

MINUTES OF THE ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
3rd September 2008

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. A. Pinnington (Vice Chairman), Mr. M. Gilbert, Mr. R.L. Smith, Mrs. D. Oram, Ms. F. Morgan-Frise and Mrs. A. Whittle (Clerk).

Open Forum:

Mr G Phillips addressed the council on three issues.

1. The Private Land Signs at the entrance to the Secret Garden have been removed
2. The Tarmac track is breaking up leading to the Secret Garden. This is owned by the MOD
3. Why do the council still insist on holding the Parish Council meetings in the George and Dragon when they used the Church for the recent extra-ordinary meeting. The clerk explained that having spoken to Mr Jonathon Gale at Kennet DC his view was that of the clerks in that the George and Dragon has all the facilities needed for a meeting where the public can attend i.e. toilets and heating.

Mr D Sandford addressed the council asking whether anything was happening about speed humps in the Park. Cllr Jonik explained that this was still being looked into and Cllr Morgan-Frise was undertaking a traffic survey of the area before the council approaches highways for their views.

Mrs Oram advised the council that the top rail around the play area is broken.

Cllr Pinnington agreed to fix the problem and present a receipt for any items purchased to fix the rail.

106/08 Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Pat Rugg and Cllr Lionel Grundy.

107/08 Declaration of Interest.

Cllr Pinnington declared an interest in planning application K/59260/TR2 and took no part in the discussion and subsequent vote.

108/08 To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 31st July and 14th August 2008

The minutes were approved as follows:

31st July 2008– Proposed Cllr Morgan-Frise, Seconded Cllr Gilbert, All in favour.

14th August 2008 – Proposed Cllr Pinnington, Seconded Cllr Oram, All in favour.

109/08 Planning

Applications for consideration.

K/59260/TR2 – A Pinnington – Pound House, Lower Road

Works to trees at the property to consist of the felling of an ornamental cherry tree, the felling/coppicing of a sycamore tree, the felling of four further sycamore trees and a 40% reduction of an oak tree.

No objection Proposed – Cllr Gilbert, Seconded – Cllr Loraine-Smith, All in favour

K/59299/TR2 – Mr Lewcock – The Limes, 31 High Street

The felling of a conifer tree in the front garden of the property and the felling of a multi stemmed conifer tree in the rear garden.

No objection Proposed – Cllr Morgan-Frise, Seconded – Cllr Oram, All in favour

110/08 District and County Councillors reports.

No councillors present.

111/08 Resignation of Cllr Chapman

The clerk advised that she had notified Wiltshire Electoral Services (Jonathon Gale) of the resignation due to ill health of Cllr Chapman. He will now prepare the notices and send them to the Chairman for advertising on the village notice board. It was resolved that a letter of thanks be sent to Cllr Chapman for his time on the Parish Council.

112/08 Condition of the road in the Park following the building of the new houses

There is still the problem of the damage to the road in the park following the building of the new houses. Cllr Jonik agreed to write to the building company and the clerk agreed to find the minute reference which states that the manager from the company agreed to put right any damage to the road. Cllr Jonik also agreed to contact Sarcen Housing regarding the damage to the pillars on entering the Park area which again was done by the lorries delivering to the building site.

113/08 Possible appointment of Village handyman

After discussion it was agreed to put this on the October agenda when Councillors would have had time to form a view on the possible appointment and when there may be more information regarding the chance of Parish Councils to take over tasks and the budget attached from the new Wiltshire Council next financial year.

114/08 Car Park in The Park Area

Cllr Jonik explained that he had received a quote from Gaigers builders in Devizes which he had asked for in order to apply for any grant monies from Kennet DC or other organisations. He agreed to take this forward as the clerk is now on leave until the end of September. He would approach Cllr Grundy for assistance.

115/08 Future uses of the Secret Garden – to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting

After lengthy discussion, it was resolved to hold this extra-ordinary meeting on Thursday 2nd October starting at 7.15pm in the upstairs room of the George and Dragon Public House. Cllr Jonik will prepare the agenda stating an open forum of a maximum of 1 hour followed by a Parish Council meeting.

116/08 SSEB Sub Station – Siting of new larger station

Cllr Jonik explained that as yet there is still no idea of where the new station will be sited but he has ascertained that the structure itself is 2.5 metres across but the electricity company would rent an area of 4.5 metres square so that the council could not build anything within that 4.5 metre square.

117/08 To consider items of Correspondence needing a reply

Community First – Parish Plan Information Event
Cllrs Morgan-Frise and Oram agreed to attend.

118/08 To confirm the Financial Statement for August & accounts for payment

The accounts for August were accepted and the following invoices agreed for payment.

Mrs. A Whittle – Hours and Expenses August and September - £504.81

Inland Revenue – months 5 and 6 - £88.80

Playdale – Balance for new play equip - £2117.35

Community First – extra insurance premium for new play equipment - £104.10

W Smith – Internal Audit 07/08- £40.00

Also to confirm additional signatories on the bank account.

It was resolved to add the Clerk and Cllrs Oram, Morgan-Frise and Pinnington as signatories on the bank accounts.

119/08 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Pinnington advised the council that he had been trying to speak to the prison Governor since the last meeting, without success.

Cllrs Loraine-Smith and Oram have compiled a list of tasks for the Parish Steward and have emailed them to the eastern highways office. Cllr Loraine-Smith also asked if any response had been received from Rod Gibbs regarding the footpaths. The clerk explained that she had tried on a number of occasions since his return from leave on the 14th of August, without success. Cllr Jonik agreed to take this forward. Cllr Loraine-Smith also advised that he and Cllr Pinnington had a good day out with the army at West down camp recently. He also advised the council of the Plain Watch number to which any incident on the plain can be reported. 01980 674700.

Cllr Gilbert is still aiming to get the footpath across the field at the bottom of the golf course cut.

Cllr Oram explained that she had spoken to Kennet regarding the card board and plastic skips and trying to formalise the visits. Cllr Jonik will email Kennet asking for the skips to visit Erlestoke on the same day as they visit Great Cheverell.

120/08 Thanks to the staff at the George and Dragon for their hospitality.

The council agreed to write a letter of thanks both to the George and Dragon and the Church for allowing the Parish Council to hold its recent meetings at the two venues. Cllr Jonik will write on the council's behalf.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

An extra-ordinary meeting will be held on Thursday the 2nd October from 7.15pm in the upstairs room of the George and Dragon public house.

The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday 23rd October 2008 7.15pm in the upstairs room of The George and Dragon public house.