

ERLESTOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Wednesday 16th December 2020

Please note the meeting was held online.

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

In Attendance: Mrs Polly Doyle – Parish Clerk

Public Participation –

Keith Rayward, Chairman of The Four Villages Link joined the meeting later on in the proceedings.

The blocked drain at the bottom of the track to the Cricket Club and Secret Garden was discussed. The issue has been reported to Wiltshire Council and it was flagged that the gravel is impacted in the drain. Wiltshire Council have informed Erlestoke Council that larger equipment is needed. Highways will be contacted directly and the issue will also be reported on the Highways app.

It was noted that another accident has occurred with a car coming from the Westbury side which resulted in a car flipping over.

135/20 APOLOGIES

Tamara Reay and Fiona Frise-Morgan sent apologies for not being able to attend.

136/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest raised.

137/20 MINUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th November 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.

138/20 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD GAMBLE – WILTSHIRE COUNCIL

Councillor Richard Gamble wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

Councillor Gamble highlighted that there will be work undertaken on the railway bridge and work in Coulston in February 2020.

A public petition regarding the concerns over the volume of traffic has been submitted to Wiltshire Council. Cllr Gamble would also like to see the weight limit downgraded from a B to a C road in an effort to reduce the traffic.

The off-roader issues in the woods are being tackled by MOD drones.

Information about a public consultation on core strategy being reviewed will soon be published. There are no great expectations for development in Erlestoke at this time.

The Area Board Meeting will be on the 11th January 2021 via Teams online. The theme is the environment and amongst other subjects; cycle routes will be discussed.

7.45pm Councillor Lewcock joined the meeting

Councillor Jones noted that the Ash Die Back work has been undertaken. Unfortunately, large tracks have been left.

139/20 FINANCE

139/20.1 BANK BALANCES

Treasurers Account	£ 5056.71
Business Bank Instant	£ 8749.53

The bank balances were noted.

139/20.2 BANK RECONCILIATION

Councillor Lewcock is currently working on the bank reconciliation.

139/20.3 UPDATED CASH BOOK

The updated cashbook was noted.

140/20 PAYMENTS BY DIRECT DEBIT

The following payments by direct debit were noted and approved;

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

141/20 MATERIALS FOR MAINTENANCE WORKS TO PLAY GROUND AND SECRET GARDEN

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to refund the following payments;

From 5th December 2020 - £19.40 to Chairman Jonik for postcrete from Wickes

From 3rd December 2020 - £85.28 to Chairman Jonik for timber from Mole Valley Farmers for maintenance work

From 2nd December 2020 - £54.99 to Councillor Lewcock for 12 road traffic cones for the Secret Garden

8.05pm It was agreed that Point 21 should be brought forward.

Keith Rayward, Chairman of **The Four Villages Link** joined the meeting to introduce himself, the service and provide an update of their activities.

The service has undertaken 168 journeys from April to November for 27 different clients. The clients are mainly from Edington and Bratton.

They have 13 volunteer drivers who have all undergone thorough screening and regular training. However, this number has been reduced by many having to stay at home to shield for health reasons. All drivers are provided with the correct PPE such as masks etc.

The service is currently recruiting for a secretary so please contact The Four Villages Link if you are interested in the role.

Income for the service is through donations only and are anonymous.

The Four Villages Link is keen to promote awareness of the services they offer and are currently developing a website to aid this. Whilst Bratton makes up just over half of the capture area the group still want to ensure that Erlestoke residents are aware of the them should they ever need the service.

Currently there are no volunteers from Erlestoke. Erlestoke Parish clerk has volunteered to be the central point for information and will distribute to Erlestoke Parish Councillors.

142/20 PROPOSED INCREASE TO EXPENDITURE ALLOWANCE ENABLED BY FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to increase the revenue expenditure limit from £100 to £200 in the Financial Regulations point 4.5. This will be updated.

143/20 UPDATE ON ONGOING POINTS

Chairman Jonik reviewed the maintenance issues in the play park. The baby cradle swing is not rusty, but the covering is coming away. Ideally, they need to be replaced. The clerk will source quotes for two new baby cradle swings.

144/20 COVID-19 COMMUNITY ACTION

No current issues and the community seems well supported.

145/20 BLACK DOG CROSSROADS

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to support Councillor Richard Gamble's letter to Cllr Bridget Wayman, (Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Waste) in requesting a change in the layout to the Black Dog crossroads due to the high risk of accidents.

146/20 PRECEPT BUDGET

The budget was considered and it was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to keep the parish precept request at the same amount of £6805.00 for 2020/21.

The clerk will submit the request by the deadline.

147/20 COMMUNITY GROUP WORK ON PATHWAYS

The useful work that Chairman Jonik has undertaken in view of mapping the local pathways was acknowledged. It was suggested that one overview map could be produced that had all the paths shown. Then ways of linking the paths could be suggested.

The MOD hold a policy of open access where they are able to. The access points are at the bottom of the hill from the church and at the entrance of the Secret Garden. Large signs displaying rules of use and informing the public that they were entering MOD land were considered. Parking is increasingly an issue as the walking area has become more popular. Signposts with information regarding parking including the church car park was considered. The issue will be explored further.

148/20 SECRET GARDEN PICNIC TABLE

Quotes for replacement picnic tables have not yet been received and will be chased up. Councillor Lewcock has offered to prepare a budget plan for the park for signposts, bench and gravel etc.

149/20 PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT WORKS TO SECRET GARDEN AND ENTRANCE

Councillor Lewcock to prepare a plan for improvement works.

150/20 CAR PARK AT THE PARK

Management of the car park and how to protect damage done to the grass was discussed. Councillor Lewcock's plan will give an overview to discuss at the next meeting.

151/20 SEDP SMALL CLAIMS LETTER

It was proposed, seconded and **UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** to send the pre action conduct letter to SEDP in regards to signing the contract.

It was also agreed for a letter highlighting the state of the grass and the temporary fencing should be sent to the company. Not only is the area around the station in a poor state but it is also not safe or secure.

152/20 SPEEDING

The Parish Council have received some complains by resident about speeding in The Park. Unfortunately, speed bumps are an expensive option. The Council what to promote greater awareness and will place a sign on the parish notice board, investigate ‘kill your speed’ stickers on the side of wheelie bins and contact Highways to investigate the possibility of erecting a sign.

153/20 TREE PLAQUE

This point was postponed.

154/20 NEW SWING GATE

It was decided that as the gate is on an official footpath that a letter with a request for the new swing gate should be directed to the Footpath Agency.

155/20 THE FOUR VILLAGES LINK

Please see note above in 141/20.

156/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application Number	Applicant	Location of Development	Description of Development
20/05025/LBC	Mr Michael Donnachie	The Old School House, 34 High Street	Renew existing sunroom roof/ windows/ door

No issues with the planning application.

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>

157/20 PLANNING APPLICATIONS DETERMINED

Application Number	Location of Development	Description of Development	Decision

158/20 **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 speaks to Mr Elson every month, who is happy to attend a meeting to give an update. Mr Elson has been active keeping an eye on everything.

- Village Hall

No issues were raised.

159/20 **TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM EPC REPRESENTATIVES**

- 159/20.1** Councillor Jonik - **Website and Footpaths**
- 159/20.2** Councillor Lewcock - **Cricket and Golf Club, Leisure and Entertainments and the Erlestoke Prison**
- 159/20.3** Councillor Frise-Morgan - **Health and Wellbeing and the Village Hall**
- 159/20.4** Position vacant – **Play Area Officer and Community Police**
- 159/20.5** Councillor Durham - **Information Technology**
- 159/20.6** Position vacant - **General Maintenance**
- 159/20.7** Mr. Bill Kemp – **Flood Warden**

Flooding in lower road where work is to be done.

- 159/20.8** Due to Covid-19 this work is currently centralised - **Police**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2020.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm