

# DRAFT

## Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting Minutes 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The **Annual Parish Meeting** commenced at 7:15 p.m.

### Present

Cllr. S. Jonik, Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith, Cllr. M. D. Gilbert, Cllr. J. Morgan, Cllr. A. Pinnington, and Cllr. D. Turner.

### In Attendance:

Veronica Brown, Parish Clerk. HMPrison Erlestoke Governor, D. Moon, and four parishioners were in attendance: R. and S. Marsh, G. Phillips, and D. Oram.

Minute	Dialog	Resp
	With the resignation of the chairman, Cllr. J. Foote, at the AGM, all councillors agreed to have the Vice Chairman, Cllr. J. Morgan take the chair for this meeting also. <b>Prop:</b> M. Gilbert <b>Sec:</b> R. Loraine-Smith	
64/07	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr. D. Turner (arrived late), Cllr. P. Rugg, and Cllr. L. Grundy (arrived late), PC Landin	
65/07	<b>Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> May 2006:</b> A change was made to the minutes of the 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2006 Annual Parish Meeting to add as attendees R. and S. Barth.  With the above change, all accepted the minutes as an accurate record. <b>Prop:</b> M. Gilbert <b>Sec:</b> R. Loraine-Smith	
66/07	<b>Matters Arising:</b>  <b>1. Section 106 Funds</b> Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith provided the background of the Section 106 funds, comprising about £18,120 to be spent for recreational purposes only. Feedback forms were available at the meeting to provide parishioners with the opportunity to state their preferences as to how the funds should be used; i.e., garden allotments, park seating, playground equipment, or other areas of interest.  HMPrison Erlestoke Governor, D. Moon commented on the health and	

<p>safety issues regarding playground equipment, as well as vandalism issues and the associated repair/replacement cost implications.</p> <p>Cllr. A. Pinnington made the case that Playground equipment with its associated long term maintenance and costs are a liability; while the creation of garden allotments are an asset creating the potential for long term income.</p> <p>Cllr. J. Morgan responded by suggesting that playground equipment and the like provide positive opportunities for children and teenagers to expend their energy and the lack of those opportunities results in a loss for the community.</p> <p><b>2. Prison Landscaping</b></p> <p>The prison landscaping issue has two aspects, as follows:</p> <p>a) <b>Encroachment of the trees along the B3098.</b> It was not clear to the HMPrison Erlestoke Governor, D. Moon as to whether it was the trees along the prison boundary with the B3098 that were causing the problem. There was quite a bit of discussion with regarding the prison boundary vs. the Hampton property boundary at the edge of the road. Parishioners G. Phillips and D. Oram stated that the B3098 was not safe near the prison due to trees limiting driver visibility of the road. The Governor stated that it might be possible to thin out the trees if necessary; but that Paul Wooley was the Prison Estate Manager and perhaps a meeting should be arranged to walk around the prison boundary to identify the issue more clearly.</p> <p>The Erlestoke Parish Council Prison Representative will coordinate with the prison to define and resolve the issue.</p> <p>b) <b>Lack of Prison Landscaping.</b> Cllr. A. Pinnington re-raised the Prison landscaping issue. The lack of landscaping to camouflage the prison creates awful views from different aspects of Erlestoke and beyond and reduces property values. He described it as “raised like an Alcatraz into the sky. He stated that from the very construction of the prison many years ago, promises have been made and broken. The Governor said he was limited as to how much landscaping he can do to screen the prison. It was also stated that the bordering property belongs to the Hamptons and any landscaping would require their consent. Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith suggested that there are many ways to camouflage buildings, including camouflaging the roof such that it is not visible from miles away. Cllr. M. Gilbert stated that the prison building was not camouflaged correctly from the start.</p>	<p>AP</p>
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<p>67/07</p>	<p><b>Village Representative Reports</b></p> <p>Cllr. J. Morgan read the Church Report provided by Mrs. Hampton. The clerk read the Erlestoke Cricket Club report provided by M. Foster. Parishioner D. Oram raised a concern regarding the parking near the recreation area during Cricket Club gatherings.</p> <p>HMPrison Governor, D. Moon raised a concern that he had no idea of what to report at today’s meeting. The clerk took the action to provide D. Moon with a list of items to address for next year’s APM. The governor provided a disclaimer regarding the Chairman’s Annual Report and the previous March 28<sup>th</sup> 2007 Council Meeting minutes stating that there was absolutely “no plan to increase the prison population” and “no plan or purpose to make the prison a Category “B” or higher prison” and that “the current population of the prison was 426 prisoners”. He provided the following verbal report and agreed to provide to the clerk a retrospective summary afterwards:</p> <p>The prison has a population of 426 prisoners which equates to 99% occupancy. It has a good financial basis and is providing our part in the prison overpopulation problem across Britain. He argued that the prison hasn’t got the facilities to increase the population and there are better places to put a prison; i.e., if building is necessary, than building a prison closer to the source of offenders would be the preferred approach. The prison is a Category “C” prison and only takes in prisoners who are risk assessed as Cat. C, medium security.</p> <p>Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith suggested that the Governor issue a warning to prison employees to take care of their speed when entering and exiting the prison. D. Moon agreed to raise the issue with his employees at his monthly staff meeting.</p> <p>At this point, the meeting discussion transitioned to a lengthy complaint from Parishioners and Councillors regarding the traffic speed on the B3098, as well as other road safety issues including trying to get out of a drive(e.g., the Old Schoolhouse) while cars parked along the B3098 are blocking visibility. Cllr. J. Morgan pointed out that the Erlestoke Parish Council (EPC) along with the other local councils, including: Cheverell, Westbury, Edington, Coulston, and Bratton, are working with WCC/Highways to try and sort out alternate routes for heavy goods vehicles, traffic calming measures and additional signage. She stated that the EPC was very keen to get a resolution on this issue and that the B3098 was a standing item on the</p>	<p>VB</p> <p>DM</p> <p>DM</p>
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	<p>Erlestone Parish Council agenda.</p> <p>There was no Police Report. PC Landin was invited to attend the meeting; however, during the meeting another PC provided apologies for PC Landin not being able to attend.</p>	
<b>68/07</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Annual Report</b></p> <p>The Chairman, Cllr. J. Morgan explained J. Footes' absence stating that Jim Foote was not feeling well and needed to leave. Cllr J. Foote had prepared the Chairman's Annual Report in advance. Cllr. J. Morgan (Chair) read the Chairman's Annual Report to attendees. D. Moon noted that the paragraph about the prison was not correct. Cllr. J. Morgan thanked Cllr. J. Foote for his work as Chairman.</p>	
<b>69/07</b>	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>The Clerk distributed the Financial Report and the Chairman read the report for those in attendance. The Clerk stated that these had been approved by the internal auditor and needed to be signed off before they could be sent to Mazars audit commission. Councillors deferred the signing of the Annual Statement to the Annual General Meeting, which was to be continued after the current meeting.</p>	
<b>72/07</b>	<p><b>Village Hall Committee Report</b></p> <p>Cllr. R. Loraine Smith reported that a definitive plan/report for the Village Hall had been completed and was costed at £500,000. The Lottery Fund Application has been submitted and that a response from the Grants Panel was expected in a few months. He reported on the consistent progression of effort that has been made by the village over a period of about 10 years raising £8,000 and said that as the Lottery Fund will be assessing our application based on our performance of money raised over a long period that this provided a very positive basis for obtaining the requested money from the fund. He also suggested that parishioners and councillors write to their government representative against raiding Lottery Funds.</p>	

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<b>73/07</b>	<p><b>Questions from the Floor</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the status of the electricity in the Park? <b>Background:</b> Southern Electric Co. has placed a transformer in the Park on the 4 foot strip of Parish land. Some time ago, the Erlestoke Parish Council had taken on the task of trying to negotiate with Southern Electric allowing them to use the land for a fee. Southern Electric offered Erlestoke an amount of money to be paid to the Council for leasing the land. The offer included a clause that the lease not be reviewed for some 20 years. The money or terms of the offer were not acceptable to the Council. The Council attempted to engage a solicitor; however, the solicitor suggested that the Council negotiate on their own behalf as the cost of a solicitor would exceed the negotiated return on the lease. As such, the previous clerk wrote directly to Southern Electric to negotiate the terms of the agreement. The status of this topic will be placed on the next Parish Council Meeting.</li> <li>2. Have these 2 pieces of land been registered: Secret Garden and Park Field? The Clerk has an action to provide a response at the next meeting.</li> <li>3. Bus Shelter Roof is leaking. The Council has the action to repair it. We are in the process of obtaining quotes.</li> <li>4. Do we owe the solicitor any money on the 4 foot strip? We believe we paid the solicitor; but the Clerk will research this issue.</li> <li>5. Regarding the Village Hall Land? Find the minute that identifies previous conversation regarding transfer/sale from Parish to Village Hall Committee?</li> </ol>	<p>VB</p> <p>VB</p> <p>----</p> <p>VB</p> <p>VB</p>
<b>63/07</b>	<p><b>Chairman's Summary</b></p> <p>Cllr. J. Morgan thanked the previous chairman, Cllr. J. Foote, for all of the work he put forward to the council over the past year. The Chairman also thanked all of the Councillors for all of their time and effort spent volunteering for the benefit of their community.</p>	

The meeting closed at 10:00 pm.