

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Parish Church
on Wednesday 21 June 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor J S F Jonik – (Chairman)
Councillor N J M Barton
Councillor J B R Durham
Councillor K Lewcock
Councillor F Morgan-Frise

OFFICERS: Mrs L A Roberts – Locum Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor R Gamble – Wiltshire Council

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

209/17 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Barton and J Hunt-Davies.

210/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Linda Roberts, Locum Clerk, declared an interest in agenda item 200/17.

211/17 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST APRIL 2017

The agenda item should have stated the minutes of 1 March 2017 not 1 April 2017 which had previously been approved. It was agreed that the minutes of 1 March 2017 would be circulated to members and signed at the next meeting.

212/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2017, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, Councillor Jonik as a correct record.

213/17 CLERK VACANCY FOR ERLESTOKE

All interviews had taken place.

It was proposed by Councillor Lewcock, seconded by Councillor Mrs Morgan-Frise and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to appoint Linda Roberts as the Parish Clerk and RFO. It was agreed that Mrs Linda Roberts would be appointed for 16 hours per month on salary

scale point 22 to reflect experience and qualifications.

It was noted this was the same rate as the previous clerk and confirmed there was enough budgeted to cover the salary for this financial year.

The Parish Clerk would arrange a time with the Chairman to go through the contract of employment and sign it.

214/17 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 1ST APRIL 2017

The agenda item should have stated the minutes of 1 March 2017 not 1 April 2017 which had previously been approved. It was agreed that the minutes of 1 March 2017 would be circulated to members for approval at the next meeting.

215/17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 17th May 2017, having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, Councillor Jonik as a correct record.

216/17 WILTSHIRE AND DEVIZES AREA BOARD UPDATE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR GAMBLE AND THE CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR JONIK

The Area Board was dealing with its standard business and there were no issues to be addressed or reported.

Councillor Gamble confirmed that the grant funding available for distribution through the Area Board will continue and that Wiltshire Council will seek to gain maximum leverage from any awards for funding. He explained that if the Area Board award a grant it gives groups the opportunity to seek match funding from other sources and so an award from the Area Board has the potential to bring significant contributions to communities.

The next Area Board meeting is scheduled for 17th July 2017 at the new Extra Care Centre, Victoria Road, Devizes. The meeting is open at 6pm for networking and then formally opens at 6.30pm. This meeting will have a health theme. Councillor Gamble then went on to explain the new concept of 'Men's Sheds' which have been set up so people can take part in craft activities and simple DIY with opportunities to share tools. It is a free service and open to everyone, not just men. The Area Board meeting would explain the concept in more detail.

Councillor Gamble informed that extra meetings separate from the Area Board are being scheduled to cover neighbourhood planning and lottery funding. He went on to say that there is substantial grants available through the Lottery Scheme and suggested the Erlestoke Lake project could benefit.

The Chairman Councillor Jonik advised that he had met with the MOD and the Environment Agency, including Fishery Managers to discuss the works required to improve the lakes and

that £15,000 had been set aside by the MOD to effect a repair to the dams and raise level of lake.

It was suggested by the MOD if more funding became available they would be agreeable to more improvements. Councillor Jonik was pleased to report that Natural England felt the areas around the lakes were in good condition and attracted wildlife. Improvements to Lower Lake were necessary. Although Middle Lake was more akin to a bog its condition was attractive to wildlife.

It was further reported that MOD Engineers will fix the dam. The area was in the ownership of the MOD however the amenity had open public access and it was suggested that maybe the Parish Council could offer some financial contribution to make additional improvements.

Any further enhancement would need full agreement of the MOD and if Parish Council were successful in obtaining funding the terms, conditions and on what improvements should take priority would need to be agreed.

One issue which had been identified was with silt which has been building up over the last year or so, maybe it was to do with the water level. It was suggested that it may be due to the recent refurbishment of the water tower at top of Stoke Hill. The water tank was now enclosed and operated through WIFI control. The water tower does control the feed pipes of water into farmers water tanks for their cattle.

The Chairman, Councillor Jonik also explained that it would be advisable to establish the quality of the water in the lakes. Kits are available to check ponds which can identify the condition of water which can then be reported to the Environment Agency who will offer advice on any remedial action.

It was agreed that the lakes, if further improvements were made had enormous potential to offer even more aspects of enjoyment by the public and to realise this, a multi-agency approach would be the most effective way to tackle deliver this project.

217/17 CATG UPDATE ON SCHOOL CROSSING AND LOWER ROAD CROSS ROADS

The Chairman, Councillor Jonik reported that he had attended the last CATG meeting and it had been very good and well attended. The missing School Crossing sign, which should be on the bend near to the school where young people and their guardians cross had been raised and whilst Highways appeared to be a little defensive they did agree the warning sign was very necessary and would arrange for a sign to be installed. Members of the Parish council agreed that the sign is required for the safety of everyone in the village and those driving through.

Councillor Jonik in answer to a question about an overgrown hedge and worn out signage suggested that it should be reported on the Wiltshire APP, that way the issue will be given a reference number, which can be tracked and the problem will be addressed.

It was reported that at the Lower Road Crossroads two accidents had occurred since the

sign has been moved. The warning sign was originally placed 50 yards back from the crossing it was now on the crossing and its position was thought to be too late to warn drivers. This problem would be reported through the Wiltshire APP.

218/17 SPEED INDICATING DEVICES (SID'S)

The Chairman, Councillor Jonik agreed to follow up, with a former Parish Councillor who had been involved in the project and establish what progress had been made regarding the replacement of batteries, which were no longer working. The Parish Clerk advised that she was aware of a Parish Council who had encountered the same problem and they had sent part of the device to Germany for replacement batteries. The Parish Clerk would make more enquiries and report back at the next meeting.

In any case if the Parish Council wanted to make use of SID's whoever installed the SID's would need to be Streetworks accredited and sites for their installation agreed by the Wiltshire Council Highways.

219/17 DEFIBRILLATOR UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR MRS BARTON

Councillor Mrs Barton reported that she had been in touch with the Responder for South West Ambulance regarding defibrillators and they could offer a training evening which it was agreed by members would be best scheduled for September. Councillor Mrs Barton suggested it would be good to open the training to the rest of the community. Once a date had been agreed Councillor Mrs Barton will publicise the event in the village.

220/17 ERLESTOKE LAKES UPDATE FOLLOWING 20TH JUNE SITE MEETING

This agenda item had been dealt with at minute 216/17.

221/17 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATH ISSUES – TO INCLUDE PRIORITISING TASKS FOR THE PARISH STEWARD

The pot holes outside the Lodge to be reported on the Wiltshire App.

A former Councillor was the liaison between the Parish Steward and the Parish Council and this would need to be addressed. The Parish Clerk would act as the liaison and advise Wiltshire Council of this.

It was reported that the footpath up to the golf course needed attention, members agreed the Parish Council could attend to this.

The Chair Councillor Jonik would circulate the Parish Steward list of suggested works he has so members can add any further maintenance issues for the Steward to tackle at future visits.

221/17 ON-GOING MATTERS

- **SAFETY OF CHILDREN CROSSING B3098, ERLESTOKE GATES**

No discussion

- **FRACKING**

No Discussion

- **BROADBAND**

It was reported that speeds still varied and on some days, it was so slow it was difficult to work from home. Whilst the Parish Council had been advised that fibre would be installed in the summer, no definitive time had been set. A definite date for installation should be established.

- **PLAY EQUIPMENT INSPECTION**

Some minor works had been identified from the recent Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA) inspection. It was agreed that members from the Parish Council could carry out this maintenance and it was agreed that the first opportunity should take place on Thursday 29 June at 6.30 pm, all those available could meet to start the work.

The Chair Councillor Jonik would circulate the ROSPA report.

222/17 TO CONFIRM THE CURRENT FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Financial statement was noted. No accounts for payment required resolution.

The Chair, Councillor Jonik confirmed that the Transparency Funding had been paid into bank but the amount of £713.00 did not match the amount expected and would be investigated. With £500 expected towards the Website, set up and maintenance, including training and approximately £300 for a PC.

223/17 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EPC REPRESENTATIVES

- i) **Footpaths** – no further report was made
- ii) **Police** – no report was made

The meeting closed at 9.02pm

Please note the next meeting of the Parish Council is **Wednesday 2 August 2017** and not 2 July 2017 as suggested in the 21 June 2017 agenda.