

MINUTES OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church 23rd September 2009 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Ms. F. Morgan-Frise, Mr. M. Gilbert, Mr. K. Lewcock, Mrs. D. Oram and the Clerk.

Open Forum:

Mr G Phillips addressed the council regarding the recent party at the cricket club. He also pointed out two amendments to the minutes - 107/09 to receive reports from Village Representatives: Public footpath number 5 (added) from Lower Road to the Golf Course is overgrown and the owner needs contacting. He also commented that the amounts of the cheques written should be included on the minutes. The clerk had already changed the draft minutes to show this.

Andy Rogers – Prison Governor – suggested that perhaps a note could be sent round the village asking that parties or events going on past 11pm should be notified to the neighbours as a courtesy. He also commented on a letter he had received from George Batten about the speed detectors and Golden River recording device being installed outside the prison on the B3098. This will be happen sometime this calendar year.

109/09 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllrs Loraine-Smith & Pinnington

110/09 Declaration of Interest – No declarations of interest were made.

111/09 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th August 2009

The minutes for the 12th August 2009 were accepted with the following slight amendment. Public footpath **number 5 (added)** from Lower Road to the Golf Course is overgrown and the owner needs contacting.

Proposed Cllr Gilbert

Seconded Cllr Oram

All in favour.

112/09 Planning –

Decisions Received from Wiltshire Council

E/09/0948/LBC – Tilted Lodge – internal works – Permission

E/09/0558/FUL – Landmark Services – Erection of replacement building – Permission

113/09 Prison update – Andy Rogers Prison Governor

Andy reported that a contractor had been appointed to take forward the planning and project management for the replacement unit at the prison. He commented that the drug problem continues although is much less of a problem. 2 people have however been arrested on the outside of the prison boundary trying to pass drugs through. The prison now has 6 prisoners on can work outside the prison on a daily basis.

114/09 Cllr Gamble – Wiltshire Council

Cllr Gamble gave his apologies for not attending the last meeting. He advised that the Devizes Area Board meeting was on the 28th of September. The November meeting will address Highways issues and the January meeting will cover floods. He noted the agenda item regarding speed indication devices and suggested that Gemma Rutter would be a good person to talk to on the subject. Cllr Gamble is looking at the problems on the B3098 and is looking into whether it can be downgraded to a C road also that more signage saying not suitable for large vehicles be erected. The council agreed to write to highways via Richard gamble asking for more signage at both ends of the B3098 saying not suitable for large vehicles. The clerk agreed to write to all Parish Councils on the B3098 asking them to write aswell. He advised that there will be an open day on the 1st of October in Devizes Town Hall regarding the new medical centre. The consultation on housing for the Wiltshire Core Strategy will begin very soon. Wiltshire has received a grant award from government of £5.4million over the next two years. The Devizes area will receive £100,000 per year to award.

115/09 Devizes Area Board update – Cllr Jonik

He reported on the last area board meeting noting that it did seem to be very Devizes based. He advised that he and the clerk will be attending the area board meeting on the 28th of September.

116/09 Budget and section 106 monies update – Clerk

The clerk advised the council that they were on target with the budget for this year and distributed a copy of the up to date budget and the forecast for the end of the financial year.

117/09 Clerks update.

1. Condition of Secret Garden Road and Pear Tree Hill to Stoke Hill Road

The clerk had written again most strongly to Nigel Sharpe at Westdown Camp stating the condition of both this road and the road to the Secret Garden. She had copied her previous letters to him asking for his immediate attention due to safety. She hopes for a reply in the very near future.

2. Progress of New legal notice regarding no right of way to the Secret Garden

This is still an ongoing project with the solicitors due to holidays and time away from the office for both the clerk and the solicitor.

3. Quotes for tree works on the Secret Garden and information from the Wiltshire Council Tree Officer re planning

Having now confirmed in writing the councils position regarding any planning permission required, she will now obtain three quotes for works to the trees in the garden.

4. Installation of Road Safety signs for the Park Area as agreed last financial year

She has contacted Mark Stansby who apologises for his remiss in not ordering the signs etc. He has now ordered them as a priority job

5. Progress of installation of New Sub Station in the Park

She has confirmed in writing to Southern Electric the councils agreement for the sub station to be sited next to the boundary fence and the car park. The SEC is now preparing the legal documents which will be sent to her shortly.

6. Sign stating that the council accepts no liability for vehicles parked on the new car park

This has been dealt with alongside the road safety signs with Mark Stansby

7. Removal of weeds from new car park

She has yet to liaise with Bob Miles on this issue but will do before the end of the week

It was suggested at the meeting that perhaps this could be a task for the prisoners who can work outside the prison. The clerk was asked to write to Gaigers regarding the weed growth.

8. Legalities around camping on the Secret Garden

This is an issue for the council as camping is classed as a recreational use. If this is allowed by the council then notices need to be put on site stating that the council accept no responsibility for any persons or their private property whilst they are camping. We should also include no campfires due to safety.

118/09 Secret Garden

Following lengthy discussion it was proposed and accepted that any further discussion regarding the future use of, fencing of or changes to the Secret garden will be dealt with at the Annual Parish Meeting next April/May 2010.

Proposed Cllr Morgan-Frise Seconded Cllr Gilbert All in favour

It was then resolved that the clerk will obtain three quotes for each of the following; A formal sign for the Secret Garden with the usual notices for responsibility etc, works to the trees especially on the boundary as required for normal site management and the installation of picnic style benches as these have already been requested by the villagers. The clerk will try and get these for the November meeting.

119/09 Footpaths

Information regarding the lower footpath from Erlestoke to Coulston across Brounckers Court Farm Land – This issue has now been resolved.

120/09 Highways

Condition of grass verges along the B3098 to Erlestoke Prison. Andy Rogers stated that this area is part of his discussions with George Batten from Environmental Services but the council felt that some pressure from them may speed the process for cutting the grass down or perhaps installing a footpath. The clerk was asked to write to highways stating that the grass needs cutting back as an elderly resident uses the verge regularly to get to the centre of the village. A footpath on some kind would be even better. Also now that the village has no village hall, many residents walk to Great Cheverell to use the hall there.

Also the give way sign outside 1 Lower Road has been removed.

121/09 Skips – timetable for visits

The next scheduled visit for the plastic and cardboard skips is the 10th of Feb 2010. The clerk will arrange with Naomi Henderson for the visits from April 2010 onwards. The council asked the clerk to book an amenity skip for early January at a cost of £70 to the council.

122/09 Untaxed Vehicles using Erlestoke Parish Council property

The clerk explained that should a vehicle be left on Parish Council land without tax then the contact to report this is Clarence on 0800 23 23 23 or email Clarence@wiltshire.gov.uk.

123/09 Siting of repaired bench

It was decided to reinstall the repaired bench by the side of the Park Road on the recreation area. Cllr Jonik will arrange a team to have this installed on a solid base.

124/09 Parish Steward visit

The Parish Steward is due end October early November. The weeds need clearing and the village signs need cleaning. The clerk was asked to write to Graham Hay regarding whether the Parish Steward who covers Erlestoke is trained in weed management, if not could we have a steward who is.

125/09 Speed Indication Devices (Flashing Speed Signs)

After discussion it was decided that Cllr Morgan-Frise will raise the issue of SID's at the next cluster meeting. In the mean time the clerk will write to ask if a set of signs could be put up in the village for a few weeks via the camera safety partnership or the local police.

126/09 Suggestion of an outdoor village carol service

It was thought that the suggestion was a valid one and Cllr Lewcock will look into this further.

127/09 To consider items of Correspondence needing a reply

Wiltshire Council – Consultation about bus tokens, taxi vouchers and railcard vouchers
Cllr Oram will pass the questionnaire to any residents who receive the bus pass for their completion.

Wiltshire Council – Invitation to Service of Dedication for the new Wiltshire Council
Sunday 11 October – 3pm at Salisbury Cathedral

Cllr Jonik and the clerk agreed to attend the service on behalf of the council.

128/09 To confirm the financial statement for August and the accounts for payment

The council accepted the financial statement for August and agreed the following payments:

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Exp - £239.28

Inland Revenue - £50.60

The News – Donation - £100.00

W Smith – internal audit 08/09 - £50.00

129/09 To receive reports from Village Representatives:

Cllr Lewcock reported that he had been liaising with the cricket club, golf club, church and the pub. On speaking to the pub landlord it was apparent that the village needs to support the pub more or lose it. He advised that on the 26th of September there is a 50th birthday at the pub with a licence to 2am and on the 6th of November there is a Country and Western night. The cricket club fireworks are on the 7th of November.

130/09 Next meeting date is 4th November in the Parish Church commencing at 7.15pm with the open forum.