

ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on

Wednesday 15th July 2020

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

In Attendance: Mrs Polly Doyle – Parish Clerk

Public Participation

No members of public were present.

071/20 APOLOGIES

Councillor J Durham sent apologies that he may be late in joining the meeting.

072/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest declared.

073/20 REVIEW OPENING OF ERLESTOKE PLAYPARK

Erlestoke playpark was reopened after COVID-19 restrictions on playgrounds were eased and announced on the 4th July 2020. A risk assessment was undertaken in the previous meeting, the equipment reviewed to be in good working order and signs put in place to alert members of the public to use the playpark in relation to the government guidelines. There have been no issues since the reopening of the playground.

074/20 DISCUSS HOLDING THE ANNULA PARISH MEETING AFTER THE CHURCH'S AGM

The council have been informed that the church AGM may no longer be happening on the 28th July. Consequently, whether to hold the annual parish meeting will be reviewed at the next parish meeting in August. Holding the meeting will be reviewed in light of any COVID-19 restrictions and the safety of the community.

075/20 REVIEW THE LETTER RECEIVED FROM ERLSTOKE CRICKET CLUB

Members reviewed the letter received from Erlestoke Cricket Club that was inviting the parish council to support their plans for an upgraded pavilion.

Councillor Lewcock started a discussion about 18 months ago about joining forces, but then the pub became the priority in regards to a community space. Consequently, the facility as a focal point for the parish has been previously investigated. It was noted that funding at this time is a particular issue. Factors considered were; the club is specifically designed for the Cricket Club's use, there would be no electricity so not useable all year round and there are access rights issues. The Parish Council joining would create more issues. Additionally, unlike the pavilion, the pub can generate funds.

Councillor Durham joined at 7.30pm.

Further points taken into account were; the consideration of the Cricket club failing, legal fees, the issue of a split focus between the pavilion and the village pub, no further funding available from Sport England and that the location is preferable for the Cricket Club, but not necessarily the village community. It was queried whether the Cricket Club would be interested in supporting the bid for the village pub The George and Dragon. Councillor Lewcock will reply to the Cricket Club directly in wishing their endeavour well, but that we are unable to support them financially.

076/20 REVIEW THE GEORGE AND DRAGON PUB

Mike Hughes, who is an experienced chartered surveyor working with The Plunkett Foundation, visited The George and Dragon pub in order to conduct a survey. The survey was paid for by The Plunkett Foundation bursary, which has been extended. It was noted that there are different regulations in relation to a domestic dwelling as opposed to a public house building with resulting greater financial implications for a domestic dwelling. In addition, the building is grade 2 listed.

The community are still interested in purchasing The George and Dragon as a working pub and community centre and are still exploring financial options. It was noted that the two-bed flat and four independent rooms would create a good income. This would enable the pub to have a soft start over 6 to 12 months. There is very little equipment in the building as all the kitchen equipment has been removed. It was noted that as The Hub cannot legally make a profit (as it would need to be returned to the business) so the inclusion of the overage clause (that applies to any profit made should the pub be sold) would not negatively impact the purchase.

077/20 The next Parish meeting will be on Wednesday 12th August 2020.

The meeting closed at 08.00pm.