

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH
SEPTEMBER, 2007, AT 7.30 P.M. IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

OPEN FORUM

1. The Clerk reported receipt of a communication from Graham Simmons of The Post Office enquiring whether a new Home Service postal arrangement could possibly be introduced in the village. The Council felt they would like more information on this Service.
2. Cllr. Sinnett-Jones enquired whether there was any Parish Lengthsmen service in operation as footpaths appeared overgrown. The Clerk responded that only one visit had been made to date, but she was awaiting a new programme of work to commence. Cllr. Rugg informed the meeting that this was now up and running and should be an improved service.

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PRESENT: Cllr. J. Foote (in the Chair), Cllr. M. Gilbert, Cllr. S. Jonik, Cllr. J. Morgan, Cllr. P. Sinnett-Jones and Cllr. D. Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: Wiltshire County Councillor P. Rugg and District Councillor L. Grundy.

61/06 APOLOGIES: An apology for absence had been received from Cllr. Loraine-Smith.

62/06 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: The Chairman reminded Councillors of their duty to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in business arising during the meeting.

63/06 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The Minutes of the previous meeting having been circulated, it was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and unanimously agreed they be signed as a correct record.

64/06 MATTERS ARISING: 59/06 Scottish & Southern Energy Draft Tenancy Agreement: The Clerk reported receipt of a letter setting out terms concerning the proposed renewal of the lease for the substation at the Park. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and unanimously agreed that the Clerk should reply that no payment had been received for the past six years, but once this was settled, the Council would be happy to take the matter forward.

Item 13. on the Agenda was brought forward at this point and joined with Item 1. of the Open Forum at the previous meeting concerning dog fouling:

65/06 PLAY AREA: (a) Litter Bin: Since the previous bin had been destroyed by fire, there had been no litter bin in the play area. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed to investigate the options in purchasing a new bin with a choice being made at the next meeting. Dog fouling was a constant problem and owners were expected to clean up after their animals in a public area. Under the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act there would be new penalties for communities to ensure that dog fouling is not allowed.

(b) Additional Gate: It was also agreed to ask Miles & Francis, Clyde Hoddinott and Elm Tree Landscaping for a quote for providing an extra gate into the play area to prevent the fencing becoming damaged. They would also be asked if they could install a fixed bin.

(c) Damage by Cows: The Clerk had spoken to Mr. Miles who had informed her that it was difficult to see where the play surface had been damaged by cows because of the damage by moles and it was agreed that no insurance claim would be pursued.

66/06 FINANCE: (a) Balance at Bank: The Clerk reported a balance of £100 on the Current Account and ££3,477.62 on the Reserve Account.

(b) Mazars: It was proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and unanimously agreed to pay £70.50 for the external audit.

(c) Precept: The Clerk alerted the Council to the charge which would be made for the local election next May and that provision should be made in calculating the Precept in November. District Councillor Grundy undertook to check to see if a charge would be made if there was a simultaneous District Election.

(d) Mole-catcher: It was proposed by Cllr. Jonik, seconded by Cllr. Morgan and unanimously agreed to ratify the payment of £80.00 to D. L. Stevens.

(e) Quality Parish Status: The Clerk had submitted the evidence to the Wiltshire Association of Local Councils to obtain Quality Status for the Council. If this evidence were accepted, Erlestoke should be the first small Council in the County to pass this criteria. The Clerk was thanked for her special efforts on behalf of the Council and it was proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Jonik and unanimously agreed to ratify the payment of the £29.38 fee.

(f) Clerk's Pay & Expenses: The Clerk presented her details for pay and expenses for the period 22nd February to date and left the meeting. Following discussion the Clerk resumed her duties and it had been proposed by Cllr. Sinnett-Jones, seconded by Cllr. Turner and unanimously agreed to pay £1,177.11 for hours worked (which included an extra 24 hours collecting evidence for Quality Status) and £54.20 in expenses since February. The Clerk was requested to invoice the Council for the work to be carried out prior to ceasing her work for the Council.

67/06 PLANNING: (a) Planning Application to Erect 10 Houses in The Park: It was agreed that the conditions attached to this approval be circulated to Councillors.

(b) Planning Application No. K/54557/F to erect steel frame building at Pudnell House Farm for Wiltshire County Council: This Application had received full planning permission.

(c) Planning Application No. K/54655/COL Certificate of Lawful Use at Brookfield, Lower Road: It was reported that a Certificate of Lawfulness had been issued by KDC confirming the breach of condition 1 of Planning Permission K/74/0449.

(d) Planning Application No. K/54594/F to rebuild existing chimney and rear garden room at 55 High Street for Mr. & Mrs. Jonik: This Application had granted full planning permission.

(e) Planning Application K/55168/TR2 to reduce by 60% a row of conifer trees at the main entrance to Brook Cottage, 20 High Street: The Council had no objection to this Application.

(f) Planning Application No. K/55184/F for a new lake and 18th green at Erlestoke Sands Golf Club: The Council expressed their concern at the source of the water to fill the lake and once filled, what measures would be in place to deal with excess water.

68/06 CLERK'S VACANCY: To date no applications to fill this vacancy had been made. Various suggestions were made including contacting a past applicant and an existing Councillor acting as Clerk in the meantime. Cllr. Jonik undertook to produce a flier to be enclosed with The News.

69/06 B.3098: The Clerk had spoken to Mr. Bailey from WCC concerning the road surface through the village and had been disappointed to learn that no sum of money had been withheld from the contractors. She had referred Mr. Bailey on to Cllr. Loraine-Smith who was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting that evening. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Mr. Gibbs from Eastern Highways, WCC, to point out that work to remedy the drains filling with sand in heavy rain, had not been carried out and this was still causing a problem. County Councillor Rugg undertook also to speak with Mr. Gibbs on the matter.

70/06 VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS: (a) MOD: In the event, it had not been possible to represent the Council at the Parish Liaison Day. The Chairman read a letter from the MOD expressing concern that low flying aircraft had startled riders around the village.

(b) Footpaths: It was reported that concrete “teeth” put in the path at Marditch had been ripped out. These were installed to prevent vehicles using the footpath and the Clerk was instructed to report this to the Footpath Warden.

(c) Website: Cllr. Jonik was putting a direct link through to enable parishioners to view Planning Applications. He reported that no businesses advertised yet on the website, but if they were encouraged to do so, a minor charge could cover the annual cost of the website. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed that Cllr. Jonik make an approach to local businesses to this end.

(d) Village Hall Report: A report from Cllr. Loraine-Smith informed the Council that a revised Feasibility Cost Report was expected shortly. Following a short discussion concerning the future of the Village Hall, it was decided to place this matter on the next meeting agenda.

71/06 RODENTS: Cllr. Sinnett-Jones felt it had been unfortunate that the change-over to wheelie bins had coincided with such a hot Summer and rats had been evident about the village. Advice from KDC had been to buy rat-killer to deal with the problem, as a visit from Pest Control at KDC was in the region of £60.

72/06 CHARTER 88: Cllr. Morgan requested that the Council give consideration to signing up to this Charter for an Early Day Motion in Parliament to support rural communities. However, other Councillors felt they were unable to support it as they were a non-political Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

The next meeting was re-scheduled to Wednesday, 8th November.