Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting 13th April 2011 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 23 parishioners were in attendance.

36/11 Welcome by Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council

37/11 Apologies: Apologies were received from Mrs Chris Hampton and Mr Dean Moore.

38/11 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 21st April 2010:

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: Mr G Phillips **Seconded:** Mr M Gilbert **All in favour**

39/11 Parish Council Accounts - Parish Clerk

Parish Cou	ncii Accou	nts – Parish Cierk	1		
2009/10	STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2011 20				
=	EVERY DAY MONIES				
2273.29	OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2010				
4467.37		ADD RECEIPTS		4747.71	
5221.21		DEDUCT PAYMENTS		4967.29	
1519.45	CLOSING B	ALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2011		1299.87	
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		RECEIPTS		
		PRECEPT	4540.00		
		INTEREST GRANTS - LITTER GRANT	2.85 107.50		
		VAT REFUND	97.36		
4467.37	Total		Total	4747.71	
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
1082.77	100 75	ADMINISTRATION made up as follows:	100.00	1304.95	
		AUDIT FEES	100.00		
		INSURANCES COMMUNITY FIRST MEMBERSHIP	588.46 36.00		
		SAFE CUSTODY FEE	7.50		
		WALC MEMBERSHIP	65.17		
		WEBSITE	42.30		
	130.36	STATIONERY	195.39		
		COUNCILLOR TRAINING	0.00		
	52.44	/	145.13		
		DONATION TO CHURCH FOR USE FOR MEETINGS	125.00		
3305.12		CLERKS WAGES, office & computer allow		3093.02	
150.00	0.00	GRANTS (Sec 137) made up as follows:	25.00	75.00	
	0.00 50.00	THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS	25.00 50.00		
	100.00	Xmas party THE NEWS	30.00		
529.00	100.00	VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING		380.00	
154.32		MAINTENANCE made up as follows:		114.32	
134.32	71.52	Recycling Skip fee	0.00	114.52	
	82.80	PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK	84.61		
	0.00	PLAY EQUIPMENT SWINGS REFURBISHMENT	29.71		
5221.21	Total		Total	4967.29	
	SECTION 1	06 MONIES AND GRANTS			
17706.53		ALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2010		2686.96	
9518.38		ADD RECEIPTS		0.00	
24537.95		DEDUCT PAYMENTS		284.88	
2686.96	CLOSING B	ALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2011		2402.08	
2000.50	RECEIPTS	NEW TOTAL DESCRIPTION TO THE PROPERTY OF THE P	RECEIPTS	_ 10_1.00	
	<u> </u>	ADD RECEIPTS	<u> </u>		
	5800.00	grant from the village hall towards the cost of the new of	car park		
	0.00				
		GRANTS FROM KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL/WILTSHIRE	COUNCIL		
	3168.38	VAT RETURN			
9518.38	Total		Total	0.00	
	<u>PAYMENTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
353.70		ADMINISTRATION		284.88	
0.00 0.00		EXTRA INSURANCE COSTS NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT			
1005.00		NEW SEATING			
1005.00		TETT SEXTENS			

438.00 954.50	NEW SIGNAGE FOR THE PARK AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG BEFORE NEW CAR PARK COUL	D BEGIN	
21786.75	NEW CAR PARK		
24537.95	Total	Total	284.88
	FUNDS HELD BY ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL AT 31ST MARG	CH 2011	
1519.45	EVERYDAY MONIES BALANCE AT 31/03/11		1299.87
2686.96	SECTION 106 AND GRANTS BALANCE AT 31/03/11		2402.08
4206.41	тота	AL	3701.95
	BANK ACCOUNT		
100.16	TREASURERS ACCOUNT		100.00
4177.77	SAVINGS ACCOUNT		3601.95
4277.93	Total Showing in bank accounts	Total	3701.95
71.52	Unpresented Cheques at as 31.03.10		0.00
4206.41	Total	Total	3701.95

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Proposed: Mr R Hampton **Seconded:** Mrs D Oram **All in favour**

40/11 Wiltshire Council – Cllr Richard Gamble

I think it is fair to say that the past year has seen the new Wiltshire Council begin to settle down after the challenging process of bringing 5 councils into one. We got a new chief executive in February 2010 and a new government in May. Since then the new challenge has been to prepare budgets for the immediate years ahead in view of the quite drastic cuts in funding received from central government. Although we have had to make some difficult decisions, I am pleased that we seem to have done a much better job handling the situation than some other councils. To quote Jane Scott: "Far from cutting any of our principal front line services, we are one of the few authorities that will invest in, rather than reduce, the services we know matter most to our residents. We have a 4 year business plan that will see an additional £34 million invested into protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults reflecting the increasing number of our elderly residents. Over £4 million will be added to safeguard vulnerable children and another £3 million will help to improve the attainment and progress of children's learning. Further appreciable amounts will be invested in our leisure facilities, the maintenance of our roads and the improvements in our waste collection and recycling policies. We will also invest to support the local economy. "All this considerable investment will be made possible, not only by the savings resulting from the creation of Wiltshire Council, but by additional savings of over £100 million over the 4 years by a root and branch inspection of the way we organise and deliver our services, the way we procure our needs and the number of buildings and staff we need and with no immediate increase in council tax." My part of that process involves bus services. I am pleased that we shall be able to retain the daily services through Erlestoke linking Trowbridge, Westbury and Devizes. However, the twice weekly shoppers' bus to Bath is under threat. The period for comments about that ends on 1 May. I am also involved in trying to reduce the number of heavy vehicles that pass through the village if they don't need to be here. That is still a work in progress. Later this year, I expect to see orders published to reduce the speed limit on the B3098 on either side of the village to 50 mph. Another important issue coming up is the next stage of preparation of the new local plan, which lays down policies for development over the years ahead. Proposals for consultation will be published soon. You may also wish to note that, assuming the Localism Bill, which is now in parliament, become law Erlestoke will be asked to prepare a Community Plan, perhaps in association with its neighbours. We will be hearing more about that over the coming months. I am grateful for the support I have received from the Parish Council, which has been regularly represented at Area Board meetings and other public gatherings. The Area Board meets every two months and everyone is invited to attend. The next meeting is on 23 May.

41/11 Great Cheverell School – written by Mercedes Henning but presented by Anita Whittle

The number on roll at Holy Trinity at present is 147 (we can take a maximum of 150 and are currently oversubscribed in some year groups). Of these, 17 come from Erlestoke, which is 11.6% of our children. We have 5 classes, a total of 7 teachers, 7 teaching assistants, 5 Midday Supervisory Assistants and 2 admin staff. We are very fortunate to have a stable staff with very little staff turnover. Our externally assessed SATS results were once again well above the expected levels. We have very committed staff and supportive parents who make this ongoing high achievement possible. Ofsted were due to come and inspect our school this year. However, they did an assessment of our school data that they can access without coming on site and using this, were delighted to tell us that we have sustained the performance that they judged to be Outstanding 3 years ago, and that they did not need to come into school to verify anything further. We are very pleased that we are still an outstanding school but are very aware that we must never let complacency cause our performance to slip. We continue to work towards driving standards up ever higher and providing for the children a better, more engaging and more relevant curriculum so that they can leave our school well placed to do very well at secondary school and in their future lives. We are particularly proud of the Christian ethos of our school and the Christian values that the children abide by –

our children are almost always very well behaved, they understand how to look after each other and how to care for those less fortunate than themselves, they realise that sometimes they make mistakes and know how to make reparation. They are people of love, generosity, integrity and courage. Holy Trinity children joined with the congregation of Erlestoke parish to celebrate Mothering Sunday this year. It was a lovely service, with the children doing some of the readings, prayers and singing, and at the end the people of Erlestoke made us all very welcome in the church, with wonderful cakes and drinks. Our thanks for the warm hospitality we always receive from Erlestoke. The Vicar of Erlestoke, Rev. Graham Southgate, continues to come 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 like to ensure that our children have access to the arts and this year we used a painting by Paolo Uccello, a medieval artist, as a theme for the first term. It was a night time hunting scene, so lots of work on light and dark, the ethics of hunting, forest habitats and medieval history were included as well as the obvious work on the art itself. The children went to the Ashmolean Art gallery and museum in Oxford to see the original of the painting. 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, the Year 3 and Year 4 children go to Oxenwood, and this year the Year 5 and Year 6 children went to the Forest of Dean. They learn a huge amount on these trips, about independence, team work and courage - all vital life skills. We welcome visitors into school - they always add something to the broader education of our children. A lot of people from the villages and beyond support our school in many ways - from hearing children read, through to art projects, cooking, music, gardening and the deepening of spirituality. This is your village school – please do come and visit us if you would like to. Simply make an appointment with the head teacher. Simon West - Governor at Great Cheverell School added to the above report by saying that the village is very lucky to have such a good school and headmistress and from a Governors perspective they are undertaking a feasibility study to look at whether the school should take academy status.

42/11 Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club Report - by Jasper Dorgan and read out by Anita Whittle The Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club continues to thrive with over 40 adult playing members and 30 juniors regularly attending weekly training sessions and many non-playing social members continuing to provide their support. The adult club has a full card of Mid-week and weekend fixtures for the 2011 season and our junior section is now running an Under 11 team which has joined the Kennet Junior Cricket league and looks forward to a full schedule of games throughout the summer. The junior club includes girls as well as boys. The junior section has proved to be a highly successful and effective nursing ground of future cricketers for both the club itself and for higher levels of the game. A number of current Erlestoke Cricket Club adult team players have come up though the junior ranks and some of the juniors of previous seasons have progressed even further in game and the club can boast two former Erlestoke juniors who have represented England, others who have played senior County cricket for Somerset, Gloucestershire and Hampshire and many others who have and are playing for leading senior Club teams in the area, including Bath, Trowbridge, Devizes, Corsham and many others. As well as a successful year on the field the club has enjoyed a full year of inclusive community activity. This included a summer village camp out in the grounds, the bonfire night party, village guizzes and hosting a wide variety of informal villager leisure activities, from picnics and rounders through to grounds hire for other visiting cricket teams. The close season has seen an energetic round of grounds and pavilion maintenance work and refurbishments that have been undertaken by playing members and supporters. Erlestoke Cricket Club is in sound health both socially and financially and it continues to play an important and respected role at the heart of the Erlestoke village and its neighbouring communities. Jasper Dorgan Chairman Erlestoke Cricket Club.

43/11 Erlestoke Church Report – Roger Hampton

Background. The Parochial Church Council is responsible for working within the framework of the Benefice of Bratton, Edington & Imber, Coulston and Erlestoke under the guidance of the Vicar, the Rev Dr Graham Southgate and our Assistant Curate the Rev Malcolm Wieck. Our thanks are also due to 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. Mr W Kemp has re4signed as benefice treasurer and we thank him for his previous work. 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 2010 the following served as members of Erlestoke PCC Vicar The Rev Dr Graham Southgate Chairman, 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 following are 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. 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 the Rev Graham Southgate. There are mid-week services and also Saint's Day services in addition to the above. The normal pattern of services for Erlestoke 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 £406. Planned Giving supplied another £3318 with a tax refund of £1034. Fund raising events followed a similar pattern as previous years. The Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, coffee morning in January, a plant sale in May, strawberry teas in June, a summer tea in July, a barbeque in August, the craft fair in November, also with the Easter and Harvest tube scheme and the Easter and Christmas bingo raised a total of £1998.63. For the first time the Christmas bingo was held in the newly modernised church. Our accounts are examined by Mr. William Smith, Barnfield Farm, Erlestoke. Devizes Wiltshire. SN10 5UE. Church Attendance. There were 55 in attendance at our Palm Sunday Pilgrimage service, 20 at the Easter service, 40 at Harvest Thanksgiving, 31 at the Remembrance service, 33 at the Christingle service and 28 at the Christmas Eve communion. However these are 'special' services and we normally have between 7 and 12 at our regular Sunday services. During the year there were no weddings at Holy Saviour but two at Christ the Carpenter Chapel (HMP Erlestoke), one baptism and no funerals but one interment of ashes. We held a combined Christingle Service and carol service. 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 we gave £30 to Christian Aid, the Harvest auction raised £45.70 for Alabare Christian Care and £45.70 for the Salisbury Sudan Appeals, the collection to the Royal British legion from the Remembrance Service was £70.75 and the Children's Society received £32.58 from the Christingle service 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 installed a new recessed door mat at the main entrance. A roof leak has been repaired. While the organ was dismantled for moving, repairs were made as suggested by the Diocesan Advisory Committee. Improvements. After obtaining the necessary planning permission, an Environment Agency licence and Faculty from the diocese we have embarked on a project to modernise our church for community use. We have moved 3 monuments from the north alcove to the chancel, moved the organ to the (back) west wall of the church, had a new doorway cut into the north wall for disabled access, installed 2 toilets (one disabled) and a kitchenette area with the electrics boxed in with an oak face. We have had grant aid from Kennet District Council, Wiltshire Council, the Landfill Communities Fund and Plain Action (European Union) together with generous donations from some villagers. We have installed a portable closed circuit TV to enable the organist to follow the proceedings from the back of the nave during services. **Expenses.** Our Parish share for 2010 was £2826. Our church running expenses were £2481 for insurance, power, organist etc. We pay £27.20 a month share into a Benefice managed fund to pay clergy and benefice expenses. The Future The PCC is keen to see a wider use of the building within the community hence our improvement of the facilities at our church. With this first stage of improvements nearly completed we are offering the church as a venue for community functions and to date have a small 'Antiques Road show' and a Craft Fair booked. It seems likely that the Brownies will return to Erlestoke after Easter and we plan to hold some of our own fundraising events here. 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.

Mr Hampton also added that the new toilets, kitchen and disabled access have now been installed are in working order. The organ and font have also been re-sited within the church. The church has received an award from Salisbury Diocese for making the church more accessible for the village. Only 3 awards are given across the diocese.

Mr George Phillips proposed a vote of thanks to Roger and Chris Hampton for all their hard work for the alterations to the church. This was seconded by Mr M Gilbert and a round of applause then ensued. Mr Hampton wished also to thank Paul Morris the builder for all his hard work on the project.

44/11 The Landlord of the George and Dragon - Rod Coverly

The past year at the George and Dragon has been an amazing one, one with lots of different emotions, good and bad. A lot of people felt we would be hard done by by the reopening of the Lamb at Edington renamed the Paulet Arms but in fact it had the reverse effect, it sent more business our way for various reasons, one of the main reasons was that unfortunately they did not have a concrete management plan in

place and that led to chaos and disappointment. They now have a manager and we at the George and Dragon wish him and all his staff well. This past year also saw us undertake a few charity events in which we managed to raise about £2000 for the different charities. We are also trying to help the community where we can. On Saturday 16th two young girls Gemma Marshall and Emma Parish are going to be washing cars in the George and Dragon car park to help them raise the money they need to go on a Tanzanian Expedition they will be washing from 10am till 4pm and charging from £5 per car. It would be nice if you all could support them, they would be very grateful if you did. Sandy and I have been at the George and Dragon for two and a half years now but sadly we are about to say our goodbyes. We have decided to retire back down to Dorset at the end of the month. However we are handing over the reigns to Sharon and Steve Elliot whom I am sure will give you a good service. On behalf of Sandy and Myself, I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who have supported us and made us feel welcome in your village. For those of you who have not yet had the opportunity to support your local pub it is never to late, just walk through the doors and you will get a warm welcome. Thank you for your time.

A vote of thanks was extended to Sandy and Rod for their help and support to the village and the village wishes them well on their retirement.

45/11 Parish Council Chairman's Report

First I would like to welcome any new residents to the village, although we are a small village with an electoral roll of less than 200 we are a busy village and you will find plenty for you to take part in. The last 12 months have been relatively busy with some new issues but unfortunately some very old issues which are still unsolved and outstanding and the council is still working on. The Parish Steward who is employed by Wiltshire Council to carry out odd jobs around the village was overseen by the Parish Council, this is now under full control of Wiltshire Council. Erlestoke Parish Council notifies the steward of outstanding work through the clerk and we are updated with work carried out accordingly. This does not stop villagers using the Clarence line if they feel something needs doing. Lise Griffith from the Wiltshire Council Good neighbour Scheme is running a new and exiting service that is being funded by Wiltshire Council. Its main aim is to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged, vulnerable, elderly or infirm peop0le by helping them to live independently for longer. You should have received leaflets and information on this service but please let us know of you need more information. Apparently well used in other villages but not so in Erlestoke. This is a service for you to use. One of the4 main sources of heating fuel in the village is central heating oil. We had one incident when a oil tank split and leaked oil into the soil and ended up in the ditch along Lower Road. This is not the first time this has happened and can I remind everybody to keep a close eye on your oil tanks. You are aware of the work being done in the church to convert this into a usable community centre and we have requested for it to be used as a new polling station for the village. Unfortunately this cannot be achieved this year but we are hopeful for the future. Throughout the year we have attended the Devizes Area Board meetings reporting back on any changes or developments in our area. One of the topical subjects is the Coalition Governments new "Big Society and Localism" bill, this is in the early stages of implementation and as of yet we haven't seen an impact in Erlestoke. Two major changes that will impact Erlestoke residents are the Great Western Hospitals have been awarded the contract to run our community services and we are assured this will not change the service we currently receive. Secondly the Primary Care Trusts in Devizes have not been able to agree a new site for clinics and this operation is on hold at the moment. The heavy traffic on the B3098 is still an ongoing 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. On the 14th of March we attended a meeting with council representatives from Wiltshire Council, Devizes, Westbury, Cheverell Magna, Bratton, Edington, Ethandune, chaired by David Bullock who is the Wiltshire Council Highways Network Manager. This was a meeting where parishes along the B3098 all seemed to agree that something must be done about the wide loads and traffic jams that occur at different times. A number of suggestions were put to Mr Bullock ranging from new traffic signs to digital displays we hope he will take note of our concerns. After lengthy discussion the council accepted the budget as presented for 2011/12 and a precept of £5300 for this year. An issue that should be discussed tonight is the state of the village water house, next to 54 High Street, "for new residents this is the building feeding the spring water visible from the main road". This building is falling into a state of serious disrepair. The spring water feeds houses to the North of the B3098 as well as outbuilding and farms outside the village. We did a study on the cost and issues of taking over the Water House and found we could not afford to take on a task through out village precept. The spring water requires an annual purity test the costs for Wessex Water to test the water is, £100+VAT basic test, £385 +VAT full test. Another issue that has raised concerns is the felling of 30 trees in the wood at Lower Road. The planning application has not followed the normal procedures and the council is looking into the correct procedure on this application. We are aware that signs have not been installed for the car park and Secret garden and we have budgeted for these to be finished this year. The play area seems to be well used and I would like to thank all those who took part in the ongoing maintenance keeping the area smart for children

to use. We are still waiting for the new electricity sub station to be installed, this seems to have put on hold but we are still following up the SEB. 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 and our Devizes Area Board Councillor Richard gamble for the support and hard work they do for the village.

46/11 Village issues -

Tree felling planning applications

Cllr Jonik, Chairman of the Parish Council explained the background to the recent application for tree works at Pound House and North Close Wood and lengthy discussion took place regarding the circumstances surrounding the planning process and lack of notification to the village. Cllr Loraine-Smith had attended the site meeting regarding the application on the 5th of April but it was felt that he had not attended with the authorization of the Parish Council but was seen to attend as the Parish Council representative.

Water House

Cllr Jonik, Chairman of the Parish Council explained the discussions that the Parish Council had regarding the condition of the Water House in the High Street. Mr R Hampton explained that the water supply is a gravity fed system and that the Johnson brothers have agreed to maintain the building as they use the water supply. The building is listed and Cllr Gilbert said that some years ago the Parish Council did get involved in the condition of the building by writing to the listed building authorities. The difficulty is that there is no clear ownership of the property. Mr Hampton suggested that the council write to the Johnsons regarding maintaining the building and Cllr Gilbert asked the clerk to research the original letter sent to the listed building authority.

47/11 Questions from the floor

Cllr Loraine-Smith picked up on the Pound House tree felling application and stated that he was aware that Cllr Jonik had been asked to attend the site meeting regarding the application but was unable to attend as this was stated at the Parish Council meeting on the 23rd of March. He was not aware of the letter sent to Wiltshire Council by Cllr Jonik on behalf of the Parish Council until it was presented at the meeting on the 23rd of March and the council agreed that it gave a fair representation of its views on the application. Cllr Pinnington declared an interest at the meeting on the 23rd. Cllr Jonik said he was asked to attend personally and had advised that he couldn't attend any of the dates suggested and was expecting the date to be altered to the following week. Mr G Phillips asked if Cllr Loraine-Smith should resign over this matter and Cllr Loraine-Smith replied, No definitely not.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm