

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Ermington Parish Council held in the Parish Rooms on Tuesday 4th December 2012 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. M. Auburn, Bower, Hughes, Kerslake. N. Toms, Morley, Walsh, Webley.

Also Present: County Councillor William Mumford, District Councillors Tom Holway, Lindsay Ward.

Chairman: Councillor J. Morley

Parishioner(s) present: 8

90/12 a) POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Andy Potter sent his apologies and forwarded the following report which was read out by the Chairman.

Ermington area

At 2200 on 5th Police patrol stop checked a car with three occupants near New England Quarry, all three had a small amount of cannabis on their person, all three received formal warnings [JI/12/1067/1068/1069].

Overnight 14th/15th damage caused to a farm gate in the Westlake area [JI/12/1092].

During the evening of 16th minor assault within a family [JI12/1094]

Lee Mill Ind. Est.

No reported crime [first time ever!]

b) OPEN FORUM

Dis. Cllr. Lindsay Ward reported on the TAP application for Dementia Friendly Societies and confirmed that funding had now been received. Volunteers are now needed. A befriending service is being set up for this area and, yet again, volunteers will be needed.

Dis. Cllr. Tom Holway reminded the PC that the £400 Locality Fund was still available to the Parish.

A Parishioner complained about the lack of communication between himself and the Planning Department at SHDC in regard to the Barratt Homes Development. He was surprised that work had already commenced when the Approval had only just been received. In his opinion the plans are wrong and he commented that the Developer had not been completely honest in regard to the hedge bordering the road. He had serious complaints that the Planning Department at SHDC are not listening to what is being said. There have been various applications, two have been registered and in his opinion, they were incorrect. He requested an urgent joint meeting with himself and the Planning Department at SHDC, District Councillors, Parish Councillors, and Barratt Homes.

It was also reported that lorries had been delivering to the Site at 7.30 a.m. causing chaos. This was against the times stipulated in the Planning Approval and should not have happened. Cllr. J. Morley agreed to contact Barratt Homes the following day. – **Action Cllr. Morley.**

Concerns were expressed regarding the weight limit of 17 tons on Keaton Bridge. 26 ton lorries were now using the road. Was this safe? The Parish Council had been informed that Keaton Bridge was capable of taking this weight but it was suggested that the concerned Parishioners should take this matter up with DCC Cllr. William Mumford.

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b) OPEN FORUM – continued.

At this point DCC Councillor William Mumford attended the meeting and was informed of what had been discussed prior to his arrival.

There had been concern that final drawings had not come through from Barratt Homes after the Planning Approval but they had been received since this time. However, they have not been amended as promised and the opening to the Site had not been made as it should have been. Confirmed that the present opening was to allow for work access.

The Locality Budget had been confirmed for Ermington and he was awaiting the completion of the forms. **Action Cllr. Ro. Hughes and Clerk.**

The Planning Application for Strashleigh Hams was nothing to do with the New England Quarry. The original Plans for the Site were extinct approximately one year ago and there has been a considerable amount of tipping which should not have occurred. A haul road had also been constructed without permission. The owners had been instructed to clear this up and Cllr. Mumford believes this has been done.

The Avonwick road will have restricted access for some time due to the erosion of a bank. The water gushing out of the road opposite Plantation House was probably a natural stream but this was being checked.

A question was put to Cllr. Mumford as to whether it would be possible for him to confirm that the continuing flooding on the corner of the road from Ermington where it meets the Westlake Road, was still on the list to be dealt with. Cllr. Mumford agreed to check this.

Mr Ian McClure, governor of the Beacon Federation asked for volunteers to help teach gardening to the children on Friday afternoons. There is a Carol Concert in the church on 19th December commencing at 2 p.m. Their recent Mufti Day and Sale of Buns raised £302 for Children in Need.

91/12 APOLOGIES

Apologies received and accepted from Cllrs. T. Auburn and K. Toms.

92/12 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – Register of Members' Interest

At Council meetings, each Councillor has a duty to declare an interest if it is either a personal, pecuniary or prejudicial interest. No additional "Register of Members Interest" forms received from Councillors at the December 2012 meeting and no Dispensation Requests had been received. However Cllr. Ian Walsh declared an interest under item 94/12, Cllr. N. Toms declared a pecuniary interest under item 94/12.

93/12 TO CONFIRM MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6th November 2012 were confirmed and signed. Matters arising are as follows:

67/12 The manhole by the style opposite South Ley Cottage has been repaired. The erosion to the drainage pipe on the footpath going down to the river has still to be dealt with.

80/21 Dispensations. The amended Standing Orders had been previously circulated to all Council members. The suggested amended is as follows:

A new paragraph to be inserted as follows –

18. DISPENSATIONS

1. All dispensation requests to be decided by the Clerk.
2. All requests to be made by councilors in writing or by email at least 10 days before the meeting.
3. That dispensation is automatically applied for discussion and setting of Annual Precept charges.

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93/12 MATTERS ARISING - continued

Proposed _ Cllr. Ian Walsh, Seconded Cllr. Di Webley that the amendment be approved. Unanimously agreed.

86/12 National Cycle Path. Cllr. Marina Auburn had agreed to be the local contact for Sustrans. In future when any changes, amendments or additions to the National Cycle Path which affected Ermington were being considered, Sustrans would contact Cllr. Auburn for her input as the Parish Council representative.

94/12 PLANNING

At this point in the meeting the Chairman allowed two members of the parish to speak regarding the proposed Solar Farm application at Luson Farm.

An objector addressed the meeting stating that she supported the principle of Solar Energy. Looking at the revised plans, the panels had been moved into the centre of the fields in order to allow for the hedges to grow. However, these panels face directly towards Clickland Farm, a Grade 11 listed building. It is her opinion that the whole of the view from the front of the Farm will be affected. She asked the question as to why the Solar Farm had not been moved to the top of the hill where the benefits of sunlight would be maximized and the Solar Farm would be further away from Clickland? In her opinion the panels are in the wrong place. Could the Parish Council look politely at the affect of this Solar Farm on Clickland Farm.

A supporter then addressed the meeting and introduced himself as the son of the owner of Luson Farm. He read out a statement. There had been lots of conversations since the original application. English Heritage had been consulted and they did not want to intervene any further. All the environmental surveys had been approved and this Solar Farm was smaller than many others in the area that had been approved. The supposed public footpath across the field had also been dismissed. The proposed Solar Farm was clearly at an angle to Clickland Farm.

The Chairman then read out a letter received from English Heritage which confirmed the above statement.

Application No: 21/2552/12/CU
Applicant: Mr M. Smallacombe
Proposal: Change of use to sand school (outdoor) turn out pen
Location: Crossparks, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR

Cllr. Ian Walsh declared an interest.

SUPPORT

Application No: 21/2606/12/F
Applicant: Lightsource Renewable Energy Limited
Proposal: Resubmission of 21/0690/12/F for installation of ground mounted solar array, estimated output of 1.9MW, and associated infrastructure
Location: Proposed solar farm, Luson Farm, Ermington SX623 529.

Cllr. N. Toms declared a pecuniary interest and left the meeting room prior to the discussions taking place.

DEFERRED BACK TO SHDC WITH COMMENTS.

Planning Applications Granted

Application No: 21/0152/12/F
Applicant: Mr Mrs C Drew
Proposal: Provision of agricultural building
Location: Orchard Barn, Ermington, Ivybridge, PL21 0LB

Application No: 21/2333/12/B
Applicant: Mr & Mrs J & K Toms
Proposal: Listed building consent for conversion of barn to form family dwelling.
Location: Luson Farm, Langbrook, Westlake, Ivybridge. PL21 9JZ

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94/12 PLANNING - continued

Application No; 21/1759/12/F
Applicant: Mr Mrs J Toms
Proposal: Readvertisement. Conversion to barn to form family dwelling with change of use.
Location: Luson Farm, Langbrook, Westlake, Ivybridge. PL21 9JZ

Application No: 21/1425/12/F
Applicant: Barratt Homes, Exeter
Proposal: Resubmission of planning application 21/0728/12/F for mixed use development comprising 32 dwellings and 0.1 ha of employment land along with associated access, car parking, landscaping, open space and the provision of footpath link to village centre.
Location: Land to West of Workshops, Church Road, Ermington, Devon PL21 9NT.

Planning Appeals

Appeal Ref. APP/K1128/D/12/2183504
Location: Erme View, School Road, Ermington, Ivybridge, PL21 9NH – **DISMISSED**

95/12 FINANCE

There was a Finance Meeting on 27th November when the mid year check of the accounts were completed by Cllrs. Morley, Kerslake and Bower who did not have any concerns.

However, prior to the meeting the Clerk/RFO reported a discrepancy that had only just come to light. Due to human error a previous payment which had been presumed was a refund of Income Tax due to the Clerk was in fact, the refund of VAT due to the Council from HM Revenue and Customs. The error has been rectified and the amount refunded to the Council by the Clerk, with apologies.

The approval of the budget for 2013/14 was deferred to the next meeting. Also setting of the Precept.

It was also decided to ask for the Architect to forward an itemised Invoice for all the work he had completed to date in regard to the extension to the Reading Rooms in order that this cost could be cleared in the current financial year and not carried over into the following year.

The overtime Claim for the Clerk was approved.

The following finance was discussed and agreed to be paid:

-	Caretakers wages up to 16 th November 2012	£14.00
-	Reimbursement to Clerk for advert ref. Parish Clerk Vacancy	£45.36
-	Annual subscription to SLCC	£86.00
-	SWW – monthly payment Dec. (DD)	£33.50
-	EDF Energy – monthly payment – Dec. (DD)	£15.00

Grant requests – None.

Balance of account: **Lloyds Treasurer Account:** Balance as at 15th November - £16,641.28.

-	£14.00	Cheque No. 00849
-	£45.36	Cheque No. 000850
-	£86.00	Cheque No. 000851
-	£33.50	DD
-	£15.00	DD
+	£20.00	First and Last Collection Box
+	£310.64	Refund of VAT.

Lloyds Treasurer Account: Balance as at 13th December 2012 - £16,778.01.

Investment Account: Balance as at 10th December 2012 - £13,368.57.

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96/12 PURCHASE OF FIELD

Still waiting to hear from the Solicitors and to receive the £20,000 from the Barratt Housing Development. It is hoped that the purchase will be finalised early in the New Year.

97/12 BARRATT HOMES HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

The Barratt Housing Development had been approved and work had already started on site preparation, with some local complaints. These were being dealt with.

98/12 P3 FUND (Parish Paths Partnership)

The Parish Council was reminded that an amount of £220 had been granted to the Parish and needed to be spent before the end of the financial year. Various suggestions were put forward and Cllr. M. Auburn agreed to draw up a shopping list of suggested work to be carried out, with costings where possible. This will be presented at the next Parish Meeting. – **Action Cllr. Auburn**

99/12 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Di Webley and the Clerk attended a meeting at the Watermark on Monday 19th November in regard to Rural Transport. It had been agreed to hand out a questionnaire at the Christmas Fair for people to complete detailing their transport needs. All completed questionnaires would be handed in at the next Rural Transport Meeting in January. The Parishes of Ugborough and Modbury were also involved.

100/12 CORRESPONDENCE

- SHDC Rural Crime Event – Westpoint – 1st February 2012 – **Dis. Cllr. L. Ward will attend.**
- SHDC Dog Control Order pre-consultation event, 26th Nov. Attended by Cllrs. M. Auburn and Di. Webley. – **report already circulated to all Councillors.**
- CVS Information events, Alzheimer's Society - **noted**
- Clerks and Councils Direct – November – **passed to Clerk**
- South Hams Connect - Winter 2012 – **circulated**
- DPFA The Playing Fields Association Magazine, Autumn 2012. – **agreed that this circulation should be cancelled at the next renewal date as the format is changing and the Magazine will not be printed in future as a separate publication.**

101/12 PARISH CLERK - APPLICATIONS

The Chairman reported that there had been some interest in the Parish Clerk position but only two applications had been received by the cut off date. He informed the meeting that interviews would take place later in December and that copies of the applications would be forwarded to all Councillors for their opinions. The Chairman and Vice Chairman would conduct the interviews, with the Clerk also present.

It is hoped to appoint the new Parish Clerk in January to commence employment on 1st February 2013.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the first Tuesday in January falling on New Years Day it was agreed that the next [Parish Council Meeting](#) would take place on [Tuesday 8th January 2013](#) in the Parish Rooms, Ermington commencing at [7.30 p.m.](#)