**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 in the Village Church**

**Present:** Councillor C West– (Chairperson)

**Officers:** Mrs Polly Doyle – Parish Clerk

**In Attendance:** Councillor K Lewcock

Councillor J Durham

Councillor Rogers

Councillor F Morgan-Frise

Patrick Stayt

Simon West

Jasper Dorgan

**1/22 Welcome by Chairperson of Erlestoke Parish Council**

The Chairperson, Councillor C West, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

**2/22 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from; Councillor J Hunt-Davis, Governor Tim Knight (HMP Erlestoke), Joy Fraser (TVM), Anna Woodman (Headteacher Holy Trinity CE Primary School), Paul Gardner (Owner of The George and Dragon pub), Councillor L Jones, Councillor Tamara Reay, Warrant Officer One Jeffrey Elson and PCSO Paula Yarranton.

**3/22 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st July 2021 having previously been circulated were signed by the Chairman, Councillor West as a correct record.

**4/22 Annual Parish Accounts 2021/22**

Prepared by Parish Clerk Polly Doyle for the Annual Parish Meeting on the 22nd June 2022

The Council’s financial year opened with a balance of;

Treasurers Account – £3211.35

Business Instant Account – £9005.14

Total = £12,216.49

Closed with a balance of;

Treasurers - £4968.16

Business Instant Account – £9005.14

Total = £13,973.30

Please see website for payments over £100:

The Council’s expenditure totalled = £6722.03

Precept for the year was £6805.00. This has remained the same.

**5/22 Reports**

**5/22.1 MOD Land representative Warrant Officer One Jeffrey Elson**

The Ash Dieback programme is ongoing and will be into 2023/24. It can take three to four years for the trees to die completely. Within Land Marc there is 92,000 acres and of this a third is forestry.

The wood from the programme is mainly used for biofuels. The wood and debris left will gradually be removed over this year and next.

Concurrent with the programme is thinning activity. Some trees have to be taken down in order to access the dead Ash trees.

The MOD run significant patrols over their land and recently they have stopped and arrested several individuals. There have also been many seized bikes and cars over the last year. The patrols are ongoing.

The MOD are working to maintain a safe place for both civilians and the military.

**5/22.2 Three Villages Minibus by Jasper Dorgan**

**Three Villages Minibus**

* Three Villages Minibus (TVM) has been serving the communities of Edington, Coulston and Erlestoke for over 30 years
* TVM is a community owned asset that is managed through and elected management Board and operated through the efforts of volunteer drivers and volunteer passenger assistants.
* TVM has a regular schedule of shopping trips that have been suggested by the passengers themselves.

**Shopping Trips starting at Edington on**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Destination | July | August | Start Time |
| Devizes - £3.20 | 7th | 4th | 9am. |
| Warminster - £2.80 | 19th | 16th | 1.25pm. |
| Westbury -£2.30 | Every Thursday | Every Thursday | 1.25pm. |
| Salisbury - £5.00 | 9th | 6th | 9.30am. |

* All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door.
* These trips are open to **all** resident of our villages; we welcome everyone, of any age.
* Dates of shopping trips are in The News magazine circulated to all villages.
* TVM is used by many community groups, clubs and organisations including:

Cricket Club, Bratton School, Brownies, Monday Club, Dodgers and individual hire by villages for trips, events and entertainment

Funding

* The bus is funded through

Villager donations

Local organisations’ hire fees

Donations from community events and organisations

Village fete, Edington Station Yard

Local Grants

The Future

* TVM is in good operational and financial shape
* Highly popular local community asset and we will continue to respond to villagers needs
* Pressure on recruiting volunteer drivers is growing and we need to grow volunteer driver and assistant pool

**5/22.3 Neighbourhood Policing Team Report by PCSO Paula Yarranton**

For your information we have search all crime databases for Erlestoke and I’m pleased to let you know that we have had reported in the last year 24 crimes all of which are to do with the prison.

I’m please to say that your village appears to be very safe and your village is also on our database for speed awareness, which is run by Sarah Holden Community Speed Watch, which I’m sure your aware of.  Just to add to this, your village has not hit the top 3 problem areas for speed awareness, even if we aware that at times this could be an issue.

**5/22.4 Holy Trinity CE Primary Academy Report by Anna Woodman Headmistress**

Parish News - May and June

Planting seeds of change and the fight to save the planet has captured the imagination of everyone. From our COP26 Forest of promises earlier this year, we are exploring how we can be the change that we want to see in our world.

**Eco Schools England** incentivises communities to become as green as possible by rewarding green schools with eco status and we are on the journey to achieve this. **Sarum class** have taken the lead on this important piece of work, sharing the ‘Holy Trinity Sustainability Action Plan’. Presenting to the whole school on their key issues. Waste, energy, travel, fair trade, sustainability and the marine environment have been powerful examples of social action, with our children researching each topic and thinking through their iniatives for change. A ‘plastic ocean’ interactive display,challenged our perception of waste and single use plastic and is a reminder to us all about choice and impact. We are so proud of their initiative and enthusiasm on wanting to make positive changes to our school and making the world a better place to live. Bikeability, inhouse recycling schemes, monitoring and reducing energy use through viable alternatives, rewilding parts of our school site including ‘No mow May’ plus fair trade cooking and the delicious bake sale - we are certainly focused on making our school greener! Great work Sarum class.

There is lots of excitement in **White Horse class** as Mrs Durham has set up an incubator and we will be tracking the progress of our little eggs and looking forward to hatching!

This week the children from **Stonehenge, White Horse and Sarum classes** visited Devizes library. During the session they listened to a story, discovered where and how to find the books that interested them and learnt how to check their chosen book out of the library.

The children in **Stonehenge class** have started their 5-week block of Bikeability.  Every child got to use a balance bike, learnt how to mount and dismount safely, the importance of always wearing a helmet and practiced their riding and agility skills.

**Silbury class** have been working hard on their human biology topic, which involved using the knowledge they have previously acquired through research, to dissect hearts. Everyone was totally absorbed in the practical work with lots of brilliant observation and discussions; identifying and naming the main parts of the heart and describing the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.

**Avebury class** have started their rivers projects, and have also been checking up on our sunflower seedlings, planted last term.

**Sunflower Project** – The beautiful crocheted, felted and ceramic sunflowers designed and made by the children in Silbury and Stonehenge classes have raised an incredible £223.40. Many staff and friends of Holy Trinity have been involved in this unique project of hope. Thank you very much for everyones support.

Our wonderful, joyful celebrations for the **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** have involved a stunning research project, undertaken by every class that captures significant events of the Queen’s historic 70 year reign. We have explored the many good changes in the UK during this time and thought about how we can find the courage to work for further change to make it a better place for all. The eighteen beautiful pieces of art work are an incredible timeline, and will also be displayed in The Pavilion for the village community jubilee events over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The first ever **Holy Trinity Pigeon Race** launched our Jubilee celebrations on Tuesday! We watched the pigeon hens set off on their journey back to their loft in Worton. Mr A and Mrs Hiscock recorded the times for each team, with the Blue team winning! This was followed by a super Jubilee quiz, street picnic party, maypole dancing, Jubilee games and finally we sang the national anthem, which closed a superb day together. Grateful thanks to the fantastic Holy Trinity staff team for the magnificent jubilee celebrations, helping children to make memories for a lifetime.

**Forest of Dean residential Trip** It has been another exciting and memorable trip for the children in Years 5 and 6 who spent two nights in the Forest of Dean, taking part in adventure activities. So much learning goes on during these residential trips, not just around the physical skills that are honed, but also the independence, teamwork, resilience and courage that are developed. And the trips are great fun! Our thanks to the staff who take on the big responsibility of looking after a large group of excited children, on duty for 24 hours a day whilst they are away, and making sure that everyone is safe and has a good experience. Big thanks to Mr Amor and Mr Gyllenspetz for leading and organising the trip, supported brilliantly by Mrs Edwards, Ms Reardon and Mrs Yates.

We had a wonderful **afternoon tea party** for our term 5 celebration of joy, courage, aspiration and compassion. Congratulations to **Bella, George, Orlaith, Harry, Matilda, Harry, Daniel, Ethan, Amelia, Arthur, Amelia, Alice and Freddie** for your excellent attitude to learning, progress and achievements. Thank you to Mrs Heath and Mrs Andrew, our star bakers for another delicious tea party menu, very much enjoyed by all!

**Dauntsey’s School Maths Roadshow** joined us on Tuesday morning, working with our Y5 and Y6 children exploring 25 maths puzzles. Thank you to Ms Mallet and her sixth form maths students for a super workshop where children were working in teams to problem solve with maths mastery.

**Sarum Super Science Workshop**

From investigating static with the Van der Graaff generator to chromatography, creating shadow puppets, then arrows and compasses and much, much more! We had three classrooms full of science experiments, 30 children, their families and many staff working together for a brilliant evening of science on Wednesday evening. Thank you to Mrs Goddard, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hayward and Mrs Durham for sharing their passion for science and taking the time to organise such a fabulous event.

**Every day is an open day**

If you think you would like your child to attend our outstanding school, please phone in and book an appointment to look around and chat to the headteacher. Lots of photos and information can be found on our website [www.holy-trinity.co.uk](http://www.holy-trinity.co.uk). Our phone number is 01380 813796.

Anna Woodman

Headteacher

**5/22.5 Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club by Patrick Stayt**

Patrick is a committee member and groundsman of the Cricket Club. The club is currently half way through their season. This is the first season since Covid hit.

They are holding mid-week games as well as Saturday league games. The team is in Division 3 and are at the top of the league. Sunday friendlies and the junior sessions are held on Saturday mornings and they host county games.

Membership is ticking along nicely, although the costs to maintain are creeping up this season.

The Pavillion Project plans are under way and they now have full planning permission. Funding remains an issue, but there are some reserves and an ongoing fund raiser plan.

It has been noted that minor incidents of anti-social behaviour have occurred, such as signs being pulled down and incidents in the car park. The situation currently seems under control, but it is being monitored.

**6/22 Erlestoke Parish Council Chairman’s Report 2021 - 2022 by previous Chairperson, Counsellor K Lewcock;**

Erlestoke Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting’s Chairman’s report

2021-2022

This is the official Annual Parish Council meeting which sometimes gets confused with the Annual Parish Meeting. What a surprise. This meeting is a formal Parish council meeting, and strict Parish Council rules apply. The Annual Parish Meeting is open to everybody and is a hangover from the Middle Ages when communities would meet probably in the local church to discuss issues affecting the community. Nothing changed there then! It is usually organised, for convenience, by the EPC and this year’s Annual Parish meeting is arranged for **Wednesday 22nd June** in this church and all residents can attend.

The local elections took place last year and fortunately we have six active Parish councillors from an uncontested election. The following Parish councillors were duly elected:   
James Durham, Louis Jones, Keith Lewcock, Fiona Morgan-Frise and Caroline West. Subsequently Justin Hunt-Davis was co-opted onto the council. Andy Rogers is going to join us today as a New Parish Councillor. A very warm welcome

Our longstanding chairman Stan Jonik stood down from the Parish Council after many years of service and his presence and commitment are sorely missed. A small farewell party for him was held at Caroline’s home to say thank you. Currently we do not have a ‘full time’ chairman and the current Parish councillors are taking it in turns to carry on the role as acting chairman and vice chair.

In addition, our longstanding and supportive local councillor Richard Gamble retired, and his place has been taken by Tamara Reay who joined us at this meeting. Tamara is taking an interest in village affairs including issues around the opening of the Pub, speeding and traffic in the village.

Sadly, one of the long-term residents in the village, Bill Kerr, recently died. He and his wife Liz played an important part in the church and with the loss of the few regulars of the church there has been some uncertainty about how the church can continue. Fortunately, Simon West, who appropriately lives in the old vicarage, has stepped into to manage the church, and keep the building in use. It is an important architectural landmark and the location for our Parish Council meetings. Funds are being raised to improve and bring the church bells back to life.

The cricket club next to the secret garden is well cared for and they have plans for a new pavilion. It is looked after by Patrick Stayt and there is a new energy around cricket club activities. The club is aware that the Parish Council has right of access to the secret garden along the road owned by the cricket club.

There was a well-supported Community litter pick on the 10th April in which I participated. If anybody is missing an unopened packet of Viagra found by the side of the road, please get in contact with me. Thanks go to Stan Jonik who organised the litter pick and all those who helped.

The pandemic brought about some challenges for the Parish Council as the number of visitors to the village increased dramatically. Most were heading for the Erlestoke Woods, owned by the MOD but many parked in the Parish Council Car Park. Park residents found the number of visitors disruptive and there were some aggressive confrontations. Overflow parking often happened on the grassy sports field creating muddy tracks and mud.

As a result of submissions by the residents the Parish Council agreed to surround the car park with knee high fencing and put signs in place to try and limit the parking which so far has worked. This was completed in April of last year and some occupants of the park assisted with the installation.

However, the major infrastructure change to the village has been the re-opening of the George and Dragon Pub. After a long battle with the previous owners, who wanted to turn it into a house, the Pub was sold to Mr Gardner who has spent a significant amount of money refurbishing the 17ct building both internally and externally to a very high standard. Not all villagers have been enamoured with the reopening mostly due to the loss of on-site parking and the subsequent increase in parking on the highways. The Parish Council car park by the church has suddenly again become an ‘in demand’ location. We still await the Planning Officers decision on the retrospective applications. Probably true to say that the Parish Council car park is a limited solution for parking for Pub visitors, it has limited capacity and many visitors will use the Highways.

Covid and the reopening of the Pub have made villagers aware of the impact of improving local facilities and of Erlestoke being situated in an area of outstanding beauty. The resulting increase in visitors that these bring has perhaps been unforeseen and not always welcome.­

Our long-time grass cutter Miles and Francis has now retired. We only now realise how much they are going to be missed. We have put the work out to contract and await three proposals. We are expecting the annual cost to increase and possibly the number of times the grass gets cut.

Erlestoke is a very small community of approximately 100 households. Our precept (annual income) is very small and creates limits on what we can do financially. We are required to have a professional paid clerk, who is an employee of the Council, and Polly has been doing sterling work for us.

Some expenditure has been approved including a new picnic table in the secret garden, white gates at the village entrances and a new SID. In addition, we have received a grant to enhance the playground. This will require 50% funding. However, all of these may not be affordable and will be for discussion later during our meeting.

Fiona is organising a Queen’s jubilee event and a Jubilee picnic and dog show will be held in the Park, Erlestoke, on Sat June 4th.

**7/22 Erlestoke Community Database of Contacts**

If anyone would like to be included on the community database to receive news about Erlestoke and local area please contact the Clerk, Polly Doyle on [erlestokepc@gmail.com](mailto:erlestokepc@gmail.com)

**8/22 Neighbourhood Issues**

No items were raised for discussion.

**9/22 Questions from the floor** No questions were raised. **Meeting finished at 9.15pm.**