

MINUTES OF THE
ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held in the Parish Church 11th January 2012 at 7.15pm

Present: Councillors, Mr. S. Jonik (Chairman), Mr. A. Pinnington, Mr. M. Gilbert, Mrs. D. Oram, Mr. R. Loraine-Smith, Mr K Lewcock, Mr D Moore and Mrs. A. Whittle (Clerk). Cllr. R. Gamble

Open Forum:

Mr G Phillips advised that the Newtown Crossroads sign had been moved and he was very sad to see that Cllr Gilbert had decided to retire from the council after some 27 years continuous service. **Mr R Loraine-Smith** commented on the recent accident at Victoria Park when a young girl was hit by a car as she crossed the road after having got off the school bus. Cllr Gamble advised that he had asked the Police for an official report but the unofficial information is that the accident was caused by an individuals mistake not the bus company or car drivers fault. Discussion than took place regarding the children crossing the road in the village and the speed of the traffic through the village. The clerk was asked to place this on the February agenda. He also wished the council to note that under the Local Government Act of 1972 section 137 a council can donate £6.44 per head of local government elector (2011/12). Also the expenditure must be reasonable. This was noted in conjunction with the possible monies to be set aside for the villages Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

01/12 Apologies

No apologies were received.

02/12 Declaration of Interest

No declarations were made.

03/12 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st December 2011

The minutes of the meeting on the 1st of December were accepted as presented.

Proposed Cllr Loraine-Smith **Seconded** Cllr Pinnington All in Favour

04/12 Wiltshire Council – Cllr Richard Gamble

Cllr Gamble advised that the Boundary Commission consultation ended on the 5th of December. He advised that he had attended and spoke at the public hearing in Bournemouth and handed in a petition containing 570 signatures against the changes for this ward. In March 2012 the responses will be published on the website and further comment can be made on the comments received at the first stage. Clare Perry, the chair of Devizes Area Board also wrote to object. The next Devizes Area Board meeting is on Monday 23rd of January and will be a Young Peoples evening when presentations will be made for grant funding. Monday 6th of February there is a village's event at the corn exchange in Devizes. The draft document for the Core Strategy is on the Wiltshire Council website. Erlestoke Cricket Club is bidding for the walled garden and the area board have received a grant application. He then asked what the broadband connection was like in the village and was advised that it's not good at all and the village needs a stronger signal.

05/12 Planning

Application to discuss

E/2011/1681/FUL – Erlestoke Prison – retention of prefabricated educational building
No comment although the council is pleased that they have been asked to comment

E/2011/1743/TCA – 2 Park View – Fell Ash Tree
No comment

06/12 Erlestoke Prison issues

Cllr Moore reported that a recent incident had occurred where a member of the public had walked through the Park to the prison fence and had thrown drugs over the fence into the prison grounds. The Police were called immediately and an arrest was made.

07/12 Devizes Area Board and Devizes Community Area Partnership

Next meeting of DAB – Monday 23rd January – 7pm Devizes Sports Club

08/12 Highways issues to include Parish Steward Tasks

To include recent accident at Victoria park school bus drop off – see open forum. Cllr Lewcock asked if PC Milnes 2365 could visit the site when the children are walking to get the school bus and when being dropped off to view the situation

The pavement is becoming covered by soil slippage at the 2 sarcen bungalows on the High Street. The vegetation along the based of the wall in Lower Road still needs to be removed. The drain opposite 60 High Street requires reseating again.

09/12 Budget and Precept 2012/13

The clerk presented a draft budget for 2012/13 which included the precept of £5300 remaining the same. This was accepted by the council.

Proposed Cllr Moore **Seconded** Cllr Gilbert All in Favour

It was also decided to allow a maximum of £300 from Parish Council reserves for the Queens Jubilee Celebrations and events in the village if required.

Proposed Cllr Moore **Seconded** Cllr Jonik All in Favour

10/12 Queens Diamond Jubilee Celebrations June 2012

Cllr Jonik gave a short report on the progress made by the group hoping to organise some events in the village to mark the Jubilee. He will report back to the clerk with amounts for a grant application to Devizes Area Board for help with the costs of any event.

11/12 Memorial to Roger Hampton

Cllr Jonik had spoken to Chris Hampton about the council's idea of a memorial plaque to Roger. She was very pleased with the idea. The clerk was asked to write to Mrs Tye asking for information on how authority for a plaque to be installed inside the church can be obtained.

Proposed Cllr Pinnington **Seconded** Cllr Moore All in Favour

12/12 Matters ongoing

Moving of play area sign

The clerk advised that she was awaiting a date for the sign to be moved

Sub station

The clerk advised she had heard nothing more and would speak to Southern Electric before the next meeting.

The Water House

The clerk was asked to write to Brian Johnson at Stokes Marsh Farm Coulston regarding the buildings condition and the conservation team at Wiltshire Council regarding the building being a listed building.

13/12 To consider items of Correspondence - None

14/12 To confirm the Financial Statement for November/December & accounts for payment

The statement for November/December was agreed and the following agreed for payment:

Mrs A Whittle – Hours and Expenses February - £262.26

HM Customs and Excise – PAYE month – 11 - £44.40

Miles and Francis – Grass cutting – £395.00

Erlestoke PCC – Donation towards meeting costs - £150.00

15/12 To receive reports from Village Representatives

Cllr Gilbert advised that he had cleared some fallen trees at Foxholes. The bus shelter walls require painting in the summer and the footpath information has been defaced. Tyres had been dumped at Stokes Hill and he had reported it.

Cllr Moore advised that there is a big military exercise taking place on Salisbury Plain in a couple of weeks so there will be an increased level of noise.

16/12 Resignation of Cllr Gilbert

It is with great sadness that the Chair of the council had received Cllr Gilberts resignation letter. He has been a very valued member of the council for 27 years and the council has relied on his support and knowledge over the years. Cllr Gilbert commented that he felt, partly due to personal reasons, it was time to move on and let someone new come onto the council. He said he would still be happy to support the council if required. He will be missed by all on the council. The clerk has already set the wheels in motion to advertise for the vacancy.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

**The next meeting,
Wednesday 22nd February 2012
at 7.15pm
in the Village Church.**