

MINUTES OF THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

27th March 2008

Open Forum:

Mr George Phillips addressed the council briefly to congratulate the clerk on the draft minutes presentation for last meeting and hopes that the publishing of the draft minutes can continue.

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. M. Gilbert, Mr. R.L. Smith, Mr. A. Pinnington, Mrs. D. Oram, Mr. G. Chapman and Mrs A Whittle (Clerk).

39/08 Apologies. No apologies received.

40/08 Declaration of Interest. Cllr Chapman declared an interest in planning application K/58282/F.

41/08 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th February 2008.

The minutes were accepted after the following amendment:

27/08 was altered to read as follows: Cllr Jonik reported that he had written to a number of companies which supply play equipment asking for an idea of what could be provided for £12,000. After discussion it was decided to arrange an open meeting in the village hall, when all interested parties would be invited along to view the responses from the companies. The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 12th March from 7.30pm onwards. Cllr Jonik will book the hall.

The amendment was proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Gilbert and carried unanimously.

42/08 Planning

Applications to discuss

K/58282/F – Mrs. C Grech – 44 High Street Erlestoke –

Retention of extension to existing summer house located at top rear of garden.

After discussion the council agreed by a vote of 5 in favour and 1 abstention to respond as follows: The council has no objection to either the summer house or the extension but they do feel that it should not be used as habitable accommodation either now or in the future.

43/08 New Clerks contract of service to be signed by the chairman

The Clerk and the Chairman Cllr Jonik signed the clerk's contract.

44/08 Post Office and Shop Closure "short update"

Cllr Jonik reported that the post office will close on the 31st of March 2008. He has not received any formal notification of the closure from the Post Office authority.

45/08 Section 106 Funds Update following 12th March meeting

Cllr Jonik explained that during the open evening on the 12th of March a suggestion was made by one of the village youngsters that an open morning on a Saturday be arranged to allow all the other children from the village to see the plans and books. This had now been arranged and the hall had been booked for Saturday the 29th of March from 10am to 12noon and Cllr Oram had kindly delivered a flyer to each property in the village inviting everyone to come along. Refreshments will be provided and Cllr Oram and Cllr Jonik will be on hand to answer any questions.

46/08 Draft minutes

After lengthy discussion Cllr Oram proposed that the council continue to publish the draft minutes as soon as possible after each meeting. Cllr Gilbert seconded and the proposal was carried by a vote of 4 to 3. Cllr Jonik will also make sure that the minutes are updated on the website.

47/08 Matters Arising

i. Action 74/07 Land Registration – update from clerk

The clerk explained that she had begun work on this and was now looking to obtain the deeds for each piece of land needing registering and then visit the Land Registry office in Weymouth.

ii. SEB Sub Station rent – update from Cllr Jonik

Cllr Jonik advised the council that he had spoken to the SSEB and there is no back rent to be paid due to the old way leave agreement being out of date. However the standard fee payable annually is now £60 and a new way leave agreement needs to be signed which will last for the next 21 years. However, due to the age of the substation and the fact that it does not have enough capacity for the number of houses in the village, the SSEB would like to install a larger unit that would be approximately 4metres by 4.5metres compared with the 3metres by 3 metres that the existing one is. Cllr Jonik and the clerk will arrange a meeting with the SSEB to discuss where the new sub station could be moved to within the park area baring in mind the possible siting of the new village hall. The clerk will place this on the next agenda for further discussion.

iii. Council insurance – clerk to advise on level of cover

The clerk advised that the council has full public liability insurance of £5million which covers all areas of the village including the secret garden. The cricket club also has

public liability insurance of £5million and their policy states that car parking is covered. The clerk was asked to obtain confirmation in writing from both the councils insurers and the cricket clubs insurers that parking on the secret garden is covered.

48/08 Clerks update

The clerk reported the following:

She had found out the papers for the section 31 of the highways act statement which is in place over the Park Field Recreation Ground. This is the secure way in which the council can ensure that the public do not acquire rights over the land through use. A new form must be submitted to WCC by June so she has now got this underway.

She had completed her end of year figures for the audit and now awaited the audit form for completion by her and the internal auditor before returning.

She had sent off the VAT return for the end of year. There is £322.07 to come back.

She had spoken to the Inland Revenue about the end of year return and setting herself up as a council employee.

She was in the process of completing the application for the Best Kept Village Competition.

49/08 Footpaths update – Cllr Jonik

Cllr Jonik reported that the tree had been removed from Foxholes. He also reported that the handrail in the park was being looked at by Sarcen Housing. They will maintain it from now on. Cllr Pinnington was sure that the hedge behind the hand rail had already been cut back. He had also spoken to the footpath officer regarding the footpath to the golf course. As far as the officer was concerned this footpath has very low priority. She commented that the car which parks at the end of the footpath is not a problem as long as you can walk round it. Cllr Oram will look into why footpath 5 is not being maintained as in previous years. The clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting with the footpath officer on the footpath next to Cllr Chapman's house to discuss the problem of plums falling onto the footpath from a neighbouring property which makes the surface dangerous.

50/08 The Park

Swing seats and base – repair/replacement and purchase of dog fouling signs

Following discussion the council resolved unanimously to ask the clerk to obtain three quotes for new seats and chains for the two sets of swings and to proceed with the best quote. She was also asked to purchase 3 new dog fouling signs. This item is to be placed on the May agenda.

51/08 To consider items of Correspondence needing a reply

WCC – One Council for Wiltshire – Meet and Greet evenings – April

Cllrs Pinnington, Morgan-Frise and Oram will attend the meeting at Devizes on the 14th of April.

52/08 To confirm the Financial Statement for February and March & accounts for payment

The statement for February was accepted and the following cheque agreed for payment.

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses - £622.33

53/08 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Jonik advised that he had been asked to send a representative from Erlestoke Parish Council to the cluster meeting in May. Cllr Morgan-Frise volunteered to become the representative and will attend on behalf of the village.

Cllr Smith reported that the Lengthsmen had been in the village and had cleared the drains outside Beech House. The clerk was asked to contact Rod Gibbs and find out when the replacement drain work was scheduled to take place.

Cllr Smith also reported that the Wiltshire Fire and Rescue service had recently visited his home and fitted 3 smoke alarms and gave him a briefing on fire prevention and what to do in case of a fire. This is a free service and the clerk was asked to put the information on the notice board.

Cllr Pinnington reported that the Governor at the prison had left and as yet there was no replacement. He also reported that Wiltshire County Council is to undertake a highways survey embracing the B3098. This will look into how any changes in weight restrictions would affect local businesses.

54/08 Next meeting

It was resolved to hold the next **Parish Council meeting** on **WEDNESDAY** the **7th of May** commencing with the **open forum at 7.15pm** and to then hold the **Annual Parish Meeting** on **THURSDAY** the **8th of May** at **7.30pm**. Both meetings will take place in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm