) and our Assistant Curate the Rev Malcolm Wieck. We continue to thank Mrs Helen Diskett for her services as Sacristan in preparing the church for services. Our organist, Doreen Smith played for us twice a month (until May 2011). John Swaine plays the organ for Evensong and Chris Hampton uses the "No Organist, No problem" set of CD's for the other services. Membership. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio (Beneficed or Licensed Clergy, Church Wardens and Lay Representatives of the Deanery Synod) or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2011 the following served as members of Erlestoke PCC Vicar The Rev Dr Graham Southgate Chairman, Mrs Chris Hampton Churchwarden and Representative on the Deanery Synod, Elected Members Mrs Audrey Tye secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Kemp Treasurer, Mr Tony Tye, Mrs Helen Diskett, Mrs Veronica Brown, Mr Roger Hampton (until 05/07/11). The following are nominated by the PCC and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education to serve as Foundation Governors of Holy Trinity School, Mrs Annabel Brooks and Mr Simon West. The PCC met five times this year. The PCC organise fund raising events throughout the year to raise funds for church maintenance and parish share. There are 23 parishioners on the electoral roll. Churchyard. We thank Helen Hampton and other volunteers for regularly mowing the churchyard. We have done a topple test check of gravestones. Some of the older kerbed graves are falling into disrepair and will need attention. One stone cross has been laid on the grass for safety. Pattern of Services We have a regular pattern of three Sunday services a month. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the parishes of the Benefice take turns in hosting a United Service. As usual we enjoyed our 10pm Christmas Eve Communion service taken by the Rev Graham Southgate. There are mid-week services and also Saint's Day services in addition to the above. The normal pattern of services for Erlestoke changed in October is as follows: - 1st Sunday of the month no service, 2nd Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion, 3rd Sunday 6.30pm Evensong, 4th Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion. Review of the Year. Collections and Fund Raising. General collections throughout the year amounted to £458. Planned Giving supplied another £3309 with a tax refund of £3149. Fund raising events followed a similar pattern as previous years. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, coffee morning in January, a plant sale in May, strawberry teas in June, a summer tea in July, a barbeque in August, the craft fair in November, also with the Easter and Harvest tube scheme and the Easter and Christmas bingo raised a total of £2348. Our accounts are examined by Mr. William Smith, Barnfield Farm, Erlestoke. Devizes Wiltshire. SN10 5UE. Church Attendance. There were 51 in attendance at our Palm Sunday Pilgrimage service, 31 at the Easter service, 30 at Harvest Thanksgiving, 31 at the Remembrance service, 40 at the carol service and 21 at the Christmas Eve communion. However these are 'special' services and we normally have between 7 and 12 at our regular Sunday services. During the year there was 1 wedding at Holy Saviour and 3 at Christ the Carpenter Chapel (HMP Erlestoke), no baptisms and 2 funerals. We held a short Christingle Service at the end of the Christmas workshop. We hold a monthly benefice children's film night usually with a religious theme including a hot supper attended by 9-17 children + parents. Charitable Giving. **Expenses.** Our Parish share for 2011 was £2889. Our church running expenses were £2154 for insurance, power, organist etc. We pay £27.20 a month share into a Benefice managed fund to pay clergy and benefice expenses. **The Future** The PCC is keen to see a wider use of the building within the community hence our improvement of the facilities at our church. With this first stage of improvements nearly completed we are offering the church as a venue for community functions. Again our PCC has great difficulty in finding new members willing to serve. We are a mostly elderly PCC and 'new blood' would be welcomed as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the energy required to raise funds.

56/12 Lise Griffiths – Good Neighbour Co-ordinator

Lise explained that her job entails helping people find access to resources they may need and that her post is funded by Wiltshire Council but managed by Community First. In Erlestoke she has helped many within the community and she thanked Doreen Oram for helping her promote the service.

57/12 Parish Council Chairman's Report

To start I would like to welcome any new residents to the village, we are a small village with an electoral role of less than 200. I am sure you will see we are active and busy and there are plenty of opportunities for you to get

involved in doing things around the village. We are a currently busy arranging the Queens Diamond Jubilee event for June 2nd and need help so please let us know if you can help. You might be aware that we are two short on the council where Mervyn Gilbert retired after 27 years service, and Richard Loraine Smith who was an active councillor moving out of the village. We have been fortunate in Erlestoke where we have enjoyed a full council for a number of years and we are now actively looking to Co-Op two new councillors and I ask you to consider joining the council, It's a good way of finding out what is going on, also having an input on local issues and it can be fun. Although we are a small parish council our reporting structure is through the Devizes Unitary Council, our local MP and then the Government of the day. This is also an official mechanism for the parish council to receive information from Government on issues that affect us in the village. This can mean attending meetings about every 8 weeks and reporting back to the parish council. Richard Gamble is our representative and one of Richards many rolls is highways and the B3098 is constantly on our agenda. Clearly a massive thanks to Richard for pushing through the surface repair work in the village, this was becoming a safety issue. The other safety issue on the B3098 is the road crossing at the bus stop for the school children. Richard is working on this with the parish council to find a way to make this safer. We have asked for a zebra crossing by the bus shelter, and told we must wait for the speed limit changes to be implemented this will affect the traffic entering the village. Our concern is the children crossing the road for school and even at 30mph this is a dangerous area and needs a controlled crossing point. We were told we must apply to the area board for this and take it through that route. Taking a more general view of council business we are supplied information on such issues as the Big Society and Localism Bill which is designed to start a consultation with local people and organisations, such as councils, to develop a strategy for the development of the Devizes area. We are informed of the new planning structure and rules that affect the development in our area, and we are looking at a Neighbourhood Plan. It was suggested that Parish Councils could work together on these plans which can set out what development the village wants or wishes to see, specifically how many new homes and how (large development or infill) in the coming 50 years, we have reported back to the Unitary Council on our ideas. The Electoral Boundary seems to be a never ending topic. The proposed Electoral Boundary changes for this area would mean Erlestoke being part of a new constituency called Warminster and Shaftesbury instead of being part of the Devizes Constituency. Clearly we oppose the move and have written our concerns to the Boundary Committee. Councillor Gamble has been working on an alternative change to the Boundary Commission with the villages as well You may remember last year we were asked to look into the installation of White Fences as you approach the village. Council business wheels turn very slowly and this is still ongoing. The last response we have had from Wiltshire Council was to match the installation cost if this was approved. We believe this could be £500. Per installation. You might also be aware of the removal of the Erlestoke Sign as you enter the village from Cheverell, this was done without the knowledge of the parish council and when we followed this up we were told that a new sign will be included when the new speed limit signs are installed later in the year and this would be at the village boundary. You will also be aware we had a competition to design new decorative signs as you enter the village. We had a good response and ideas on what this should look like. We were advised to wait until the new speed limit signs are installed before we take this further. The Water House on the high street still requires attention, and I raise this because it is in a state of repair and will involve a number of people on the north side of the village who can benefit from the water supply to do something about it. Unfortunately this is not owned by the council, and we can only highlight the issues. Lisa Griffiths our Erlestoke Good Neighbour Co-Ordinator reported 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. This is an important facility and I urge you all to take notice of her good work she is there to help in a practical and advisory way. PC Nina Marsh is our police officer and we are pleased to report that we don't have any major incidents in Erlestoke. There is a simpler number to call him now just ring 101. Clearly Erlestoke prison being a huge development has an impact on the village. We do have recurring complaints about light pollution towards the village which we believe was planned to be abated by landscaping, installation of fir trees, and directing the lighting towards the prison rather than towards the village. We are in contact with the Prison Governor on these issues and hope they can be resolved shortly. We are very pleased to be able to use the church as a meeting place, and congratulate the PCC for there work over the last year, its good to see Erlestoke has a central meeting place and community centre and we have requested for it to be used as new polling station for the village. Clearly we are all very sad at the passing of Roger Hampton and Eddie Look both had an enormous presence in the village and it's going to be difficult to fill their places. We are looking at planting a tree to commemorate the good work they have done for Erlestoke. I would like to thank all the Councillors and parishioners for their efforts through the year and a special thanks to our Clerk Anita Whittle and our Devizes Area Board Councillor Richard Gamble for the support and hard work they do for the village.

58/12 Village issues –

Mrs Oram reported on the speed of traffic travelling towards Erlestoke from the direction of Market Lavington and discussions took place regarding this issue.

Fiona Morgan-Frise advised that the Village Hall committee are to call a meeting to decide its future.

The meeting closed at 9pm