

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL, 2006, AT 7.15 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

OPEN FORUM

1. Mr. Tim Coomer from Community First would be attending the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 26th April.
2. As there were no Standing Orders for the Council, the Clerk would prepare a draft for discussion at the next meeting.
3. Caravan in The Park: an approach would be made to the owner as the verge was being destroyed. Discussion of this would be deferred until the next meeting of the Parish Council.
4. It was reported that a digger had gone through the barrel drain in The Park.
5. It was suggested that advice be sought to ascertain whether items from the Open Forum could be immediately be considered at the meeting to avoid delay.

-----oOo-----

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

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor L. Grundy.

18/06 APOLOGIES: None.

19/06: DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS: Councillors were reminded to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in any business arising at the meeting and Cllr. Sinnett-Jones declared a prejudicial interest to item 10 on the agenda.

20/06 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Foote and agreed that the Minutes, which had been circulated, be signed as a correct record.

21/06 MATTERS ARISING: 84/05a) Tree Work in The Park: The Hornbeam tree had been pruned and the old tree stump had been ground out.

84/05b) Play Area Survey: The winner of the Children's Competition was Thomas Seabourne and the Parish Council extended their congratulations to him on winning the £10.00 book token. Older villagers had responded well to the Survey and Cllr. Morgan would collate their suggestions and thanked them for their response. The Council thanked Cllr. Morgan for her efforts on behalf of the village.

22/06 FINANCE: (a) Balance at Bank: The Clerk reported a balance of £100.00 on the Current Account and £2,890.77 on the Reserve Account.

(b) Mole Damage: Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Loraine-Smith and unanimously agreed to adopt the trapping option for £100.00. Cllr. Jonik undertook to contact the contractor.

(c) Local Council Review: It was proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Turner and unanimously agreed to renew this subscription for £14.00. (Ch.No. 277)

(d) Witt Tree Services: It was proposed by Cllr. Gilbert, seconded by Cllr. Loraine-Smith and unanimously agreed to pay the invoice for £340.75 inc. VAT for the tree work carried out in The Park. (Ch. No. 278)

(e) Wiltshire Association of Local Councils: It was proposed by Cllr. Morgan, seconded by Cllr. Foote and unanimously agreed to renew this subscription for £57.45. (Ch. No. 279)

23/06 PLANNING: (a) Planning Application No. K/53745/TR2 The light crown re-balancing and crown thinning by approximately 10% of a willow tree in the garden of 29 High Street for Mr. A. Sheat: KDC had raised no objection to this Application.
(b) Application No. K/53919/TR2 The felling of one silver birch tree and two spruce trees in the garden of 1 The Park for Mr. G. R. Baker: The Parish Council had raised no objection to this Application.

24/06 VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS: Roads: Cllr. Loraine-Smith reported that the broken drain cover had been repaired. Concerns were expressed that the new road surface to the B.3098 was not standing up to wear very well. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllrs. Foote and Jonik would take digital photographs of the areas in question which would then be passed to the Clerk for her to communicate with WCC Highways.

Army: Low flying fighter planes continued to be a problem.

Footpaths: The Clerk had obtained some signs from the Footpath Warden and passed them to Cllrs. Gilbert and Jonik.

25/06 CLERK'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT: The Clerk left the meeting to enable uninhibited discussion to take place. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr. Jonik, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed to offer the Clerk up to four hours work per week on Scale Point 20. The Clerk accepted the terms.

26/06 CONSERVATION AREA STATEMENT: The Clerk had received a letter from KDC stating that the Government wished existing Conservation Areas to be reviewed on a regular basis and also designate further Conservation Areas. The Council viewed the existing Conservation Statement for Erlestoke which was available from KDC at a cost of approximately £5.00 + pp or on their website www.kennet.gov.uk. Cllr. Jonik undertook to provide a link from the Erlestoke website to Kennet. As most Councillors were not in office when the Statement was drawn up, Cllr. Sinnett-Jones undertook to review the survey.

27/06 THE NEWS: Cllr. Sinnett-Jones left the meeting at this point. It was proposed by Cllr. Jonik, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert that Cllr. Turner take the Chair and this was agreed. District Councillor Grundy expressed a personal interest at this point as he had been drawn into a complaint made by a parishioner concerning the planning process carried out by KDC in connection with the change of use of the Post Office/Shop. Letters had been sent to The Hon. Michael Ancram, MP and Mr. Keith Robinson, Chief Executive of WCC.

In the light of the detrimental comment in "The News" for March 2006 the Parish Council agreed unanimously that they had adhered to proper procedures and that the correct amount of notice was given, including the time the agenda had been displayed on the Parish Noticeboard.

An extraordinary meeting of the council had been called because of the importance of the application to the village as a whole where it was agreed that the council voted for the Planning Application for "Change of Use of the Post Office/Shop" to be refused because it was felt that it was not in the best interests of the village.

Cllr. Sinnett-Jones re-joined the meeting and their being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.