

MINUTES OF THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14th February 2008

DRAFT

Open Forum:

A member of the public asked for assurance that the minutes of each council meeting would be published as draft as soon as possible after each meeting. Cllr Jonik responded that this practice will continue for the foreseeable future or until such time as the council decides to alter its practices.

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

21/08 Apologies. No apologies received.

22/08 Declaration of Interest.

The following declarations were made.

- 1) Item 31/08 no3 Cllr Smith declared an interest Village Hall
- 2) Item 31/08 no5 Cllr Oram declared an interest as Mr Miles of Miles & Francis is her brother

23/08 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd of January 2008.

The minutes were accepted after the following amendments:

Item 20/08 should be 7th February not 14th February. **Item 16/08** (b) "road" changed to "pavement", **Item 08/08** Cllr A Pinnington stated that setting the Precept before setting the budget was the wrong way around, all in favour of amendment and **Item 18/08** "sent a letter" changed to "drafted a letter" proposed Cllr RL Smith seconded Cllr D Oram, all in favour.

24/08 Clerks Assistance at this meeting

It was proposed by Cllr Jonik, seconded by Cllr Smith and carried unanimously that Mrs Whittle assist at this meeting by taking the minutes and providing advice.

25/08 Vice Chairman Election

It was decided by the Chairman that this item would be postponed until a future meeting, possibly the May meeting when a new chairman and vice chairman are elected annually.

26/08 Post Office and Shop Closure "short update"

Cllr Jonik reported that he had been contacted by David Hyde from Postwatch and had met him at his home recently. Mr. Hyde thought that there was little chance of the post office staying open but the best route to retaining a post office service in the village would be through the George and Dragon public house. A satellite branch would have to be linked to a larger branch such a Devizes in order to operate. Cllr Jonik noted that the Post Office believes that the village has 899 residents living in 94 houses. They have taken into account the inmates at Erlestoke Prison. It was agreed by the council that the idea of a satellite branch be taken forward and investigated further.

27/08 Section 106 Funds Update "Designs and Costs" "Extra Ordinary meeting"

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 between £12,000 and £14,000. 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.

28/08 Training for Councillors and Clerk presented by Katie Fielding from WALC on 28th February 7.00 pm in the village hall.

Cllr Jonik advised the councillors of the forthcoming training session kindly arranged by Cllr Pinnington.

29/08 Best Kept Village Competition

It was resolved by a vote of 4 in favour and 2 against that the village would enter the Best Kept Village Competition for 2008.

30/08 Matters Arising:

a) Skips "Cllr Pinnington to report"

Cllr Pinnington advised the council that the rubbish skip would be on site in the Park over the weekend of the 16th and 17th of February. The plastic and cardboard skips which are manned by KDC will be arranged by Kennet and Cllr Pinnington will be advised of the date when they will be in the village.

b) Police representative and response to local crime

Apologies had been received from the local Police Officer and they will try and make the next meeting.

c) Action 74/07 Land Registration

This item is still ongoing due to the lack of a permanent clerk to the council. The new clerk will be asked to take this forward. The new clerk will also be asked to find out whether the secret garden is covered under the councils insurance policy. The clerk will also be asked to find out as much information as possible about what is covered under the council's insurance policy in general. This is to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

d) Parish Clustering Update

Cllr Jonik reported that he attended the recent Parish Cluster meeting along with other members of the council. The idea is that a larger cluster group comprising of representation from the parish councils of Erlestoke, Great and Little Cheverell, Lavington, Bratton and Edington will have a larger voice when trying to resolve local issues such as the traffic volume on the B3098.

31/08 Finance:

1. Current/Reserves Balances & Budget for 2008/2009

Cllr Jonik advised that the bank balance stood at £4657.00 as at the date of this meeting. He then presented the proposed budget for 2008/09 as follows:

Receipts	2008	Reserve
Precept	£3,870	
Interest	£104	
Grants	£104	
Total	£4,078	
Costs		
Insurance & Legal Fees	£412	
Accounts Audits	£85	
Expenses	£400	
Sundries	£208	
Training		£156
Membership Subscriptions	£98	
Grass Maintenance	£650	
Equipment Maintenance		£400
Web Site	£36	
Total	£1,889	£556
Clerks Salary		
Clerks Terms	Hrs	Rate
16 Hrs per Month	192	£11.50
192 Hrs per Year	£2,208.00	
Receipts	4,078	
Costs		1,889
Clerk		2,208
Total	4,078	4,097

Acceptance of this budget was proposed by Cllr Jonik, seconded by Cllr Gilbert, and carried unanimously.

2. SSEB Renewal of Lease

Cllr Jonik read out a letter received from Wanborough solicitors. He will take this forward.

3. Village Hall donation £100

The council resolved to give the Village Hall Committee a donation of £100.

4. Playsafety Ltd £79.42

The council resolved to pay the invoice including an amount for late payment.

5. Miles & Francis £364.25

The council resolved to pay the invoice.

6. Grant for Cleansing

Cllr Jonik has contacted KDC and the form has been completed in order to claim the grant.

7. Grant cleaning lake from Sustain the Plain

This is an ongoing application.

32/08 Planning: H M Prison

Cllr Jonik had received a document from KDC quoting how the prison can build up to 1000sq metres of floor space without permission and they can increase the size of any building by 25%.

33/08 Correspondence received

At this point Cllr Pinnington proposed the following: The matter of the cricket club is a problem for this council's effective running and a meeting should be called to discuss the secret garden parking issue. Cllr Smith seconded the proposal and a vote of 3 in favour and 2 against means that the meeting will take place after the training session with Katie Fielding on the 28th of February.

34/08 Parish Steward, jobs required for 11th March

The steward will be asked to clear the blocked drains, the grips and footpaths 12 and 13 in the park need clearing of moss as they are dangerous. Also footpath 5 needs cutting across land at Bronkerscourt Farm. The footpath officer will be asked to write to the land owner.

35/08 Village Rep. Reports

Cllr Jonik reported on the footpaths as follows: There is a tree fallen in Foxhollow, the new clerk will be asked to write to the property owner adjacent to footpath 11 as the hedge needs cutting

back and Esther Daly the footpath warden needs to be contacted regarding the car which parks at the end of the lane blocking the footpath.

36/08 Co-option of new Councillor

One application had been received for the vacant Councillor position. The letter of intention from Ms Fiona Morgan-Frise was read out by Cllr Jonik. Cllr Jonik proposed that Ms Morgan-Frise be appointed to the vacant Councillor Position. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Pinnington and carried by a unanimous vote. Cllr Jonik will contact Ms Morgan-Frise.

37/08 Date of Next Meeting

It was resolved to hold the next council meeting 6 weeks from this meeting on Thursday 27th March at 7.30pm in the village hall.

**At this point the meeting was closed to the public by the following motion:
That in the view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw. All in favour.**

38/08 Interview for new clerk: Mrs. Anita Whittle

After a short period of questions to Mrs. Whittle Cllr Jonik proposed that the council appoints her as the new clerk. This was seconded by Cllr Pinnington and carried unanimously. It was also proposed by Cllr Jonik that a cheque for £40 be written to pay Mrs. Whittle for her work at this evenings meeting and for preparing the written minutes of this meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Pinnington and carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 11.00pm

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th March 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

