

MINUTES OF
THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church Wednesday 18th December 2013 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr S Jonik (Chairman), Mr K Lewcock, Mr J Durham, Ms F Morgan-Frise and Mrs A Whittle (Clerk)

Open Forum. Police Report. I would like to draw your attention to, and raise awareness of the following: On the night of 12 December, a number of burglaries occurred. The Royal Oak public house in Easterton was burgled. Cash was stolen from the till, the tip jar and the Christmas draw fund. 'Hair Design' salon in Market Lavington was burgled. Electrical hairdressing equipment was stolen along with a large number of hair products. The Green Dragon Public House in Market Lavington was subjected to an attempted burglary; however it appears that the offenders were unable to gain entry to the premises. In all cases entry was gained, or attempted by forcing open downstairs windows at the properties. Please put the word out amongst your parishes and communities that these offences have occurred and please encourage people who own pubs and small businesses to keep their buildings secure, and wherever possible to consider use of security lights / alarms etc to protect their businesses. We would also like to remind people to keep their homes secure and not to leave downstairs windows open or unlocked at night. These recent offences are being investigated by Police and we would like anyone who may have seen or heard anything suspicious to make contact with us to assist us with our enquiries. Also should anything suspicious be seen on any future occasion, please do report it as by doing so, you may prevent an offence from occurring. It is very unfortunate that these offences have occurred, particularly at this time. We are keen to prevent any further offences of this nature and therefore would like to ask for vigilance from the community in protecting their businesses, securing their homes and reporting any suspicious or criminal activity that they may observe in order to assist us in this.

Apologies, there is no Officer available to attend tonight's Parish Council meeting and again have to provide my update via E-mail. I can confirm that there were 7 reported incidents reported to Police in the Erlestoke area between 01 November and 01 December which included the following; 3 Logs relate to the prison and do not pose any risk to the public. 2 logs relate to reports of sheep in the road. The sheep were chased back into their field by a local PCSO and the farmer secured the field. One report of a single vehicle RTC on 16/11/13 in which a vehicle was rolled. No serious injuries were sustained as a result. This was called in by a member of public and was also called in to Police by the driver's insurance company. The vehicle was fitted with a black box from the insurance company, which had detected that the incident had occurred and had sent a transmission to the insurance company to alert them. They in turn also called the Police.

In light of recent burglaries, please do ensure that business and home owners keep their premises secure and consider use of CCTV, locks, alarms and security lights where possible. We would also like to encourage residents to continue to be vigilant with regards to reporting suspicious / criminal activity.

125/13 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr West, Cllr Moore, Cllr Gamble and The Prison Governor Andy Rogers.

126/13 Declaration of Interest – No declarations of interest were made.

127/13 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th of November 2013

The minutes were accepted as presented

Proposed Cllr Jonik **Seconded** Cllr Durham All in favour

128/13 Planning

Applications for discussion

13/06190/FUL – Stokehill Service Reservoir – Construct a new service reservoir and demolish the existing service reservoir.

No Objection

Proposed Cllr Jonik **Seconded** Cllr Morgan-Frise All in favour

13/06633/TCA – 34 High Street – Crown Raise Acer tree to 2.5m and fell birch tree
No Objection

Proposed Cllr Morgan-Frise **Seconded** Cllr Jonik All in favour

129/13 Safety of school children crossing the B3098

Cllrs Lewcock and Jonik advised that the new signs had been erected warning motorists of the possibility of children crossing the road at the start of the village.

130/13 Highways and Footpath issues to include Parish Steward Tasks.

Cllr Jonik reported that he had undertaken correspondence with Paul Snook from Wiltshire highways regarding the drains outside the Kemps residence in the High Street. It seems that due to the change in contractor the drains are not being cleared as often as previously agreed. Cllr Jonik and Mr Kemp will continue to pressure highways to get them unblocked as soon as possible.

131/13 On-going matters

Emptying of the sludge pit on the park field – Ongoing project to get quotes.

Parking outside Aster properties on the B3098-

The clerk has asked for a site meeting with Aster properties again and Cllr Jonik has spoken to the owner of the vehicle in question. It seems the property in the middle is actually privately owned so moving the bank back might be an issue although the owner is checking her deeds to confirm ownership.

Japanese Knot weed problem in Cows Hollow-

The clerk advised Wiltshire Council again after the last meeting.

SSE Substation renewal – No further information at present

Vacancy for 1 Parish Councillor - 1 vacancy still stands

Garden Road Conveyance – The clerk was asked to write to the Chair of Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club formally asking for a copy of the covenant included in the new deeds for the Garden Road.

132/13 To confirm the Financial Statement for November 2013 & accounts for payment

The accounts were accepted and the following approved for payment.

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses - £312.62, HM Customs and Excise – PAYE - £24.20,
Wansboroughs – advice re garden road - £288.00, S Jonik – printing costs - £42.00

Proposed Cllr Jonik **Seconded** Cllr Lewcock All in favour

133/13 Budget and Precept 2014/15

The Clerk presented the figures provided by Wiltshire Council regarding the decrease in grant from Central Government/Wiltshire Council. The formal setting of the budget and precept will take place on the 22nd of January 2014.

134/13 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Morgan-Frise advised that she is happy to be the council's representative on the village hall committee which still holds approximately £800 in funds and intends to meet in the New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Next meetings are as follows:

**Wednesday 22nd January 2014, Wednesday 12th March 2014
from 7.15pm in the village church.**

Erlestoke Village website – www.erlestoke.org