

**Erlestoke Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 23rd April 2014
at 7:30 p.m. in the village Church**

Present Cllr. S. Jonik (Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council) and 18 parishioners were in attendance.

29/14 Welcome by Chairman of Erlestoke Parish Council

Cllr Jonik welcomed all to the AGM and highlighted agenda and the publication of the agenda on the village notice board prior to the meeting

30/14 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mrs A Whittle (Council Clerk), Ms Morgan-Frise and Cllr Richard Gamble (Wiltshire Council).

31/14 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 17th April 2013:

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Proposed: Mrs. C Hampton **Seconded:** Mr. K Lewcock 12 in favour 7 abstained

32/14 Parish Council Accounts

Cllr Jonik highlighted the un budgeted costs for legal fees reflecting the difference between the start of the year and end of year account balance and presented to the village for approval

Cllr West highlighted that as a new councillor becoming aware of the limited budget available and what is required to be funded from it. Highlighted that the council looking at maximising use of grants to supplement but that legal requirements on the council take significant portion of funds.

Cllr Jonik highlighted his recent attendance at county council meeting which discussed funding of parishes and the issues faced. Erlestoke has increased percept by 5% but clear that many other councils had increased by as much as 30% to account for the reduction from central government and limitations on County Council funds. This funding will disappear completely and this may mean a large percept rise for Erlestoke in the next budget. Budget resilience to un budgeted events such as those around the road to the secret garden legal fees could limit what the council can achieve or eat into already thin reserves.

<u>2012/13</u>	<u>STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014</u>	<u>2013/14</u>
-	EVERY DAY MONIES	-
1254.41	OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2013	998.82
	5455.53 ADD RECEIPTS	5803.46
	5711.12 DEDUCT PAYMENTS	6111.19
998.82	CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2014	691.09
	RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS
	5300.00 PRECEPT	5400.00
	2.60 INTEREST	2.04
	89.33 VAT REFUND	174.02
	63.60 sale of jubilee mugs	0.00
	Refund from Clerk	227.40
5455.53	Total	Total 5803.46
	PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS
1113.66	ADMINISTRATION made up as follows:	1227.11
	100.00 AUDIT FEES	80.00
	523.49 INSURANCES	530.10
	70.96 WALC MEMBERSHIP	73.52
	0.00 WEBSITE	43.20
	57.71 STATIONERY	155.00
	0.00 COUNCILLOR TRAINING	42.00
	211.50 POSTAGE AND MILEAGE	133.29
	DONATION TO CHURCH FOR USE FOR MEETINGS	170.00
3600.06	CLERKS WAGES, office & computer allow	4005.28
	GRANTS (Sec 137) made up as follows:	
	25.00 THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS	790.00
790.00	VILLAGE GRASS CUTTING	88.80
182.40	MAINTENANCE made up as follows:	
	86.40 PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY CHECK	88.80
	96.00 felling of dangerous trees at secret garden	0.00
5711.12	Total	Total 6111.19
	SECTION 106 MONIES AND GRANTS	
2156.06	OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1ST APRIL 2013	1419.40
540.00	ADD RECEIPTS	474.88

1276.66	DEDUCT PAYMENTS	749.27
1419.40	CLOSING BALANCE AS AT 31ST MARCH 2014	1145.01
	RECEIPTS	RECEIPTS
	ADD RECEIPTS	
	vat return 13/14	124.88
	Grant for fencing	350.00
240.00	sale of fire wood	0.00
300.00	GRANTS for the jubilee	0.00
540.00	Total	Total 474.88
	PAYMENTS	PAYMENTS
	New fencing Secret Garden	419.27
	Legal Fees re Garden Road	288.00
94.00	ADMINISTRATION - AUDIT FEE	0.00
525.00	works at secret garden	0.00
23.29	new children crossing sign	42.00
634.37	QUEENS JUBILEE EXPENSES	0.00
1276.66	Total	Total 749.27
	FUNDS HELD BY ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL AT 31ST MARCH 2014	
998.82	EVERYDAY MONIES BALANCE AT 31/03/14	691.09
1419.40	SECTION 106 AND GRANTS BALANCE AT 31/03/14	1145.01
2418.22		TOTAL 1836.10
	BANK ACCOUNT	
	TREASURERS ACCOUNT	101.00
100.00	SAVINGS ACCOUNT	1735.10
2468.22	Showing in bank accounts	Total 1836.10
2568.22	Unpresented Cheques as at 31.03.14	Total 1836.10
150.00		
2418.22	Total	Total 1836.10

The meeting accepted the accounts as presented.

Proposed Cllr Lewcock **Seconded** Cllr West 12 in favour, 7 abstained from voting

33/14 Policing.

PC J Sheate gave his report. 4 crimes reported in the village area but asked villages to be vigilant with lighter evenings. in rural areas police are seeing oil and shed thefts. PC Sheate asked for village views on recent 'rave' on Pear Tree Hill. many villagers were un aware it had happened at all. 200+ people attended event on disused farm. two police officers in attendance and rolling risk assessment no action taken. organisers did a fair job of clearing up afterwards. police concern is with impact on villagers. blocking of road to event could force parking in villages and potential for trespass. Villages seemed content was no one disturbed. policed asked for feedback if any. The prison is a local priority and regular patrols occur to deter objects being thrown over the fence.

34/14 Great Cheverell School Report – Mercedes Henning

The number on roll at Holy Trinity at present is 150 – we are at full capacity. 17 children come from Erlestoke parish and in total only 43% of our children come from one of the 4 villages of our designated area. The rest of our children come from the surrounding area and as far afield as Broughton Gifford. 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, putting our school in the top 1% of the country for the Value Added Measure (how much extra progress children make above what the government would expect). The School's minister, David Laws, wrote to our school congratulating us on this achievement – a significant result for a little village school. Results for children in the Foundation Stage, Year 2 and Year 1 were also significantly higher than national levels. Whilst we are delighted with the academic achievement of our children, we are just as proud of all their other achievements as well. Our children behave beautifully, with maturity and kindness – visitors to the school remark on the warm, welcoming atmosphere in the school. The children understand that the Christian foundation of the school is at the heart of all that happens here and our values of courage, aspiration, compassion and joy are lived out to the full. The children also know that they have a responsibility to those less fortunate than they are. They asked me if they could support charitable organisations so we recently held a Charity afternoon where teams of children set up stalls and raised funds for their favourite charities. Many families from Erlestoke were involved in this enterprise and my thanks go to the adults who supported us with this project. We work hard at ensuring that our children are given a broad and balanced curriculum – not based only on the government's core subjects of Maths and English. We run a performance poetry competition each year, and we take part in the Eisteddfod with our school choir – thanks to Ms Sharman from Erlestoke who runs this. We have completed a big art/history project – a timeline showing the history of Britain from Neolithic times to the present, in which each child was involved with collage, painting, and drawing. The Archdeacon of Wiltshire came to unveil this for us. We like to take the children on trips off site, recently including a residential trip for the Year 3/Year 4 children to Braeside, and a trip to Devizes museum and the library for our youngest children. We also offer a wide variety of special interest clubs – including urban sports, cricket, winter sports, chess, handbells, art, design technology, judo, dance, gardening and many others. We have been fortunate enough to be able to purchase the mobile classroom that used to belong the Preschool – this will provide desperately needed space for our children. We will use the

room for art, design, music and drama projects as well as science and other project work. We will also use it as another canteen area since we have to provide free school meals to all children up to the age of 7 from next academic year. 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 and we work hard to ensure that our children are happy and aspirational. Our tremendously supportive families make this possible and we are very grateful to all of them. 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 webpage from time to time – the weekly newsletter is published there and I update the photographs regularly. www.holy-trinity.co.uk

35/14 Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Frise investigating use of funds to support village life. Mrs C Hampton stated that the committee was never disbanded. A number of members had left the village but a quorum exists and they would need to vote for any use of funds that remain.

36/14 Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club report

Cllr Lewcock read the ECCC report - insert. Cllr West and Lewcock briefed the meeting on the situation over the access rights in the deeds of sale to the ECCC. Cllr Lewcock pointed out that the council wished to preserve the value of the land owned by the village and ensure access for villages remained unrestricted for the long term. Cllr Jonik informed the meeting that the parish council was advised to seek legal advice by Wiltshire County Council. MoD agent had not informed any adjacent land owners and those with access rights of the sale. WCC advice and independent legal advice was to revise the access wording in the deeds. Only after the threat of high court action did the MoD agent engage the council in any discussions. It was agreed at an EGM that the wording provided by the parish council legal adviser would be included in the deeds. These deeds have only now in Apr 14 been passed to the parish council and the wording as agreed has not been incorporated in the deeds of sale as verbally agreed at the EGM. The Parish Council are strongly supportive of the ECCC purchase and the significant contribution it makes to village life; and relations between the ECCC and parish council have improved significantly. There remains concern that in time access could be restricted - such as if the ECCC ceased to function and the land and road were sold to another party - and the subsequent impact on a significant village asset. Concern raised by villages to access for houses to south of high street which currently had access.

37/14 Erlestoke Church report

Mrs C Hampton summarised the annual church report.

38/14 George and Dragon.

Janet Southorn (landlady) gave an update on the pub. Her and her husband are keen to keep the pub very much as a village pub and asked for villages to support it as they get the business back on its feet after a long closure and refurbishment after they moved in last year in Sept 13. They have already had a number of events and fundraising including for the Wiltshire air ambulance at Easter. Mrs. Southorn also stated they have upstairs which can hold events. Cllrs thanked Mrs Southorn for attending and success in re-opening pub.

39/14 Parish Council Chairman's

Cllr Jonik read his report.

This year was quite compared to most but will still have some ongoing issues that we have not finalised yet. We welcomed Simon West on to the council and still have one vacancy to fill so if you are interested please speak to Anita tonight. We have had a number of meetings with the prison management relaying the village points and feeding back developments at the prison. A recent change is the new Police hub that has been installed just like a mini police station to be a visible presence to visitors and anybody outside the prison.

The B3098 continues to have issues that we are not happy with. We are still working on a safe crossing for school children at the bus stop. A number of things have been done from speed recording using the police metro count system; we are waiting for the full analysis from the recent study. We have installed our own speed warning sign as you enter the village from Lavington, and highlighting the issue to the Unitary Council in Devizes. We are looking into the parking outside the Aster housing bungalows, clearly to deepen the small layby is a main objective but it transpires that this is a private layby and we are still working on this issue. This year we were told that the government would be reducing the funding for all parish councils this would have a financial effect on Erlestoke. At this point in time the government has no control on the amount the parish sets as a precept and a decision was taken to increase the precept up to the amount we would lose from a reduced government funding. This amounted to an increase of 5% for Erlestoke. The installation of a new SSE Sub Station for the village has again been delayed. In fact we find it difficult to get any answer on the future plans for power supply for the village. We were told that the recession put things on hold, but now things seem to be improving we are expecting to rekindle this project.

This year we were given funding from the Unitary Council to purchase and install fencing in the Secret Garden specifically to fence of the MOD land adjacent to the Secret Garden which was demarked with a barb wire boundary. The funding covered the purchase of the material but not the cost for installation. We organised work parties throughout the year to install the fence. We have installed the fence in position but still need to finish off the work and will be organising one more work day for this. If anybody would like to help please let us know.

Some years ago the Erlestoke house gates were removed by the MOD and taken to another location, we have tracked down where these are and are now looking at retrieving these for the village. There are a number of blocked drains along the High Street three at the Westbury end, three by the George and Dragon and drain the by the Water House Spring, is overflowing onto the road. These are planned to be cleaned on Wednesday 30th April. To do this traffic control will be used and we ask residents to park in the village car park throughout the day. Throughout the

year we attended the Area Board meeting in Devizes and reported back changes and information relevant to Erlestoke and Devizes. An ongoing project from Wiltshire Council and the Coalition Government is for Parish Councils to participate in the Neighbourhood Plan for the Devizes Area. The Neighbourhood Plan is part of the Wiltshire Core Strategy for economy and regeneration of Wiltshire. There is a cost to generating this plan in terms of time spent working on the project and publishing the overall document. Most towns and some villages have been working to complete their Neighbourhood plans typically taking up to three years to complete. Typical detail required is: About the area, Housing, Local Road Network, Transport, Education, Leisure and Wellbeing. Up to now Erlestoke council has chosen not to participate in the plan. The plan requires structured consultation with residents and analysis of data collected. As we are a small village we deemed this unnecessary, although we are still looking at this. We have a copy of the Devizes Neighbourhood plan for anybody who is interested to read. 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.

Cllr Lewcock thanked the Chairman for his continued support to the village and the excellent job he had done. The meeting gave Cllr Jonik a round of applause

40/14 Village issues

Mrs C Hampton asked if Lower Road drains could be added to drain clearance in near future.

41/14 Questions from the floor

Mrs Southorn asked if the Car Park in the Park by the church could be used during events at the pub. No objections. Cllr Jonik stressed that it was for all villages and visitor to use. Cllr West highlighted they the parish council is there to support life including business activities in the village and would continue to do so.

Mrs Southorn asked if there were any plans for a path from the village to the prison. Cllr West has been discussing with land owners potential in this area and will continue to do so potentially through the Community Area Transport Board of the County Council

The meeting closed at 21.10pm