

Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting
21st April 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Church

Present Cllr. S. Jonik (Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council), Anita Whittle (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 35 parishioners were in attendance.

61/10 Welcome by Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council

62/10 Apologies: No apologies were received.

63/10 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 2009:

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: George Phillips **Seconded:** Mervyn Gilbert **All in favour**

64/10 Parish Council Accounts – Parish Clerk

The clerk presented the Parish Council accounts as follows:

<u>2008/09</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010</u>	<u>2009/10</u>
3573.21	<u>OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2009</u>	3573.21
4688.03	ADD RECEIPTS	4688.03
8261.24	Total	Total 8261.24
5987.95	DEDUCT PAYMENTS	5987.95
2273.29	<u>CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2010</u>	2273.29
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
3870.00	PRECEPT	3870.00
190.16	INTEREST	190.16
100.00	GRANTS - LITTER GRANT	100.00
527.87	VAT REFUND	527.87
4688.03	Total	Total 4688.03
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
948.68	ADMINISTRATION made up as follows:	0.00
98.75	AUDIT FEES	
399.06	INSURANCES	
34.00	COMMUNITY FIRST MEMBERSHIP	
15.00	SAFE CUSTODY FEE	
27.00	CPRE MEMBERSHIP	
59.24	WALC MEMBERSHIP	
42.30	WEBSITE	
233.08	STATIONERY	
40.25	COUNCILLOR TRAINING	
3146.16	CLERKS WAGES, office & computer allow	3146.16
50.00	GRANTS (Sec 137) made up as follows:	50.00
50.00	THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS	50.00
0.00	VILLAGE HALL	0.00
0.00	THE NEWS	0.00
787.25	VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING	787.25
785.33	MAINTENANCE made up as follows:	785.33
0.00	GATE MAINTENANCE	
0.00	BUS SHELTER REPAIR	
77.55	PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK	77.55
560.90	PLAY EQUIPMENT SWINGS REFURBISHMENT	560.90
146.88	MOLE CATCHER	146.88
5717.42	Total	Total 4768.74
	<u>BANK ACCOUNT</u>	
100.00	TREASURERS ACCOUNT	100.00
2173.29	SAVINGS ACCOUNT	2173.29
2273.29	Total Showing in bank accounts	Total 2273.29
0.00	Unpresented Cheques at as 31.03.10	
2273.29	Total	Total 2273.29

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Proposed: Keith Lewcock **Seconded:** Tony Tye **All in favour**

65/10 Neighbourhood Policing Team – unfortunately the Police were not represented.

66/10 Great Cheverell School

The number on roll at Holy Trinity at present is 144 (we can take a maximum of 150 and are currently oversubscribed in some year groups). Of these, 17 come from Erlestone, which is 11.8% of our children. About 60% of our children currently come from out of catchment and if we did not have these children, we would only have 58 children in the school and would be facing closure or federation. Fortunately, we are not in this position at the moment and our numbers are strong for the next year as well. We have 5 classes, a total of 7 teachers, 7 teaching assistants, 5 Midday Supervisory Assistants and 2 admin staff. Our externally assessed SATS results were once again well above the expected levels and put us in the top 20% of the country. We have very committed staff and supportive parents who make this ongoing high achievement possible. Holy Trinity children went carol singing through Erlestone village at Christmas time this year. It was a great event that brought in over £30 for the Children's Society and at the end the people of Erlestone made us all very welcome in the church, with food and warm drinks, and mulled wine for the adults. Our thanks for this lovely event. The Vicar of Erlestone, Rev. Graham Southgate, comes into school every week to lead Collective Worship and also helps to prepare the programme of worship for the term. He is on the Board of Governors and ensures that the Christian Foundation of the school is upheld. As well as our academic achievements, we are pleased that we can provide education in all sorts of other areas as well. We have been focussing on community cohesion this year – a new initiative to make sure that people are aware of the diversity of cultures, faiths, races etc in their community – at a local, national and international level. We have taken the whole school to visit a Hindu Temple in Bristol (and took in an art gallery while we were there). We have had visitors of various faiths and cultures, including a Hindu dancer, an Italian musician and a person from Slovakia. We will be using the South African Football events as a theme for the coming term. We have many clubs, including sports clubs, music clubs, chess, ICT, hand bells and dance clubs to cater for many interests. We offer every KS2 child the opportunity to go on a residential trip each year, where they have fun doing activities that might not be possible in their usual environment. We welcome visitors into school – they always add something to the broader education of our children. We had a science week recently where parents and friends of the school who have careers in science, came into school to talk to the children about their work. If you would like to be part of this learning community, please do get in contact with me. This is your village school – please do come and visit us if you would like to. Simply make an appointment with the head teacher.

67/10 Erlestone Prison – Andy Rogers – Prison Governor – no report

68/10 Erlestone and Coulston Cricket Club Report - by Jasper Dorgan and read out by Anita Whittle

The Erlestone & Coulston Cricket Club continues to thrive with a strong and loyal membership of adult and junior players. The grounds and pavilion facilities continue to improve thanks to the efforts of players, families and supporters and the Club can look forward to a full weekend and mid-week fixture card throughout the summer. All that is now required is for the sun to shine on our 2010 season. As well as a successful year on the field the club has enjoyed hosting and participating in a wide range of community activities throughout 2009. The traditional bonfire night up at the ground this year attracted over 100 local people to see the fireworks and over £350 was raised with the proceeds shared with other Erlestone community groups. Our other village activities included a summer village camp out in the grounds, several village quizzes, village conker tournaments and hosting a wide variety of informal villager leisure activities, from picnics and rounders through to grounds hire for community groups and wedding parties. Erlestone Cricket Club is in sound health both socially and financially and it continues to play an important and much admired role at the heart of the Erlestone village and its neighbouring communities.

69/10 Erlestone Church Report – Chris Hampton

Background. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for working within the framework of the Benefice of Bratton, Edington & Imber, Coulston and Erlestone under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev Dr Graham Southgate. Our thanks are also due to the Rev Malcolm Wieck and the Rev Kate Sax for taking some services. We continue to thank Mrs Helen Diskett for her services as Sacristan in preparing the church for services. Our organist, Doreen Smith plays for us twice a month. We also thank Mr W Kemp for being treasurer of our benefice fund responsible for paying benefice expenses. Membership. Members of the PCC are either ex-officio (Beneficed or Licensed Clergy, Church Wardens and Lay Representatives of the Deanery Synod) or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. In 2009 the following were members of Erlestone PCC Vicar The Rev Dr Graham Southgate Chairman, Assistant Curate The Rev Malcolm Wieck, Mrs Chris Hampton Churchwarden and Representative on the Deanery Synod, Elected Members Mrs Audrey Tye secretary, Mrs Elizabeth Kemp Treasurer, Mr Tony Tye, Mrs Helen Diskett, Mrs Veronica Brown, Mr Roger Hampton. The PCC met five times this year. The PCC organise fund raising events throughout the year to raise funds for church maintenance and parish share. There are 23 parishioners on the electoral roll. The following were nominated by the PCC and appointed by the Diocesan Board of Education to serve as Foundation Governors of Holy Trinity School. Mrs Annabel Brooks and Mr Simon West. Churchyard The churchyard continues to be mown regularly by volunteers. We have done a topple test check of gravestones. Some of the older kerbed graves are falling into disrepair and will need attention. Pattern of Services We have a regular pattern of three Sunday services a month. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month the parishes of the Benefice take turns in hosting a United Service. As usual

we enjoyed our 10pm Christmas Eve Communion service taken by newly ordained Malcolm. There are mid-week services and also Saint's Day services in addition to the above. The normal pattern of services for Erlestone changed in October is as follows: - 1st Sunday of the month no service, 2nd Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion, 3rd Sunday 6.30pm Evensong, 4th Sunday 9.30am Parish Communion. Review of the Year. Collections and Fund Raising. General collections throughout the year amounted to £707.96 Planned Giving supplied another £3319 with a tax refund of £1458.99. Fund raising events followed a similar pattern as previous years. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, coffee mornings in January & October, a plant sale in May, strawberry teas in June, a barbeque in August, the craft fair in November, also with the Easter and Harvest Smartie tube scheme and the Easter bingo raised a total of £1615.92. The Christmas bingo was cancelled due to illness. Our accounts are examined by Mr. William Smith, Barnfield Farm, Erlestone. Devizes Wiltshire. SN10 5UE. Church Attendance. There were 51 in attendance at our Palm Sunday Pilgrimage service, 19 at the Easter service, 44 at Harvest Thanksgiving, 29 at the Remembrance service, 38 at the Christingle service and 23 at the Christmas Eve communion. However these are 'special' services and we normally have between 7 and 12 at our regular Sunday services. Erlestone ladies attended the Women's World Day of Prayer service at Edington. During the year there were no weddings at Holy Saviour but two at Christ the Carpenter Chapel (HMP Erlestone), no baptisms and two funerals followed by the burials. We held a Christingle Service that included the singing of Christmas carols. Prior to this we held a very successful Christmas Workshop for children and adults to make christingles and yule logs for the service the following day. The workshop was attended by 16 children and a number of adults. We hold a monthly benefice children's film night usually with a religious theme including a hot supper attended by 9-17 children + parents. Charitable Giving. During the year the Children's Society received £63.44 from the Christingle service, the Harvest auction raised £55.20 for Alabare Christian Care and £55.20 for the Bishop's Sudan Appeal, the collection to the Royal British Legion from the Remembrance service was £63.44. Repairs. Now the bells are being rung on a regular basis they have regular checks in the belfry and the bearings are oiled. We have had the roof of the belfry tower steps pointed to stop water leaking into the church. Improvements. Once again we held a 'Work-in Day' and a group of helpers were mobilised so that the church was thoroughly cleaned and floor polished, altogether a very successful day. We had our Quinquennial inspection and have only minor repairs to do some of which are already completed. Registration of land. We have registered the area of the Church and Churchyard to the PCC with the Land Registry within the diocesan scheme. Expenses. Our Parish share for 2009 was £2556. Our church running expenses were £1784 for insurance, power, organist etc. We pay £27.20 a month share into a Benefice managed fund to pay Vicar's and benefice expenses. The Future. The PCC is keen to see a wider use of the building within the community hence our plans to improve the facilities at our church. At long last we have obtained our permissions from the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council and the DAC to install 2 toilets, a kitchenette, a fire door with disabled access and resiting the organ. We have also managed to obtain some grant aid and more is pending as our project is under funded, however we will do the best we can with the resources we have. It has taken a surprising amount of time to apply for the permissions and also for grant applications. Again our PCC has great difficulty in finding new members willing to serve. We are a mostly elderly PCC and 'new blood' would be welcomed as it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the energy required to raise funds.

70/10 The Landlord of the George and Dragon

Good evening Mr Chairman, Parish Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen for those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting over the past 15 months whilst running the pub my name is Rod Coverly the landlord of the George and Dragon. When my wife Sandy and I decided to take over the George and Dragon the business as a whole was in a mess and despite friends and alike urging us not to take it on we did and we are glad we did. Erlestone is a beautiful village and all the people from the surrounding villages who had never used the pub in the past feel the same. Once we worked out the potential of what the pub could do to enhance the community and our business we then brought in our good friend Clive Radford-Hancock who is now a partner has a brilliant reputation for this flair in cooking this move has helped our business grow from strength to strength, our takings in the first year of trading surpassed even our expectations. We have put on a number of different events which we have used to raise money for local charities which have all been successful and we will continue to do so, in fact our next event is our popular medieval night with a stand up comedian and that is being held on Saturday the 1st of May there are still some tickets up for grabs, the money we make from this event will be given to the Erlestone church, so if anybody here would like to attend please let us know asap. During our short stay so far the only negative response we have encountered is various complaints from people who have gone to the Kennet/Wiltshire Council about what we are trying to achieve in making the Pub as comfortable as possible for the people who do use us, everything we do is for the benefit of the spirit of the community. We don't have a post office or shop here so I would think it would be fair to say we are the hub of the village and would like to encourage those who are still wary to come along to do so, it is totally different to what happened before we took it over, you be the judge. If you have a problem with what we are doing please come and talk to us we are always open to suggestions after all it's your pub we are just the managers if you like. On closing I would like to personally thank each and every one of you that has supported us over the past year. You have helped to put us on the map as so to speak. Thank you.

71/10 Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council has existed for just over one year and I've been your councillor for about 10½ months since the election last June. I've been particularly lucky, I think, in representing one of the nicer corners of Wiltshire and Erlestoke is one of the nicest villages. I've attended as many of the Parish Council meetings as I have been able to, which I think is most of them, and I'm grateful for the welcome I have received. Having been involved with the old Kennet District Council, which was one of the best councils in the country, I was pretty sceptical about the new council. However, the new Wiltshire Council has, in my view, had a pretty good start. It seems to be generally regarded as the best of the new unitary authorities in the country. We have finished the first year within budget, which is an achievement in view of the loss of about £9 million income as a result of the recession (mainly car parking and planning applications) and as a result of the weather which put a substantial burden on the highways teams. Our council tax rise has been below inflation, although it may not feel like it. I think the new Area Board structure has got off to a good start and I'm grateful for regular representation from Erlestoke. The meetings take place every two months and everyone is welcome to come. The Area Boards have a small budget for making grants to worth causes and last year the Devizes Board gave away about £32,000. Of this £5,000 was given to Erlestoke to help towards the first stages of the conversion of the church. That means Erlestoke with about 200 people gets about 1/6th of the total although it has 1/150th of the population of the area. On other matters, I think we've made good progress on repairing the roads since the bad weather, although we haven't yet been able to tackle the bends at Little Cheverell. We have also had a review of speed limits and there will be a scheme to implement 50 mph limits on the B3098 on either side of the village later this year. One thing we have not done is yet control the heavy lorries that come through the village. I have been pressing for the road to be downgraded to a C road so that we can then impose weight limits etc but so far without success. This is a work in progress. We are now in the stages of preparing the local development plans and local transport plans which have to be published in 2011 for the period up to 2026. I hope you will look out for the consultations on those and take part when you have the chance.

72/10 Parish Council Chairman's Report

We had a relatively quiet year but achieved important work throughout the village. We had one resignation Fiona Morgan-Frise stepped down because of work commitments, Fiona was always committed and put in 110% for the council and the village we wish her well. Dean Moore has just been Co-Opted on the council and we welcome Dean and I am sure he will enjoy working on the council. A new change on the structure of the council throughout Wiltshire started last spring and Erlestoke reports to the "Devizes Area Board" where we attend meetings and can receive funding. Our main contact is Richard Gamble, Richard attends our Parish Council meetings and I would like to thank him for his help and advice for Erlestoke throughout the year. The Area Board can be attended by members of the public and you can have your say at these meetings. Over the last year a number of things were discussed that you might be interested in typically: Development work in Devizes town, Highways in the area, Youth training program. New NHS centre in Devizes and surrounding area, the outcome will be very important to the Erlestoke. After losing the village hall and the post office we have found that the other facilities have filled the gap and things are settling into an equilibrium state. The church continues to be the main meeting area for the village. We hold our council meetings here and I would like to thank Chris Hampton and the church PCC for the support they give us. We continue to push and assist in any way possible to help with the changes and building work they are doing. The George & Dragon is flourishing under new management and one can not say there is nothing on in the village. The Landlord Rod Coverley seems to have endless energy and much appreciated in Erlestoke. There are social and fund raising events organized for 2010 and I urge you to attend and take part if not just for the fun of it. The electricity Sub Station has still not started but after a village study it was decided to site the new sub station by the car park at the bottom of the play area. We are waiting to hear from SSB for a starting date. We had one scare where BT indicated we might lose the telephone kiosk but after stern support from the residents and a number of letters the facility will stay. No major crime incidents were reported and Erlestoke on the whole it is a safe and peaceful village. Thankfully our local Police officers Nina Marsh and Gemma Rutter take a reassuring interest and a close eye on any issues that crop up. Apart from house extensions we had two major planning applications last year. The Golf Club has permission to build an accommodation block upgrading it to a small hotel status and the Prison has permission to build a new accommodation block replacing one of their old buildings. The heavy traffic on the B3098 is still an on going issue and speed limits are being reviewed while entering the village possibly being reduced to 50 miles per hour. After a long and relatively hard winter, frost damage to the roads are still causing concerns and the damage to the road entering the village have been reported to Wiltshire Highways. We found that although we were in a difficult recession we had to increase the budget to £4540.00 to cover our cost. We undertook major caps on two of our large outgoings one on grass cutting and the other on the clerk's overheads. We will reduce the number of grass cuts this year and the clerk has offered to keep her costs the same as 2009 and reduce the number of hours spent to a minimum. We had one incident of fly-tipping where somebody abused the community spirit by dumping wheels and tyre's into the community skip passing on their untidy housekeeping problems to the rest of the village! Not everybody in the village realized we have a public area by the cricket club called the Secret Garden. The main objective has been to make the Secret Garden safe again for public use. Work parties were set up and a lot of effort applied from a

number of people from the village clearing the area and removing fallen trees meaning the area is now safe for public use. I must thank all those who helped with the clearing work on the organized day and in extra time afterwards. The Secret Garden is owned by the village and managed by the council one important issue is that there are no public rights of way across the area. The purpose of this is to maintain the area privacy and value. The issue of fencing the area with a gate or leaving it open planned has been discussed many times without a conclusion, and appears on tonight's agenda for a vote and direction from the village. We are in the process of purchasing signs for the car park and secret garden. This year's play area report highlighted some minor maintenance work that is required and working parties have been set up for this purpose. I would like to welcome any new residents to the village, although we are a small village with an electoral role of less than 200 we are a busy village and you will find plenty for you to take part in. I would like to thank all the Councillors and parishioners for their efforts through the year and a special thanks to our Clerk Anita Whittle for putting up with us. A last note this is my third chairman's report and last year I said I would be stepping down in 2010 not because I don't want to do the job but because a new face and a different approach keeps things interesting.

73/10 Secret garden - To vote on

118/09 Secret Garden

Following lengthy discussion it was proposed and accepted that any further discussion regarding the future use of, fencing of or changes to the Secret garden will be dealt with at the Annual Parish Meeting next April/May 2010.

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

Cllr Jonik put to the meeting the discussions that the council has had over the last few years regarding fencing the Secret Garden and the decision that the council had made to put the subject to this meeting as people of the village. After lengthy discussion a proposal was put to the meeting and voted on. The proposal was that the Secret Garden is left as open plan with no fencing.

Proposed Roger Hampton **Seconded** Steve Melville

Carried by a vote of 23 in favour, 4 against and 1 abstention.

74/10 Secret Garden - To Decide on

What the village wants to use the Secret Garden for? (This is important because we may need funding)

At this point in the meeting many people made their views about the use of the Secret Garden known. Although no formal proposal was made, the consensus of opinion showed that those people present wanted to keep the Secret Garden as a completely open area for people to visit and to maintain it as the area of outstanding beauty that it already is. Cllr Richard Loraine-Smith wished his comment regarding allotments to be recorded. He felt that the village had not had a proper chance to express its interest in having allotments on the Garden. At least three members of the audience disagreed with his comment as they remembered receiving a note though the door asking for people who were interested in having an allotment to contact either the clerk or the council Chairman.

75/10 Questions from the floor

George Phillips said that as the Parish Council is now looking into the ownership of the Spring Water House in the High Street perhaps Roger Hampton could help. Roger explained that his grandfather brought the pump house in 1947. It is still in the ownership of the Hampton family but is maintained by Brian Johnson of Coulston as he uses the water from the spring. The building is listed. The Parish Council clerk was then given the contact details for The Johnson family and was asked to contact them.

Finally Roger Hampton thanked Stan Jonik for all his hard work for the village as the Parish Council Chairman.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm