

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF ERLESTOKE PARISH**  
**COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2006, AT 7.30 P.M. IN**  
**ERLESTOKE VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. J. Foote (in the Chair), Cllr. M. Gilbert, Cllr. S. Jonik, Cllr. J. Morgan, Cllr. R. Loraine-Smith and Cllr. P. Sinnett-Jones and Cllr. D. Turner.

**PARISHIONERS PRESENT:** Mr. & Mrs. S. Grace, Mr. E. Look, Mrs. D. Oram and Mr. A. Pinnington.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** District Councillor L. Grundy, Mrs. M. Henning (Head Teacher at Holy Trinity School, Great Cheverell) and Police Constable J. Robins.

**38/06 APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence had been received from Mr. D. Moon – Governor of HMP Erlestoke, Mr. G. Phillips and Wiltshire County Councillor Mrs. Pat Rugg.

**39/06 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:** The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 had been circulated. In the interests of clarity under item 7. the word “Parish” was deleted and “community” substituted to read “Ownership of the Land: the Hall is owned by the community and the land by Mrs. P. Hampton.” With this amendment, it was proposed by Cllr. Jonik, seconded by Cllr. Loraine-Smith and agreed they be signed as a correct record.

**40/06 MATTERS ARISING:** 4. Finance: Cllr. Morgan suggested that it be minuted that a Playground Survey had been conducted in the village. Mr. Pinnington asked if the funds from KDC had been allocated. Cllr. Morgan replied that this amounted to £3,000 from the S.106 agreement arising from the six houses planned in The Park and this had not been allocated. If ten houses were built, the sum suggested in the S.106 agreement was £16,500 for the benefit of the community. Mr. Pinnington wanted to see a greater balance between spending on the play area and landscaping to shield the Prison site from the village. However, Cllr. Sinnett-Jones pointed out that landscaping could not be carried out on privately-owned land. Cllr. Morgan felt that a mix of play equipment and seating could be an appropriate use of the funds.

The agenda was rearranged at this point to allow Mrs. Henning and PC Robins to give their reports and leave the meeting.

**41/06 VILLAGE REPORTS: (a) HMP Erlestoke:** Mr. Moon had sent his apologies and an Independent Monitoring Report was made available to those present.

**(b) Holy Trinity School, Great Cheverell:** Mrs. Henning thanked the Parish Council for inviting her to the meeting. She had only been Head since the commencement of the academic year and reported that 51% of the children came from outside the catchment area; 138 children attended the school, of which 13 came from Erlestoke. The number of children attending from Erlestoke was dropping. Mrs. Stoye was a valued Teacher's Assistant who had worked for approximately 17 years at the School and Liz Kemp was the Erlestoke Governor who would shortly be retiring from the position. Interested parties should contact Graham Southgate, Foundation Governor, and be a practicing Christian. Recruiting of pupils would have to stop at 147 which left only six places free at the School. Every second year carol singing was conducted at Erlestoke and many children attended Brownies in Erlestoke. The School had received a good OFSTED report in 2004, they were working towards acquiring more ICT equipment, running a Healthy Schools Campaign and were in the top 20% in the country for SATS results. The strong PFA had raised £2,500 for a computer suite. Visitors were welcome to attend open assemblies on Fridays and speak on lots of topics. She announced an Open Afternoon on 5<sup>th</sup> July and Family Fun Event on 7<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr. Gilbert asked about car parking and Mrs. Henning welcomed any suggestions to improve the situation whilst encouraging parents to park elsewhere and walk into school. The Chairman thanked Mrs. Henning for attending the meeting and offered the Council's support to her in her new role.

**(c) Wiltshire Constabulary:** PC Robins explained that WPC Anne Deuchars was transferring to the Control Room which left a vacancy for the local officer to be filled. PC Robins patrolled the Lavingtons. He reported that crime in Erlestoke was very low: only four offences occurred outside the Prison. He reminded those present of the Wiltshire Police Non-emergency Telephone Number: 0845-4008-7000. The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator was Pat Suther who worked on Thursdays only, and Roger Hampton was the local representative. The recent fire in the rubbish bin in the play area was raised and PC Robins undertook to see if action would be taken. Cllr. Loraine-Smith raised the matter of the abortive rave a year ago and the consequences for the village. PC Robins felt that the MOD were keen to move people on and the senior officer in the Police was left to decide where the priorities lay. It was generally a matter of seizing equipment and requesting people leave, but Police action was determined by the number of officers available. He went on to talk of the planned integration of Police Forces across the country which should be publicized in September; Wiltshire was trying to stay separate, but with 1200 officers they were one of the smallest Forces in the country. Cllr. Loraine-Smith had learnt at a recent meeting that June was the one month of the year with the highest crime rate for the year. Distraction burglaries had taken place in the Lavington area, but this had been a country-wide operation. The use of 4-wheel drive vehicles was raised and lack of action by the MOD, but PC Robins felt that the MOD were quite often too far away to act promptly. The Chairman thanked PC Robins for his report and he replied that he hoped there would soon be news of the new Area Officer.

**(d) Parochial Church Council:** No report.

**(e) Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club:** No report.

**40/06 MATTERS ARISING (RESUMED)(b) HMP Erlestoke:** The correspondence with the Home Office (which had been displayed on the Parish Noticeboard) was made available to those present. Mrs. Oram raised the subject of the trees on the bank encroaching on the B.3098 and the Clerk was requested to write to the Prison. Mr. Pinnington felt that KDC had let the village down badly concerning the lack of landscaping to shield the Prison from the village. He felt that a normal commercial venture would have landscaping, different lighting and banks to protect the village. District Councillor Grundy, who had not attended the previous APM, had gone back to the Planning Department concerning the fact that originally the Prison had been a Detention Centre and there had been an agreement that it would not intrude upon the local area, but so much building had been carried out over the years, it had grown into an ugly venture. It had largely happened before KDC had existed and hence had no records and no evidence of an earlier agreement. It was unfortunate that KDC did not always agree with Erlestoke Parish Council and hence did not support them. District Councillor Grundy offered to speak with KDC's Chief Executive to see what could be done. It was finally agreed that the Prison representative, Cllr. Morgan, approach the Prison and seek consultation with Mrs. Hampton.

**(c) Traffic Signage:** The Clerk reported on correspondence with Wiltshire Highways indicating there was no appropriate signage which could be erected for the concealed entrance by HMP Erlestoke.

**42/06 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:** This had been circulated to every house in the village. An SEB draft agreement for a proposed lease had been received with a suggested £40.00 annual rental. As the Council was attempting to have this figure increased, the Council's solicitor had suggested they negotiate independently. The Chairman had suggested £60.00 per year with a review in the future; Cllr. Jonik felt that a 21 year lease was not acceptable. The Clerk was instructed to talk to the SEB having sought advice from WALC. It was also felt a retrospective payment should be made for the period of dispute over the 4' strip. The closure of the Courtyard Surgery was disappointing and would be most inconvenient for the elderly. The delivery of the new refuse bins could present problems for the elderly too and KDC suggested that those with difficulties with the new arrangement for a fortnightly collection of refuse in the bins provided should make contact for assistance. The resurfacing of the B3098 had been unsatisfactory and Mr. Gibbs of WCC Eastern Highways had agreed to monitor the situation. Traffic speed had increased with the repair of the road and BT had since dug it up. However, Marditch had been much improved using the debris from the roadworks. Fouling of paths by dogs continued to be a major problem although poop scoop bags were available free of charge from the Clerk; one dog and owner seemed responsible. The Chairman thanked the Council and the Clerk for their efforts on behalf of the Parish and also Mr. Phillips and Mrs. Oram and Mr. Godwin for their assistance in resolving the 4' strip.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Sinnett-Jones for his work as Chairman and for his report.

**43/06 FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts which had been circulated to those present. These had been approved by the internal auditor and it was proposed by Cllr. Turner, seconded by Cllr. Jonik and unanimously agreed that the accounts be adopted. Mr. Pinnington raised the subject of the Clerk's pay and the move towards Quality Status for the Council and queried why no extra grants had been forthcoming during the year. The Clerk had achieved the Certificate in Local Council Administration which was one of the criteria needed to be met, with others were to follow. Mr. Pinnington felt the Clerk's pay was a large part of the Precept without any tangible benefits. The Chairman replied that the Council had noticed a huge change and a more professional approach to the work of the Council. Cllr. Jonik felt the Clerk had played a part in resolving the 4' strip and Cllr. Gilbert felt the Council was back on an even keel.

**44/06 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE:** Cllr. Loraine-Smith reported that a feasibility study had been completed, but not accepted by the Village Hall Committee. An estimated cost of £700,000 had been quoted for the first building and a resubmission had been requested, resulting in a quote for £600,000 which has since been reduced to £400,000, but this would require an amended Planning Application. It was hoped the situation would be resolved. The architect was looking at the brief to ascertain whether all the new regulations for insulation, disabled access, etc. could be met. There was currently £10,000.00 in the Village Hall Account.

**45/06 FUTURE POST OFFICE SERVICE:** This had been aired at the Annual General Meeting and no further comments raised.

**46/06 QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR:** Mrs. Oram thanked the Parish Council for following up the 4' strip and resolving it.

**47/06 CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY:** The Chairman promised to do his best during the forthcoming year and he would be looking for support from the rest of the Council. He thanked Cllr. Sinnott-Jones for his work as Chairman for the past two years.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.