

Erlestoke Parish Council

Minutes of a Erlestoke Parish Council held on Wednesday, January 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Cllr. J. Foote (In the Chair), Cllr. J Morgan, Cllr. S. Jonik, Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith, Cllr. M. Gilbert, P. Sinnet-Jones

IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillor, Lionel Grundy, was in attendance. Also in attendance were Andy Turner, Managing Director of Princeton Homes Limited, and Veronica Brown, candidate for new Parish Clerk.

01/07

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. D. Turner.

02/07

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22nd November, 2006:

These minutes had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed they be signed as a correct record.

Prop. Cllr. J. Morgan **Sec.** Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith

Action Items from the Minutes of the meeting 22nd November, 2006, were reviewed and status was provided, as follows:

- ▶ **Action 79/06: Request for “No Through Road Sign”:**
Response: T-sign is there. It was agreed that further signage is superfluous.
Status: Closed.
- ▶ **Action 80/06: Safety Report on Play Area, The Park:**
Response: Part 1: all items completed. The Council thank Cllr. Gilbert for fitting the new litter bin and making the required safety improvements on behalf of parishioners.
Part 2: Cllr. J. Foote requested that Miles and Frances (M&F) fit the extra gate for the play area and they will proceed to do the work. We are waiting for Miles and Francis to make and install the gate.
Status: Open.
- ▶ **Action 84/06: Setting the Precept for 2007.**
Response: Need to obtain the form and submit.
Status: Open.
- ▶ **Action 85/06: Application for New Parish Clerk:**
Response: See minute 06/07, Application for Parish Clerk below.
Status: Open.

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03/07

MATTERS ARISING:

District Councillor, Lionel H Grundy described a new initiative for Unity Authority. This would effectively replace the four district councils in Wiltshire. The Government will be voting on this initiative later this month.

04/07

FINANCE REPORT:

- (a) **Balance at Bank:** The Current Account balance stood at 100.00 and the Reserve Account stood at £ 3352.69.
- (b) It was agreed to ratify the payment of £ 15.00 to “The News” magazine for the Council Clerk position advertisement. Cllr. S. Jonik to post the check.
Prop: Cllr. S. Jonik, Sec: Cllr. P. Sinnet-Jones
- (c) Councillors sanctioned the payment of £ 260.82 to Glasdon U.K. Ltd. for the new Park rubbish bin.
- (d) Councillors agreed to review the Erlestoke Website Renewal Fee of £ 30.00 at the next Parish Council Meeting. Cllr. M. Gilbert and Cllr. S. Jonik discussed imposing fees for businesses advertising on the website as a way of reducing the cost of the web site.

05/07

CORRESPONDENCE:

Many historical documents need filing.

Action: Cllr. J. Foote, Cllr. J. Morgan and Minutes Secretary, V. Brown to organize materials and to meet with the previous clerk, Mrs. Hazel Simons to provide the opportunity for continuity in the handover of Clerk business for the Council.

06/07

APPLICATION FOR PARISH CLERK:

Cllr. J. Foote received an application for the Parish Clerk position from Ms. Brown of Erlestoke. Ms. Brown, who was in attendance at the meeting was asked to leave the room so that the councillors could speak freely regarding her application. After much discussion, the council offered Ms. Brown a position as Minutes Secretary with no expenses incurred pending the resolution of her residency status in the UK. The appropriate contract for the clerk position will be drawn up and reviewed at the next parish council meeting in February.

Prop: S. Jonik, **Sec:** M. Gilbert

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07/07

B3098: The number of large trucks through the village is on the increase and unacceptable to many residents.

Cllr P. Sinnett-Jones spoke about his recent communications with the Divisional Highway Manager, Eastern Division, P. Hanson regarding the use of heavy transport and speed limits through Erlestoke. He provided the email audit trail of his communications with the WCC. According to P. Hanson's email response, the "B3098 through Erlestoke is not a designated freight route, and as such, is not identified for through HGV traffic...The County Council typically follows a phased approach when dealing with local HGV issues that first seeks to establish the significance and nature of the problem...If warranted, discussions are then undertaken with haulage operators and appropriate signage changes are implemented. In addition, ...we are currently developing a priority ranking the outstanding number of local freight issues in the County, which incidentally already includes the B3098 to the east of Westbury. The B3098 does not appear on the list of sites for new speed limits to be implemented in 2006/7. However, speed limits are under continual review and your request will be added to the outstanding list to be assessed for inclusion in the 2007 Annual Speed Limit Review. It is unlikely that the B3098 will meet the criteria for a 20mph speed limit, particularly given the traffic calming features that must be provided to physically keep speeds low."

Action: Minutes Secretary, V. Brown to follow-up on P. Hanson's response by writing to Wiltshire County Council: R. Gibbs and P. Hanson to improve signage and discuss a better/alternate route. Also, to include the local councils of Bratton, Westbury (re: roundabout with B3098 to A350), Edington and Great Cheverell in the distribution of the letter to encourage dialogue between the local councils and WCC.

Prop: Cllr. S. Jonik, **Sec:** J. Morgan

08/07

VILLAGE STEWARD:

In recent weeks, Erlestoke has had serious flooding under the railway bridge down Lower Road. Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith has been in communication with Eastern Highways requesting support from our Village Steward. The Village Steward has not returned the communication. Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith will follow-up with the County Council raising the steward problems and stressing the flooding issue at Lower Road and that the road was unusable for a 2 week period. It is anticipated that the flooding of Lower Road will continue to be a problem and the county needs to address this concern.

09/07

VILLAGE HALL REPORT:

The next Village Hall meeting will be held on 23rd January. Nothing else to report.

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10/07

MILITARY, PRISON, AND POLICE LIAISON:

No Military, Prison and Police Liaison items to report. However, in view of the recent fire emergency, a safety issue was identified regarding the need to keep the fire hydrants clear and accessible by fire fighters.

Action: Contact the Wiltshire Fire Brigade, located in Potterne to ensure hydrants are kept clear access during emergencies.

Prop: Cllr. J. Morgan **Sec:** Cllr. M. Gilbert

11/07

FOOTPATHS:

The dragon teeth at Marditch have been repaired.

12/07

PLAY AREA:

As above. The Council may want to think about the renewal of play equipment, benches, goal posts.

Action: Jemima to review the Section 106 agreement.

13/07

NEW HOUSING PROGRESS

Mr. Andy Turner, Managing Director of Princeton Homes was present to discuss sequence of operations and any issues/actions. A memo to the Park residents was distributed and is attached. The memo provides the sequence of events as well as a list of the 10 homes to be constructed.

The new housing development is progressing as planned. These houses will be on the market shortly. Anyone interested in purchasing a property should contact Mr. A Turner at +44 (0) 7785 921 005.

The following concerns were discussed:

(a) Damages to the Village Hall: Wessex Water was responsible for the structural damage to the Village Hall.

(b) Tire tracks on the grass: Mr. A. Turner proposed that the area should be stoned up to prevent continual damage and then replanted/repaid by Princeton Homes when the development is completed.

Action-1: Mr. A. Turner agreed to provide his assurance that any damage to the playing field would be repaired. and to post through to Cllr. J. Morgan by January 18th.

(c) Damages to The Park entrance pillars and damages to the road: A photographic survey of the condition of the road has been accomplished. It is difficult to identify which vehicles are damaging the pillars. There was discussion about putting some form of protection around the pillars. The pillars belong to Sarsen Housing Association and they are in communication with Princeton Homes to protect both the roads and the entrance pillars from damage.

(d) Mr. A. Turner confirmed that he had paid the Section 106 Agreement figure of approximately £18,000 to the Council.

Action-2: Cllr. S. Jonik to advertise the availability of the 4 Bedroom homes on the Parish website and in our Parish Council Report in "The News".

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14/07

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Erlestoke Parish Council will meet at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 28th February at 7:15 pm.

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.