

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic  
Tuesday 4 May 2021 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Ian Creese, Steve Yates, Claire Cross  
Robert Owens, John Dunlop

County Councillor Richard Hosking (*from 8.00 pm to 8.10 pm*)  
District Councillor Tom Holway (*from 7.30 pm to 7.50 pm*)  
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 0

## 001/2021 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllrs Cross and Dunlop proposed Cllr Onley. It was agreed Cllr Onley to be elected as Chair and will complete the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

## 002/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

## 003/2021 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

None.

## 004/2021 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

There are currently four vacancies – no applications have been received since the last Parish Council meeting.

The notice advertising vacancies can be seen on parish noticeboards, website and in the Ermington Parish Magazine.

## 005/2021 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR RICHARD HOSKING, INCLUDING OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

Safe Road Fund improvements options A to C – Devon County Council Highways will try to achieve the two roundabouts in the scheme, depending on the budget. Option A may be available.

Completion of Hollowcombe roundabout will be completed by September 2021.

*159/20 Blocked drains on the left-hand side of Town Hill and Chapel Street, grate needs to be removed to assess the Situation – Cllr Hosking*

*159/20 River Erme erosion A3121- Cllr Hosking*

*159/20 Flooding Westlake – Cllr Hosking*

*159/20 Modbury Cross Woodland Planting update – Cllr Hosking has requested to DCC that the Parish Council are made aware of details.*

*178/20 Safety of gas supply pipe located Chapel Street, Ermington PL21 9NF – Discussion ensued on the safety issues of the recently installed gas pipe. Resolved Cllr Onley will write to the Health and Safety Executive and Wales and West pointing out safety concerns. **ACTION: Onley***

**006/2021      REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY, INCLUDING OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

SHDC do not have a suitable room at Follaton House and may need to travel to Tavistock to host meetings, due to the change in legislation relating to Council meetings effective from 6 May 2021.

Cllr Holway asked parishioners to contact him if there were any issues with the new SHDC recycling system.

*179/20 Provision of strong good quality litter bags from SHDC, for parishioners to use when carrying out litter picking in the parish - Cllr Holway.*

**007/2021      PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors**

Cllr Owens asked Cllr Holway, if SHDC could install a dog bin at the entrance to Ermington Woods. Cllr Holway will investigate the costs to install a dog bin etc. Resolved the Parish Council will pay a maximum one off cost of £250 for a dog bin. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

**008/2021**

(a) Election of Vice-Chair (**Cllr Owens**)

(b) Election of Committees: -

- Planning (**all Councillors**)
- Parish Rooms maintenance (**all Councillors**)
- Finance (**Parish Clerk RFO & Cllrs Onley & Dunlop**)

(c) Election to outside associations: -

- Churchyard (**Cllr Owen**)
- Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils (**all Councillors**)

(d) Parish Tree Warden (**Ro Hughes - Parishioner**)

(e) Footpaths (**Cllr Owens**)

(f) Defibrillator checks – (**Josie Allis - Parishioner**)

(g) Ermington Public Toilets = to be removed from the list. **ACTION: Clerk**

(h) Road Warden Scheme, Snow Warden, Salt/grit bin checks - Penquit, Endsleigh, Marjery Cross, Westlake and two grit bins in the village (**Cllr Creese**)

(i) Checks of the Devon Air Ambulance site (**Cllr Onley**)

(j) Ermington Primary School Link (**All Councillors**)

(k) Review of hire cost for the Parish Rooms: - **Resolved to include on the June 2021 meeting agenda, for further discussion. ACTION: Clerk**

*Current charges are:*

*For parishioners and Ermington Parish organisations:*

*No cost*

*For all other organisations*

*£18 per four-hour session*

*Bookings of 3 hours or less:*

*£5 per hour*

**009/2021      UPDATE ON FLASHING SPEED SIGN NEAR ERMINGTON STORE AND MORE – Cllr Creese**

Cllr Creese has sent the makers name and serial name to DCC Highways. The speed sign is 20 years old and was second hand when installed, so it will not be possible to have it repaired. Resolved Cllr Creese will ask DCC to carry out a speed survey, this will produce evidence of speeding through the village to support the need for a replacement sign. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

Resolved Cllr Cross will send information on speeding issues and reports to Cllr Hosking. **ACTION: Cllr Cross**

**010/2021 REPAIRS TO FLOOR OF READING ROOMS GROUND FLOOR – UPDATE**

Cllr Creese reported the builder has completed the work.

Cllr Onley suggested holding the Annual Parish Meeting at the end of May 2021 in the room.

Resolved that Cllr Creese will paint the room and obtain quotes for floor covering. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

**011/2021 READING ROOMS – DATE FOR OPENING OF ROOMS FOR HIRE**

To be confirmed at the end of May 2021.

**012/2021 READING ROOMS FUTURE USE AND ACTIVITIES SURVEY - Cllr Yates**

Cllr Yates confirmed that 26 responses have been received from the Parish website questionnaire. The reason for a website questionnaire was due to current COVID restrictions. Resolved to leave the questionnaire on the website for a further period of time.

To date, ideas for the top room:

Snooker room  
Hire for parties

Ideas for the bottom room:

Craft workshop room  
Studio  
Workplace office

Cllr Cross pointed out, there is a need to carry out a proper consultation via Facebook and Parish Magazine, and the Parish Council will need to take into account there will be parishioners who do not have internet access.

Cllr Owens - the Vicar of Ermington Church is prepared to work with the Parish Council on access from the churchyard, which would help with disabled access. Resolved Cllr Owens to liaise with the Vicar and explore the possibility of access via the churchyard. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

**013/2021 SOCIAL MEDIA – Cllr Dunlop**

Cllr Dunlop suggested the Parish Council had a voice on social media.

Resolved Cllr Dunlop to share meeting information on Friends of Ermington Facebook page. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

**014/2021 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Resolved to approve Parish Council Meeting minutes of 6 April 2021 (as previously circulated) would be signed by the Chair.

**015/2021 PLANNING**

Reference: 1011/21/FUL

Proposal: Creation of winter turnout area

Site Address: Woodcock Barn, Burraton, PL21 9JZ

Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 0279/21/HHO

Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (Amended Description and Revised Plans Received) Householder application for proposed conversion of garage to study/workshop and formation of carport with balcony over

Site Address: Western Lodge, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9JS

Recommendation: No comment

**015/2021 PLANNING (continued)**

**Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0982/21/COM Ermington

LOCATION: Higher Ludbrook Farm Ludbrook PL21 0LL

PROPOSAL: Notice of intention to install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus comprising 1 x 9m wooden pole (7.2m above ground)

DECISION: Permitted development

**015/2021 PLANNING (continued)**

**Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0419/21/HHO Ermington

LOCATION: The Croft Penquit PL21 0LU

PROPOSAL: Householder application for proposed replacement of flat roof with pitched, garage conversion to accommodation, new porch and updated bungalow external finishes

DECISION: Conditional Approval

**016/2021 FINANCE**

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

| Description   | Gross     | VAT    | Nett      |
|---|-----------|--------|-----------|
| Clerk's Salary – April 2021   | £606.34   | -      | -         |
| EDF Energy – monthly Direct Debit – April 2021  | £12.35    | £0.65  | £13.00    |
| Devon Communities Together – annual membership  | £50.00    | -      | -         |
| EDF Energy – Devon Air Ambulance Lights, Playing Field – Standing charge<br>23/01/2021 - 12/04/2021 @ 80.00p per day                  | £67.20    | £3.20  | £64.00    |
| Reimbursement to Sarah West (parishioner who is organising parish litter<br>picking) purchase of litter picker kits from Helping Hand | £231.74   | -      | -         |
| AMBC Building Contractors – repairs to lower room in Reading Rooms  | £7,860.00 | £1,310 | £6,550.00 |

**RECEIPT -** Interest on Business Bank Account - £0.35  
SHDC – 1<sup>st</sup> Payment of Precept - £9,720.00  
Devon County Council - Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund - £221.73

**Bank Reconciliations**

**Treasurers Account: Balance per bank statement as at 13 April 2021**

**£76,208.47**

LESS: any un-presented cheques (**negative numbers**)

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| 001404 | -£7.00   |
| 001413 | -£60.00  |
| 001419 | -£25.00  |
| 001420 | -£191.97 |
| 001421 | -£266.08 |
|        | <hr/>    |
|        | -£550.05 |

PLUS: any un-banked cash/cheques

N/A £0.00

£0.00

**Business Account: Balance per bank statement as at 9 March 2021**

**£45,920.73**

**Total Funds = £121,029.10**

**Earmarked Reserves**

Repairs to Reading Rooms = £20,000

**Precept 2020/2021**

£19,440 (reduction of 20%) Band D property will show £51.14 for the Ermington element of the total bill.

This is a decrease of -19.7% or -£12.51 on the 2020/21 Band D figure.

## 017/2021 FUNDS RAISED FOR THE READING ROOMS PROJECT – Cllr C Cross

Cllr Cross gave the background to the raising of funds for the purchase of Honey's Field.

The Ermington Village fund has asked for their fund raising money of £3,500 paid to the Parish Council in June 2012, for the purchase of Honey's Field, to be paid back.

Cllr Onley pointed out that as so much time has passed and none of the current Parish Cllr's were involved at the time, any decision would need to be informed by the published accounts and minutes. These show that the Parish Council between 2012 and 2016 spent over £8000 on proposals to buy Honey's Field and extend the Reading Rooms, including £3300 on legal fees and £3750 on architect's fees before abandoning the project in favour of a new build Village Hall on the playing field.

Any request to return monies donated for the purchase of Honey's Field could have been considered at that time, but the Council decided instead to transfer any surplus funds to the new build project.

With the opening of the Hub there are now no plans to build a new Village Hall and the current Council policy is to return any surplus reserves to parishioners by lowering the Parish Precept.

The Parish Council has been very generous in financial support to the Village Fund over many years, and also provided information and links to SHDC and DCC grants which can be viewed on the parish website.

Discussion ensued, it was resolved not to return any money donated towards these projects as considerable costs were incurred and to continue to return surplus reserves direct to parishioners by the Parish Precept.

## 018/2021 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- a) Churchyard Committee = **Cllr Owens** – a successful tree planting day has recently taken place. Samplings/whips have been planted along the churchyard boundary.
- b) Ermington Park & Climate Change = play equipment is currently being installed in the play park. A few whips recently planted, need to be moved, which will be carried out by Cllr Cross and the Parish Tree Warden = **Cllr Cross and Parish Tree Warden**
- c) Road Warden Scheme update = **Cllr Creese** is continuing to assist with litter picking in the parish and will be assessing the road signs in the village to ascertain if they need cleaning or repairing.
- d) Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Yates**- information to be sent to Cllr Owens to pursue.
- e) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham – enquiries from parishioners, why the footpath is not on OS maps = **Cllr Yates** - information to be sent to Cllr Owens to pursue.
- f) Cycling routes = **Cllr Yates** – no report, resolved to remove from agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

## 019/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

*Some of the correspondence listed below can be viewed on the parish website:-*

SHDC - Up To £18k Restart Grants Give South Hams and West Devon Businesses A Boost  
SHDC - Business Updates - Restart Grants Open from 8 April  
SHDC - Promoting Fusion Re-Opening  
Nick Colton - Safer Roads Fund A3121  
SHDC - South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Newsletter April 2021  
Cllr T Holway - Duke of Edinburgh Communications Update  
SHDC - South Hams District Council's Condolences at News of Death of Duke of Edinburgh  
Cllr Hosking - Rapid coronavirus tests now available across Devon, confidential advice and support via ChatHealth and Exeter Chiefs'  
Ollie Devon to helps bring a smile to young carers  
SHDC - Rapid coronavirus tests now available across Devon, confidential advice and support via ChatHealth and Exeter Chiefs' Ollie Devoto helps bring a smile to young carers  
SHDC - SOUTH HAMS BT PAYPHONE KIOSK REMOVAL - CONSULTATION - comments by 16th May 2021 or earlier please  
SHDC - Make sure you're ready to have your say on 6 May  
SHDC - Avoid Crowds and Use Outdoor Recreation Spaces Instead  
Cllr Hosking - Hollowcombe Cross, Ermington  
SHDC - Tourism Boost Possible with Self-Contained Motorhomes and Campervan Stays

**019/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE (continued)**

DCC Highways - Temporary Traffic Order - 'Combe Cross to Whiteley Cross' and 'Ludbrook to Whiteley Cross' and 'Strode Cottages to Whitmore Lane Ludbrook Gate', Ermington, Ugborough (TTRO2140126)  
DCC - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter - April 2021  
DCC - Go for the flow and get tested regularly, stay outside this bank holiday and keeping you safe during the local elections  
SHDC - A guide to polling day

Email from Parishioner - Ermington Church - use of toilet at Ermington Reading Rooms on Sunday mornings – Clerk has responded  
Email from 2 x Parishioners - Ermington Parish Council Financial Statements – Clerk has sent information  
Email from Parishioner - Proposed new A38 junction at Lee Mill – Clerk has sent information to Cllr Croad  
Email from Parishioner - Reading rooms for band practice – Clerk to respond (see minute 011/2021)  
Email from Parishioner - New junction / Ivybridge Ermington

EDF electricity Air Ambulance Site contract – Resolved Clerk to contact EDF - **ACTION: Clerk**

Clerk reported the regulations that currently allow local authorities to hold meetings remotely until 06 May 2021 will not be extended by the Government, and so face-to-face meetings will need to resume from 07 May. Information from NALC had been circulated to Parish Councillors prior to the meeting.

**020/2021 REVIEW OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE DOCUMENT DUE TO THE RECENT DEATH OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH**

Resolved to adopt revised policy.

**021/2021 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting to be held in the Reading Rooms will take place on [1 June 2021](#) at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

*Denis Onley*

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 1 June 2021

**Agenda and minutes can be viewed on the Ermington Parish website**  
<http://www.ermingtonparish.com/parish-council/archives>

To report issues to the local Police. Members of the public who have a non-urgent matter to bring to the attention of their Local Policing Team, the easiest way of contacting them is  
<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/ivybridge/Overview>

or

the contact form: <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/your-area/teams/ivybridge/Contact>

Devon and Cornwall Alert two way community messaging system - <https://alerts.dc.police.uk/>

To report highway issues - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Find out about possible delays due to roadworks in Devon via an interactive map - <https://apps1.wdm.co.uk/Live/Devon/PBLC/PIP/Map.aspx?cg=sws>

SHDC website to report full bins etc. - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit> - click on report from drop down menu.