

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Minutes of the Meeting of Ermington Parish Council held in the Reading Rooms on Tuesday 3 November 2015 commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs John Kerlake, Di Webley, Ian Walsh, Marina Auburn, John Bower, Roy Hartwell, Susan Martin, Richard Midgley

**Also present:** County Councillor R Hosking  
District Councillor T Holway  
T Drew (Parish Clerk)

**Parishioners present:** 7

**Chairman:** Cllr J Kerlake

Cllr Kerlake welcomed two new Councillors, Susan Martin and Richard Midgley. Cllrs Martin and Midgley had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office prior to the meeting.

### 52/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies received from PCSO A Potter (Police) and Cllr Bower.

### 53/15

#### (a) Police Report for October 2015

The following report has been received from PCSO A Potter:-

#### Ermington

No reported crime

#### Lee Mill Ind. Estate

3/10, theft, offender used stolen credit card to purchase goods CR/068859/10  
7/10, criminal damage to motor vehicle, car had a tyre slashed CR/071200/15

#### (b) Public Questions

A parishioner had met Cllr Hosking and Nick Colton from D.C.C. Highways in the spring but there did not appear to be any progress in connection with drainage on Preston Hill. Cllr Hosking responded that the work required was on the list to be completed by D.C.C. Highways. Cllr Hosking agreed to send correspondence relating to the drainage in that area to the parishioner - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking**

Cllr Midgley pointed out that parishioners would like to help keeping drains clear but there were issues with insurance and liability when working on the highway. Cllr Hosking replied Chapter 8 training had been provided free of charge and DCC has a third party insurance. Those wishing to help are advised to liaise with their own insurance party and show them the DCC insurance.

**(b) Public Questions (continued)**

Cllr Auburn enquired if DCC Highways operate a system to assess a condition of a road and prioritise what roads and lanes are tarmaced. Keaton Lane had recently been tarmaced wondered why it was deemed necessary on such a minor lane. Cllr Hosking replied it was not his decision but DCC Highways, but he knew the nature of the construction of roads/lanes are assessed prior to work commencing and sometimes the only answer is to invest in a repair rather than patch or surface dress.

Cllr Auburn reported to DCC Highways the three drains from Coyton to Swainage were blocked and asked if the Lengthsman could clear them. Cllr Hosking will arrange for the work will be carried out during December –  
**ACTION: Cllr Hosking.**

Parishioner asked why in the last seven years no work has been done on the drainage near his property which had resulted flooding. Cllr Hosking stated that DCC Highways is operating on a smaller budget and to enter the details of this problem on the Devon County Council web site so the problem is placed on schedule of works. The parishioner was also asked to e-mail details of the problem to the Clerk.

A parishioner had recently had a visit by the Mayor of Clecy who would like to resurrect the Twinning and an e-mail had been sent to the Clerk. The Clerk confirmed an e-mail has not been received and asked if the parishioner could forward information to her, this was agreed.

**(c) District and County Councillor Reports**

District Cllr Holway

- TAP funding – deadline for applications is 12 noon on Friday, 18 December 2015. To enable town and parish councils to set their precepts accordingly, applications will be determined by local DCC and SHDC Members on Thursday, 14 January 2016.

- Speed Check kits – possibility of liaising with Bittaford and Wrangaton to purchase one.

- At a SHDC meeting on Open Spaces, Sport & Recreation it was reported that S.106 funding would be restricted to projects having a close connection with the development site.

County Councillor Hosking

- Tough Choices programme is taking place in the Watermark Centre Ivybridge as £35 million needs to be saved from the budget. Local residents can debate key local issues and have a go at setting their own budget. The meetings are just part of a wider Tough Choices public consultation.

**54/15 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT – Declaration of Interests**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct members were invited to declare any personal, disclosable pecuniary or prejudicial interests including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in items to be considered at a council meeting. No such declarations were made.

Cllr Auburn declared an interest in the two planning applications.

**55/15 TO CONFIRM MINUTES**

The minutes of Ermington Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2015 at 7.30 pm, were confirmed and signed.

## 56/15 MATTERS ARISING

47/15 - lowering of the speed limit on the A3121 = Cllr Hosking reported that Speed restriction zones are not generally ordered on 'A' roads unless there is a road accident history that supports this action.

The existing 40 mph zone was granted by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) despite it not achieving regulation standard for this limit. Seeking to reduce the speed limit to 30 mph would require another TRO and this is not currently supported by road traffic and accident data.

Part of the stretch of road is street lit, but advised that the existing length of street lit road is not sufficient to support a 30 mph limit.

The number of dwellings having access onto the A3121 within this zone is not sufficient to extend the street lighting, despite two exit roads serving Ermington and the Ivybridge link road.

DCC Highways are looking at ways in which we can potentially improve the visibility at the Town Hill junction including the suggestion of a pavement around the Toll House moving the traffic away from the northern road edge.

DCC Highway are currently investigating the possibility of confirming the 20 mph zone through the village supported by additional roundel markings which should enable voluntary speed checks.

47/15 - erosion of the Erme river bank = Cllr Hosking reported that the advice from the County Solicitor is the maintenance of the river bank is the responsibility of the riparian landowner. In the light of this advice the County Council will not prepare a report on the possible contributory responsibility of South West Water through undermining of the river bank when relocating their sewerage pipe. Cllr Hosking has sympathy with the landowner in this situation. He will support the landowner as far as he can in securing grant funding to facilitate a timely repair. In the light of the advice above, it is unlikely that DCC will offer any funding. He will enquire in the first instance whether any financial support can be obtained by the Landowner through Countryside Stewardship for the straightening of the river or maintenance of the riverbank. Cllr Hosking has been advised that land owner has been in contact with David Whitton of Devon County Council and is currently investigating the extent of his title through searches.

Cllr Kerslake said that the danger of road collapse and high cost of repair could be avoided with a pragmatic approach now. The Parish Council would continue to pursue the case for action. In the meantime it would try to follow up a previous contact with a specialist who had indicated the possibility of a free quotation to provide a solution to the problem – **ACTION: Cllr Hartwell.**

47/15 - costing on a replacement sign request for a parishioner = Cllr Hosking and Nick Colton DCC Highways tried to find the sign in question at West Worthele without success. The short answer to your question is about £45.00 assuming it simply requires straightening. Nick Colton advises that he made enquiries and was advised of a bent sign at Modbury Cross on the A379 which has now been straightened.

47/15 - assessment of the splay at the entrance to "The Spires" = the speed hump has been relocated. Cllr Hosking assumed that the "road narrows" sign pre-dated the traffic speed zone relocation. It is considered superfluous and Nick Colton advises it may have been removed by the contractors constructing the road hump. The contractors removing the speed hump have also agreed to patch the surface of the junction with "The Spires" development.

47/15 - tree causing visibility issues near Endsleigh Garden Centre slip road = the Local Highways Operations Manager has inspected this slipway at the request of the Parish Council and his assessment was that the visibility is adequate. In the light of objection by Ermington Parish Council he has asked a colleague to inspect, who came to the same conclusion. Cllrs Auburn, Martin and Walsh stressed there was a blind spot at this junction. It was agreed that Cllr Walsh will liaise with the owner of the field to ascertain if the trees can be removed and prepare a response to Cllr Hosking highlighting the need for the trees to be removed – **ACTION: Cllr Walsh.**

## 56/15 MATTERS ARISING (continued)

- 49/15 Ermington Primary School crossing Bunkers Hill PV2 assessment = Cllr Hosking had contacted DCC Highways and a PV2 assessment will be carried out in the area - **ACTION: Cllr Hosking/DCC Highways.**

47/15 – one way system in the area at the junction of A379 and A3121 = the available accident data for Hollowcombe Cross to 31 December 2014 does not support any changes to the junction. However, we will wait for the data to 31 December 2015 before commenting further on this proposal. The suggested solution if supported by accident data is to make the stretch of road from Hollowcombe cross to the crossroad eastbound only, rather than a roundabout as shown on historic plans which were forwarded with your recent correspondence.

34/15 – Playing Field Path = clarification on repairs required on the foot path around the playing field is still being pursued - **ACTION: Cllr Holway.**

34/15 - TAP Fund, defibrillator = Cllrs Webley and Holliday had looked into the purchase of, siting, training and maintenance of a defibrillator. Cllr Webley stated it would cost £1800 to site defibrillator and this includes the replacement of pads when the machine is used. Cllr Holliday had looked at independent companies and the average purchase price is £1200 and Philips is recommended. No maintenance cost and the battery life is 5 years, currently a replacement battery would cost £45. BT would sell the phone box if the decision is made to locate the defibrillator there. The pads supplied with defibrillator last 18 months. A person would need to be assigned to check the defibrillator. After the initial outlay there would be minimum cost to run it. Cllr Holliday will assess the training costs. **ACTION: Cllr Holliday.**

It was agreed to purchase the defibrillator independently.

## 57/15 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Application number: 21/2202/15/F

Description: Proposed recording and mixing studio, partially underground in grounds of existing dwelling house

Application address: Meadowbrook Barn, Langbrook, Westlake, Ivybridge, PL21 9JZ

### **Support**

Application number: 21/2254/15/F

Description: Change of use of agricultural land and construction of agricultural related development park, comprising Veterinary Practice (Class D1), Gunroom (Class A1), Coffee Wholesaler (Class B2) and rural agriculturally connected office use (Class B1a) with associated car parking, access and landscaping

Application address: Proposed development site at SX 623 557, Endsleigh Park, South Woodland Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JL

**No objection – a condition should be imposed on use and classification of building which is linked to purpose and use.**

## 58/15 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

- e-mail 06/10/2015 from SHDC = Section 106 funding for Open Space, Sport and Recreation facilities - 10am, 4th November training session – **Cllr D Webley attending training session**
- e-mail 08/10/2015 from DCC Highways Service Team = Parish & Town Council Conference – 14/10/15 Ashill Village Hall
- e-mail 12/10/2015 from SHDC = Development Management Committee Agenda - 21 October 2015
- e-mail 12/10/2015 from Devon Countryside Access Forum = Devon Countryside Access Forum Newsletter
- e-mail 13/10/2015 from South Hams CVS = South Hams CVS Launches Volunteer Connect online system to support volunteering across South Hams
- e-mail 08/10/2015 from Cllr Hosking = Chapter 8 Training - Information for Members to Share with Town & Parish Councils
- e-mail 19/10/2015 from Cllr Hosking = promoting the Devon Highways Parish & Town Council Conferences
- e-mail 19/10/2-15 from DCC Highways Service Team = Parish & Town Council Conference - Wednesday 21 October - Bradford & Cookbury Village Hall
- e-mail 21/10/2015 from SHDC = Parish & Town Councils - DM consultation clarification
- e-mail 21/10/2015 from Devon Voluntary Action (DeVA) = Devon Voluntary Action - ANNUAL CONFERENCE
- e-mail 22/10/2015 from SHDC = DEVON COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FORUM - 10 NOV FINGLE GLEN
- e-mail 26/10/2015 Modbury Caring = Modbury Caring Newsletter
- e-mail 28/10/2015 from I & M Garden Services = asking if there is a possibility for tendering for the grass and tree maintenance etc within the parish
- e-mail 29/10/2015 from Devon Highways = Information about our new banners and decorations procedure
- e-mail 29/10/2015 from Healthwatch Devon = Our latest magazine: 7 Day Services, End of Life Care and more
- e-mail 29/10/2015 from Ros Davies = Parish Paths Partnership (P3) Drop in sessions - Autumn 2015

## 59/15 FINANCE

### PAYMENTS

- Salary for Caretaker – 17 September 2015 – 16 October 2015 (inclusive)	£24.00
- Salary for Clerk – October 2015	£476.67
- EDF Energy – monthly Direct Debit – October 2015	£25.00
- South West Water – monthly Direct Debit – October 2015	£20.00
- Dart Fire Protection Ltd – safety signs for Reading Rooms	£30.42
- Curtis Whiteford Crocker	£2164.65

### INCOME

- Hire of Reading Rooms – Ermington Tots	£20.00
- Hire of Reading Rooms – Ermington Wednesday Group	£165.00
- S.H.D.C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> payment of precept	£8959.00

*Treasurer's Account – Balance £64,165.99 as at 15 October 2015*

*Business Account - Balance £8,380.57 as at 9 September 2015*

### GRANT REQUESTS

None

**60/15     READING ROOMS – Update**

It was agreed to form a consultation Ermington Village Hall Working Group (EVHWG) which will consist of three Councillors Cllrs Webley, Martin and Auburn plus five volunteers. A terms of reference document was circulated, feedback on the document to be received by the third week in November. A date to be set for a preliminary EVHWG meeting during November 2015.

Cllr Kerslake had noted there was a difference in the work quoted by the two building company to deal with the recommendations from the structural survey report. Cllr Kerslake will clarify the situation with the companies – **ACTION Cllr Kerslake.**

Cllr Kerslake is checking the two quotes received to ensure they are quoting for the same items of work required - **ACTION: Cllr Kerslake.**

A quotation had been received to replace the fire exit door and frame. The quotation was considered to represent good value for money and was accepted. Cllr Webley would arrange for the work to be carried out – **ACTION Cllr Webley.**

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 December 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Reading Rooms, Ermington.

Cllr Holway was thanked for attending the meeting and left at 8.00 pm.

Cllr Hosking was thanked for attending the meeting and left at 8.50 pm.

The Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Signed: .....  
(*Ermington Parish Council Chairman*)

Date: 1 December 2015