

MINUTES OF THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church Wednesday 30th September 2015 at 7.15pm

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

Open Forum:

George Peet – Regional Head Forester for South of England for MOD.

A recent tree survey at Erlestone woods has shown a major concern about the spruce tree varieties in the wood. The majority are dead or diseased and because of the public access on site they are causing a health hazard. The outline of the plans for works on site are as follows:

Reason: Norway and Sitka spruce diseased and present a future significant health and safety hazard

Felling: The harvesting operation will focus on the dead/dying Norway and Sitka spruce (approx. 3.4 ha) No other species will be felled.

Timing: Jan to Mar 2016

Permission: Felling Licence application is with the Forestry Commission

Restocking: dependent upon the further investigation into the spruce disease but will likely be a mix of Lime, Hornbeam, Yew

Focal Point: George Peet

Mr Peet will raise the concern of transport access with Landmarc our contract managers for the work for them to plan operations.

Cllr Lewcock asked if monies from the sale of the felled timber could be put aside for works to the lake and stream. Mr Peet advised that there is already a plan to rejuvenate the ponds on Salisbury plain. The team involved are hoping to scope out a work programme to assess works required.

During the tree works Mr Peet will be happy for the local school children to visit site to see the machinery in operation etc.

83/15 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Moore, Durham and Hunt-Davis.

84/15 Declaration of Interest – None received.

85/15 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd September 2015.

The minutes were accepted as presented.

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

86/15 Wiltshire Council and Devizes Area Board Update

Cllr Gamble advised council that the A360 will be closed again at Shrewton for 1 week starting the 5th October and then overnight for a further two weeks. There will also be some intermittent closing of the road at West Lavington.

87/15 Planning - None

88/15 The George and Dragon Public House Asset of Community Value.

Cllr Lewcock thanked Cllr Jonik for organising the recent village event. The money raised is hovering around £80,000 but a further £20,000 must be raised before they can look at taking out a loan for £150,000 plus a community share project of £50,000. Cllr Lewcock has revised the business plan. An action plan is being drawn up as to how to move forward and how to raise the extra funds needed.

89/15 The Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jonik reported that things are moving forward and Adrian Hampton has offered to help with the project.

90/15 Highways and Footpath issues to include Parish Steward tasks.

Due to the recent changes of contract at Wiltshire Highways the reporting system for highways issues has changed. All problems must be reported either via the Wiltshire council website www.wiltshire.gov.uk or via the My Wiltshire app. The clerk has agreed to report all issues emailed or telephoned to her.

91/15 On-going matters

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor. **Ongoing**,
Safety of school children crossing the B3098. **Ongoing**,
Erlestoke House Gates. **Ongoing**

92/15 Correspondence

Wiltshire Council Flood Risk leaflet. This is a booklet on the rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership.

93/15 To confirm the Financial Statement for September 2015 & accounts for payment

The statement was agreed and the following agreed for payment.

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses October - £223.18

HM Customs and Excise – PAYE - £45.80

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

94/15 To receive reports from Village Representatives - None

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Next meetings are as follows:

11th November 2015, 16th December 2015

from 7.15pm in the village church.

Erlestoke Village website – www.erlestoke.org