

Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 17th April 2013
at 7:30 p.m. in the village Church

Present Cllr. S. Jonik (Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council), Anita Whittle (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 17 parishioners were in attendance.

49/13 Welcome by Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council

50/13 Apologies: No apologies were received.

51/13 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 18th April 2012:

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: Mr. G Phillips

Seconded: Mr. T Tye

All in favour

52/13 Great Cheverell School Report – Mercedes Henning

The number on role at holy Trinity at present is 148 (we can take a maximum of 150 and are currently oversubscribed in some age groups). 22 children come from Erlestoke Parish and in total 45% of our children come from one of four villages. The rest of our children come from the surrounding area and as far afield as Broughton Gifford. We have five classes, a total of seven teachers, seven teaching assistants, five midday supervisory assistants and two 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 putting our school in the top 3% of the country for the Value added measure (how much extra progress children make above what the government would expect). Results for children in year two and year one were also significantly higher than national levels. We have very committed staff and supportive parents to make this on-going high achievement possible. 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 so that our children can leave 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 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. The children and governors examined our values and vision statement this year and decided that the four values that are shown most richly in our school are joy, compassion, aspiration and courage. Canvassing of parents and children shows that our school community has very high satisfaction with the school across all areas. We are aware always that happy learners are good learners. Because we are now an academy we do not have to deliver the new national curriculum that we do have to take all the tests set by the government. We can therefore make sure the curriculum is fun engaging broad and balanced. As well as our academic achievements we are pleased that we can provide education in all sorts of other areas as well. We took the whole school except the very youngest foundation stage children and a handful of children whose parents did not wish them to go, to a Mosque in Hounslow and then onto Kew gardens recently - a wonderful and memorable trip from which the children gained a huge amount. Volunteer helpers came from Erlestoke Village among other places. The youngest children are going to the steam museum shortly and various other day trips have taken place through the year residential trips for the children from year three upward took place this term. Themes that we have used this year include Salvador Dali and his painting the Madonna of port Lligat and we were lucky to have an expert talking to us about this painting introduced to the school through a resident in Erlestoke Village. We have also had the theme of space as a whole school theme and various class themes that included healthy me, Vikings, Romans and fairy tales. This is your village school please do come and visit us if you would like to simply make an appointment with the head teacher I also encourage you to click onto our web page from time to time the weekly newsletter is published there and I update the photographs regular regularly www.holy-trinity.co.uk.

53/13 Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club report

No formal report was presented but a member of the club who was present gave a short report. ECCC are in the final stages of purchasing the ground, the walled garden, all grass areas and the garden road. Existing access rights will remain as they are. The cricket season for ECCC is due to start on the 21st of April. There are 40 junior members at the club.

54/13 Erlestoke Church report

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 Mark Jones and our Assistant Curate the Rev Malcolm Wieck. We continue to thank Mrs Helen Diskett for her services

as Sacristan in preparing the church for services. WE have no resident organist but John Swaine plays the organ for Evensong and Chris Hampton uses the "No Organist, No problem" set of CD's for the other services. We are also grateful to Pam Baker and Gordon Ford who also play organ, for occasional services. 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 2012 the following served as members of Erlestoke PCC Vicar The Rev Mark Jones 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 (until August 2012). Our church has close links with Holy Trinity Primary Academy at Great Cheverell but the Foundation Governors are no longer nominated by or allocated to a specific parish. The PCC met five times this year. The PCC have worked hard to encourage children into church by organising the monthly "Movie Nights" and the children's workshops. They have also organised fund raising events throughout the year to raise funds for missions, church maintenance and parish share. There are 21 parishioners on the electoral roll. Churchyard. We thank Helen Hampton and other volunteers for regularly mowing the churchyard. We have done a topple test check of gravestones. Some of the older kerbed graves are falling into disrepair and will need attention. One stone cross has been laid on the grass for safety. 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 Mar Jones. The normal pattern of services for Erlestoke 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 £1296.58. Planned Giving supplied another £2948 with a tax refund of £2189.28. The monthly book swap raised £545.21. Our total income was £12388.16. Overall our funds are down by £989.08 on 2011. Our accounts are examined by Mr William Smith, Barnfield Farm, Erlestoke. Devizes Wiltshire. SN10 5UE. Church Attendance. There were 35 in attendance at our Palm Sunday Pilgrimage service, 14 at the Easter service, 31 at Harvest Thanksgiving, 43 at the Remembrance service, 61 at the carol service and 20 at the Christmas Eve communion. However these are 'special' services and we normally have between 3 and 12 at our regular Sunday services. During the year there was 1 wedding at Holy Saviour, 1 baptism and 2 funerals. We held a short Christingle Service at the end of the Christmas workshop. 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. **Expenses.** Our Parish share for 2012 was £2838.22. Our church utility expenses were £932.88, for insurance £1091.96, organist £205.00. We pay £27.20 a month share into a Benefice managed fund to pay clergy and benefice expenses. Our total payments were £13407.62. **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 improvements completed we are offering the church as a venue for community functions. The church is used regularly for Parish Council meetings, monthly nook swap, film night, as well as specific fundraising events. The monthly book swap has become very popular as a community "get together" as well as a successful fund raising event. The roadside wall has severe frost damage and has received urgent temporary repairs to make it safe. Our architect, Andrew Bumphy, is drawing up plans and consulting with Wiltshire Council before making an application to the DAC to repair or completely rebuild the wall. 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. Chris explained that they church has been given the go ahead to apply to repair the wall rather than rebuild the complete wall. She thanked the village for its support.

55/13 Parish Council Accounts – Parish Clerk

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Proposed: Dean Moore **Seconded:** Liz Kemp **All in favour**

ERLESTOKE - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 17th April 2013

<u>2011/12</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013</u>	<u>2012/13</u>
-	EVERY DAY MONIES	-
1299.87	<u>OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2012</u>	1254.41
5414.86	ADD RECEIPTS	5455.53
5415.92	DEDUCT PAYMENTS	5711.12
1298.81	<u>CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2013</u>	998.82
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>RECEIPTS</u>
	5300.00 PRECEPT	5300.00
	2.83 INTEREST	2.60
	112.03 VAT REFUND	89.33

56/13 Parish Council Chairman's Report and update on Parish Council Election

Overall we have had a very busy year, and have finally resolved some of the on-going issues that re-occur at the Secret Garden that take up the council's time and confuse residents.

First I would like to thank everybody for the excellent effort put in by the village for the Queens Jubilee on the 2nd May. Last year seems a long time ago but the Children's fancy dress, party & picnic, dog show, and the refreshment bar all surrounded by music and fun stalls made it a truly memorial day for the village.

We have been constantly working on the safety issues on the B3098. There is a reduction in the speed limit to 50 mph as you enter the village together with new painted road markings and new village signs. We have seen these as a big improvement.

We are still working on improving the road crossing at the bus stop for school children. A number of ideas have been studied and because of the restrictions of where we can have a road crossing on the high street neither seem ideal. We have improved the road signage by installing a "children crossing" sign as you enter the village and we are looking at improving this for the future. We looked in detail at "White Gates" but were advised to wait to see what improvements we get from the new changes. You are probably aware the Walled Garden is to be sold to the cricket club and we wish them well on this enterprise. When we discovered the Garden Road was to be included in this purchase this generated some concern for the Council as we have vehicle access to the Secret Garden. After taking legal advice and after recent discussions with the MOD and the Cricket Club we have all agreed that a covenant preventing undue restrictions to access on the Garden Road should be included in the purchase. This will eliminate any confrontations or altercations over the access rights in the future. We have completed the work to make the area safe to be used as an amenity and picnic area and are now looking at installing some fencing around the woodland where barbed wire is still present. The Boundary Commission again looked at Erlestoke moving out of the Devizes and Lavingtons constituency. We were very pleased to hear that we will stay in the Devizes and Lavingtons as this offers us the best and closest link to our normal day to day facilities. We did write and thank them for this discussion.

Throughout the year we attended the Area Board meeting in Devizes and reported back changes and information relevant to Erlestoke and Devizes. A big change presented to the Area Board is to the medical and NHS infrastructure where Government cuts have meant making savings without reducing the service. These are being implemented now and we wait to see the outcome of these changes. We also attended meetings at the Prison feeding back information for the village on developments and changes at the prison.

The Water House is still on the agenda, but as the Parish Council do not own the property and we cannot get closely involved. We can only advise the parish. Importantly the residents either side of the Water House have taken a lead and removed or killed the ivy that is destroying the building. A number of residents on the North Side of the main road are connected to the "Water House" supply and together with the Farms outside the village who also enjoy the facility should get together to form a group that will look after this free supply of water.

This year we have asked for a small rise in the precept of 1.8% to cover increased costs.

Unfortunately we could not secure the Church to be our polling station and as you are probably aware we must go to Great Cheverell in for the May elections.

We are still waiting for the new electricity substation to be installed, this seems to have been put on hold but we are still following up the SEB.

This brings me on to the reduced council that we have in Erlestoke. We are losing three Councillors this year, Councillor Oram, Councillor Pinnington and Councillor Moore. Councillor Lewcock was away for the registration and as he could not register on line we only have two councillors standing. The upshot of this is we do not have a quorum to Co-Op new councillors so we must go through the election process again. If more than seven apply then there will be an election, which must be an experience worth having in itself.

I urge you to consider stepping forward to help, over the years there has been stressful times, but these have changed now and we are in a new era that is moving forward in a positive way. Personally I think the council should consist of some older residents but a majority of younger or new residents as the future can be influenced by new ideas. I have been chairman for too long and Erlestoke needs new blood and a new chairman on the Council. I personally would like to see an election by the residents; I really don't like the idea of co-option by three people on the Council.

We meet every six weeks, and now the meetings last about two hours, importantly you find out what's is going on in the village. Don't forget to use the web site Erlestoke.org to look at village news and council minutes.

To register to be a Councillor you complete a simple form; you can get this from our Clerk Anita or your local Council Office.

I would like to thank all the Councillors and parishioners for their efforts throughout 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.

I wish Councillor Al Pinnington, Councillor Doreen Oram, and Councillor Dean Moore the best for the future and thank them for their hard work and time spent with the Parish Council.

Stan Jonik - Chairman Erlestoke Parish Council

The clerk advised that she will be preparing a flyer to be put round the village explaining about the council elections once she has been given the date for the election.

57/13 Village issues

Mr Phillips expressed his views regarding the present management of and future use of the Secret Garden. He asked the meeting what the general view of the meeting was reference the parking issue at the Secret Garden? There was no support for his view regarding the changes made by the Parish Council to the amenity area at the Secret Garden.

58/13 Questions from the floor

Mrs Kemp asked who will be responsible for Garden Road maintenance once it transfers to the ECCC. The person who gave the ECCC report advised that it will be up to the ECCC to maintain the road, which has already been doing for some time.

Mr Phillips was asked if he would be blocking the gateway to the Secret Garden especially during youth events. Mr Phillips replied that he would not.

The issue of the request for White Gates was then discussed with Cllr Jonik explaining that in order to purchase the gates the cost would have to be put onto the precept which is paid by each household in the village as part of their council tax. Although Wiltshire Council agreed to install the gates, the PC would have to purchase them at £600 per set, and a minimum of 2 sets would be required.

Mrs Oram asked when is the village going to get a children's crossing? Cllr Jonik explained that the Police have come up with some ideas but as yet they are not ready for open discussion. However the PC is trying to put up some new signage to advertise that children are crossing the road.

Cllr Jonik was asked if the PC had any news on the future of the George and Dragon pub, he advised that the council had not received any information or planning applications for change of use.

The meeting closed at 9pm