

ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Please note the meeting was held online.

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

In Attendance: Mrs Polly Doyle – Parish Clerk
Tamara Reay

Public Participation –

The agenda had been published on the Parish website and on the notice board.

A member of public had raised the issue of speeding through the village, but was unable to attend in person.

The issue of **speeding through the village** was discussed by those present.

It was noted that parking on the road can act as a traffic calmer, but care should be taken how the cars are parked. Parking on the pavement can be potentially dangerous if, for example a pram cannot get past.

There is a speedometer in place on the **EAST** side of the village that operates 80-90 % of the time and it was felt that this is effective. Unfortunately, cars speed as they exit the village at the other end. Temporarily moving the speedometer to the other end was discussed and is being looked into. The 30 sign is obstructed by greenery and will be cleared. Further advice on actions to take is being sought. It is worth noting that speeding is a Police issue rather than a Highways issue.

It was noted that **Erlestoke Prison** has recently been in the news for receiving a very critical report regarding the conditions inside.

Tamara Reay who is the nominated candidate for the Conservatives attended the meeting. Ms. Reay is currently working on the Devizes Gateway Project, which is preparing a business case with Wiltshire Council. The project is one of ten that has been selected and a site has been identified on the A342.

Councillor Richard Gamble will be standing down at the next election in May 2021. Councillor Gamble mentioned the new boundary division that now includes Seend, Poulston and Potterne. There is an issue surrounding the division between Great Cheverell and Erlestoke.

094/20 APOLOGIES

Apologises were received by Councillor J Hunt-Davis

095/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest raised.

096/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th August 2020, having previously been circulated were confirmed by the Chairman, Councillor Jonik as a correct record.

These minutes are to be signed at the next convenient opportunity.

097/20 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD GAMBLE – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Gamble confirmed that the ACV on The George and Dragon has recently been upheld.

Subsequent to the Parish Council's last discussion regarding issues with off road bikers in the woods further complaints have been received by people walking and dog waking in the area. Large numbers of bikers have been coming into the area at times with unregistered bikes on back of trailers.

Councillor Gamble brought it to the attention of Wiltshire police and DIO and within a day drones were being employed. There is now have quite a team of people and separate agencies who are willing to help.

Councillor Jones mentioned that the Estate Management Team who are undertaking the Ash Die Back work intend to leave felled logs in situ as a both a deterrent against bikers and for ecological reasons.

098/20 FINANCE

098/20.1 BANK BALANCES

Treasurers Account	£ 6036.35
Business Bank Instant	£ 8749.53

The bank balances were noted.

098/20.2 BANK RECONCILIATION

Councillor Lewcock is currently working on the bank reconciliation.

098/20.3 UPDATED CASH BOOK

The updated cashbook was noted.

099/20 PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

The following payments by direct debit were noted and approved;

14th September 2020 - **£5.39** Zen Internet

100/20 UPDATE ON ONGOING POINTS

The salt bins are all full.

101/20 COVID-19 COMMUNITY ACTION

No current issues.

102/20 THE GEORGE AND DRAGON

The ACV on The George and Dragon has been upheld. An email was sent out the village contact database to confirm the news and will also be published in the November issue of The News.

103/20 NEW NOTICE BOARD AND LEAFLET BOX FOR EDGE OF ERLESTOKE WOODS

Councillor Jones has received several MOD leaflets and has researched options for a leaflet box and possible notice board to be positioned at the edge of Erlestoke Woods. Researched showed that a glass fronted board was approximately £1800. Councillor Jones has spoken to a local joinery to see if they are able to make something with a more competitive price. However, it was decided that two councillors would construct a notice board with a perspex front themselves in order to keep costs down. It was felt that there was a greater footfall due to walkers and dog walkers at the entrance to the woods as opposed to the bus stop.

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of a leaflet holder at the cost of around £20 along with a post to attach it to.

104/20 NALC NEW NATIONAL PAY SCALES

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to approve the adoption of the new NALC pay scales for the parish Clerk and pay the clerk the difference when backdated to the 1st April as advised by NALC . The difference in payment from the 1st April up to and including August results in the clerk being paid £32.69.

105/20 WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to publish the previous circulated accessibility statement on the council's website in accordance with WCAG 2.1 level AA.

106/20 SECRET GARDEN PICNIC TABLE

Councillors reviewed the state of the Secret Garden’s picnic table and confirmed that the seats are rotting. Councillor Durham will contact Dave Seabourne in order to request a quote for a new bench and to repair the old one and / or logs for seats.

107/20 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council can now proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option and will be sending out an email to the village contact list.

108/20 ERLESTOKE DRAINS

All but one of the requested drains have been cleared. The blocked drain by The George and Dragon has been impacted by stones and more specific work is being requested.

On the Erlestoke website a new app has been included that allows you to raise issues with the Council. The more people who complain about an issue the quicker it gets done!

109/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number	Applicant	Location of Development	Description of Development

Erlestoke Parish Council would like to highlight that Erlestoke is a conservation area and consequently all planned tree work must be submitted to the Council via a ‘works to tree’ application. It is a simple process to check and apply online:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-work-on-protected-tree>

110/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

Application Number	Location of Development	Description of Development	Decision

111/20 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
- Play Area
- Erlestoke Lakes
- Erlestoke Woods – Councillor Jones has sent out an email update.
- Village Hall

No issues were raised.

112/20 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EPC REPRESENTATIVES

- 112/20.1** Councillor Jonik - **Website and Footpaths**
- 112/20.2** Councillor Lewcock - **Cricket and Golf Club, Leisure and Entertainments and the Erlestoke Prison**
- 112/20.3** Councillor Frise-Morgan - **Health and Wellbeing and the Village Hall**
- 112/20.4** Position vacant – **Play Area Officer and Community Police**
- 112/20.5** Councillor Durham - **Information Technology**
- 112/20.6** Position vacant - **General Maintenance**
- 112/20.7** Mr. Bill Kemp – **Flood Warden**
- 112/20.8** Due to Covid-19 this work is currently centralised - **Police**

The meeting ended at 9pm.

The next parish meeting will be on Wednesday the 4th November 2020