

ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st August 2019

Present: Councillor J S F Jonik – (Chairman)
Councillor K Lewcock
Councillor F Morgan-Frise
Councillor Richard Gamble

In Attendance: Mrs Polly Doyle – Parish Clerk
Tamara Reay, Chief of Staff for Claire Reay who is MP for the Devizes
Constituency

Public Participation – No public were in attendance

Tamara Reay explained to Erlestoke Parish Council the role that MP Claire Reay held as Cop26 president and that the location of choice for the Cop global event was Glasgow.

Ms Reay was briefed about the ongoing concern for the village of having no community space. Consequently, the very popular Pop Up pubs are organised periodically. The option of a village hall is currently at a standstill. There are plans, with permission, for a village hall in a new location to be built, but it is too expensive to take further.

Ms Reay asked about grant funding. The council explained that European funding is uncertain for the foreseeable future and Lottery money appeals have not been successful. Currently there are talks in regards to doing a joint venture with The Cricket Club. Ms Reay spoke about the programme of activity that runs at her own parish village hall that secured funding to be built.

546/19 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors J Hunt-Davis, J B R Durham, N Barton and Mike Barton.

Councillor F Morgan-Frise informed the meeting that she would only be able to attend for a limited period of time. It was decided to discuss the most vital topics whilst there was a quorum and defer the remaining agenda items for the next parish meeting.

547/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

548/19 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2019, having previously been circulated were signed and confirmed by the Chairman, Councillor Jonik as a correct record.

Councillor Richard Gamble informed the Parish Council that the next Devizes Area Board meeting will be on Monday 9th September 2019 at The Devizes Hub and Library. The meeting starts at 6.30pm.

Councillor Gamble highlighted the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust which works in partnership with the Wiltshire Police to provide a home security service for older vulnerable people throughout Wiltshire. The Trust runs a forum on how to keep safe online, which Councillor Gamble recommends attending.

Part of the A350 through Westbury will be closed for road works during September and October with a long diversion, which will cause traffic issues. It is felt that not enough notice has been given. The Erlestoke community is vulnerable due to the diversions and potential HGVs coming through the village. Councillor Gamble has been talking to Edington regarding a weight limit, which would be beneficial to drivers as well.

There is to be a road closure on Grove road in Market Lavington as the road is being resurfaced. This will affect school run traffic and will run from the 15th to 17th October from 7am to 7pm.

There is to be a social plan consultation to review the core strategy on the 1st October in Calne at 6pm. The meeting is aiming to start a conversation about what will be involved and looks as far ahead as 2036. Part of the discussion will be about how accommodation can accommodate a flow of small houses. Currently the policy is against developments, with the presumption that villages are against new homes being built. Policy only allows affordable houses and never more than ten. However, some small villages may actually want more houses.

The Erlestoke area will cease to be part of the East Housing Area to join the Chippenham Housing Area. The East had 8 years worth of housing development, whilst Chippenham now have 5 years. If land supply is not sufficient then communities become vulnerable to change that is not necessarily wanted. Councillor Gamble believes that we are better off being with Chippenham.

It was also flagged that there was a need for public transport service to support rural locations.

550/19 FINANCE

550/19.1 BANK BALANCES

Balance as of the 9th August 2019

Treasurers Account	£6581.56
Business Bank Instant	£8749.53

The bank balances were noted.

550/19.2 BANK RECONCILIATION – 09.08.19

The bank reconciliation was noted.

550/19.3 UPDATED CASH BOOK – 09.08.19

The updated cashbook was noted.

551/19 PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

It was proposed by Chairman Jonik and seconded by Councillor Morgan-Frise and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the direct debit payment of £5.39 to Zen Internet paid on the 12th July 2019.

552/19 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

The issue of the General Power of Competence was deferred until the next meeting.

553/19 SMALL EVENTS SELLING ALCOHOL

The issue of small events selling alcohol was deferred until the next meeting.

554/19 CLERK SALARY FOR APPROVAL

It was proposed by Chairman Jonik and seconded by Councillor Morgan-Frise and

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED to approve the clerk salary payment of £766.34 for the periods of 22nd May to 15th August 2019.

555/19 NEW PERSON TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFIBRILLATOR NEEDED

No one has volunteered for this position so far and the issue has consequently been deferred until the next meeting.

556/19 WILTSHIRE SEARCH AND RESCUE GRANT REQUEST

The grant request was deferred until the next meeting.

557/19 DRAFT MINUTES

It was agreed that the draft minutes could be circulated as soon as possible after the 27th August.

558/19 VILLAGE BUS STOP

After complaints were received from members of the village community regarding the poor state of the bus stop the area was inspected and photos taken. It was agreed that the bus stop would benefit from a wash and a paint and that a working party would be set up. A date will be set and publicised with a call to villagers to help with the initiative.

559/19 SPEEDING

The issue of speeding was deferred until the next meeting.

560/19 PLAYPARK MAINTENANCE

It has been flagged that the state of the playpark, particularly around the equipment, is poor and has long grass. A community member has kindly offered to monitor and work on the areas as needed. The Clerk had contacted the steward team and although stewards are not scheduled to maintain the grass in August they agreed to endeavour to fulfil this request.

The state of the playpark was discussed with it materialising that a member of the council has emptied the bin on several occasions. There was concern about the apparent use of weed killer on the area and the clerk is to ask the company contracted to cut the grass if they used weed killer.

561/19 DOG MESS

The issue of dog mess was deferred to the next meeting.

562/19 VILLAGE HALL

Councillor Lewcock is currently talking to the Cricket Club about embarking on a joint venture as the Club only has a small number of members and the Parish owns the Secret Garden and the neighbouring parking.

The Cricket Club had money pledged to them but not enough to cover the building costs. A power source is the main issue. Securing a supply of electricity was not included in the original plan and this has been quoted to cost between £30 to 50 thousand.

A new roof for the current village hall has been explored and unfortunately came to standstill. It may be possible for a prefabricated unit to be used on a temporary basis as long as it has heating, insulation and practical flooring so that events can be held all year round.

It is understood that the Cricket Club receive funding for their club house based on being used in the summer months only. They were unable to secure a Sports England grant due to having a small number of members and having already received a grant. Emphasis would be on the Parish Council to raise the funds.

It is possible to use the venue as it is currently, with a view to investing money to improve the facilities. However, it was suggested that the facilities are not user friendly for events.

A Pop Up Pub has been proposed for the 20th September 2019. The plan is to have cheese and wine in the church. An event license will need to be secured.

563/19 Councillor Morgan-Frise left the meeting at 8.30pm.

564/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No planning applications to note.

565/19 PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

Planning applications determined were noted.

566/19 CORRESPONDENCE FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Emails sent by the clerk from Wiltshire Council were noted.

567/19 EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND ON-GOING MATTERS – Please note no decisions can be made on any items discussed under this agenda item.

- Erlestoke House Gates
- Fracking
- Broadband
- Play Area
- Erlestoke Lakes
- Erlestoke Woods
- Village Hall

Discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

568/19 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EPC REPRESENTATIVES

568/19.1 Councillor Jonik - Website and Footpaths

It has been noted that private hedges have been cut without the owner's permission. It is requested that if anyone thinks that there is an obstruct on a public right of way can they inform the council who will then in turn inform the owner about the issue.

568/19.2 Councillor Lewcock - Cricket and Golf Club, Leisure and Entertainments and the Erlestoke Prison – none received

568/19.3 Councillor Frise-Morgan - Health and Wellbeing and the Village Hall – none received

568/19.4 Councillor N Barton – Play Area Officer and Community Police – none received

568/19.5 Councillor Durham - Information Technology – none received

568/19.6 Councillor M Barton - General Maintenance – none received

568/19.7 Police – none received

569/19 CORRESPONDENCE CIRCULATED VIA CLERK'S EMAIL FOR NOTING

Correspondence was noted.

570/19 Date of next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd October 2019

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.