

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 19 October 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Ian Creese, Robert Owens, John Dunlop
County Councillor Dan Thomas (*from 7.39 pm to 8.15 pm*)
District Councillor Tom Holway (*from 8.40 pm to 9.23 pm*)
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 3

Councillors noted the resignation of Cllr S Yates. The Parish Council thanked him for his service.

078/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

079/2021 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Dunlop declared in interest in agenda item 17.

080/2021 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Public Questions

Parishioner enquired if a hirer of the Reading Rooms could use the school tennis court for car parking?

Cllr Owen asked if the footpath could be improved and made safe from opposite Plantation House to the bus stop near Flete House entrance. RESOLVED Cllr Owen will liaise with Cllr Thomas. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas/Owen**

Cllr Onley - during recent heavy rainfall, the drains near the new roundabout at Hollowcombe were blocked which caused flooding. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will liaise DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Parishioner pointed out, at the bottom of Westover Hill near the entrance to Endsleigh Garden Centre, the trees on the bank of the slip road are causing poor visibility. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will investigate. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Turning from the slip road to Westover Hill the footpath is not conforming to regulations. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will speak to Nick Colton, DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Junction from Hunsdon Road to Strashleigh has been tarmaced, why has money been spent on this? Cllr Thomas asked the parishioner to send him the information. **ACTION: Parishioner/Cllr Thomas**

Cllr Onley - a parishioner has asked for clarification on ownership of the land where vehicles park on Town Hill. RESOLVED the Clerk to carry out a land registry search. **ACTION: Clerk**

Report from County Councillor Daniel Thomas:

Covid-19

Key message

- Frontline Health and Social Care workers can now book a booster appointment via the National Booking Service or by contacting 119, provided that 6 months have passed since the date of their second vaccination. Details of walk-in clinics are available later in this bulletin.
- The Shingrix shingles vaccine, which has sometimes been opportunistically offered alongside flu, cannot be co-administered with COVID-19.
- Vaccinations have begun in schools for 12–15-year-olds. Parents, guardians or carers of children in this group are being contacted for consent.
- Support is available for NHS staff experiencing Long Covid
- 6 in 10 18–24-year-olds are fully vaccinated.

- Between 8 December and 26 September **933,727** first doses have been given while **867,880** second doses have been given; a total of **1,801,607** doses.
- Details of walk-in clinics are being regularly shared on NHS Devon CCG's social media pages. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on NHS England's site finder [here](#).

Age group	Number of 1st doses given	Number of 2nd doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*	Approx % of age group received both doses
80+	76,097	74,652	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,316	57,874		
70-74	77,439	76,759		
65-69	72,143	71,243		
60-64	79,228	76,739		
55-59	85,816	83,787		
50-54	81,042	79,027		
45-49	66,753	64,243	93.1%	89.6%
40-44	59,744	56,684	95.2%	90.3%
35-39	60,361	55,667	91.4%	84.3%
30-34	60,119	53,340	88.4%	78.4%
25-29	55,202	46,822	81.5%	69.1%
18-24	81,477	66,567	81.2%	66.3%
All under 18	19,989	4,476	8.8%	2.0%
Total (% 16+)	933,727	867,880	92.7%	86.2%

Arrangements for GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2022

For the past two years, summer exams haven't been able to take place due to the coronavirus pandemic, and instead students have been awarded grades by their teachers.

Now exam regulator Ofqual has put in place arrangements for GCSE, AS and A levels in summer 2022 to support students and make exams fairer for them because they've had their education disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government has introduced a choice of topics or content in some GCSE exams and exam boards will give advance information about the focus of the content of exams, designed to provide guidance for revision for students ahead of summer exams, and study aids will be allowed in some exams.

You can find out more about Ofqual's approach to grading exams and assessments in autumn 2021 and summer 2022 on the [government website](#).

Funding available for organisations to support self-isolating residents

We've launched a new fund to help community organisations provide practical, social and emotional support to Devon residents self-isolating due to COVID-19.

The grants of up to £5,000 for small projects and £20,000 for larger projects can be used to help those self-isolating with any caring responsibilities; accessing food and other supplies; practical tasks such as dog walking; and mental health and wellbeing support to address things like loneliness and boredom.

Groups can also use the money to improve their community's awareness and understanding of the government's self-isolation rules, including when you need to self-isolate, how long for, what it involves and why it is a vitally important part of slowing the spread of COVID-19, as well as what support is available.

For more information about the 'COVID-19 Outbreak Management Grant', including how to apply, please visit our [website](#).

An email with photos has been received from a parishioner, in connection with repainting of road markings in the village. The information has been passed to Nick Colton DCC Highways.

A trial of a painted dragon on a road near a school which is being trialled in Newton Abbot, will not be expanded to Ermington. This is because Ermington has a 20 mph zone within the village. Devon County Council will not change their policy at the moment.

Outstanding items from previous elected County Councillor for review:

005/21 Blocked drains on the left-hand side of Town Hill and Chapel Street, grate needs to be removed to assess the situation - on the list to be dealt with by DCC Highways.

005/21 River Erme erosion A3121 – still awaiting report

005/21 Flooding Westlake – no update has been received

005/21 Modbury Cross Woodland Planting – no update has been received

Report from District Councillor Tom Holway

Locality funding is available, if there are any parish schemes.

SHDC declared a housing emergency, the Council to provide housing proposals.

081/2021 TO AGREE TO ADOPT – THE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL WHEN DEALING WITH PLANNING APPLICATIONS PRINCIPLES DOCUMENT

The timescales are not sufficient in the protocol, as the parish council only meets once a month. RESOLVED the Clerk to inform SHDC. **ACTION: Clerk**

081/2021 VACANCIES FOR SIX PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

Due to the resignation of Cllr Steve Yates, there are now six vacancies.

No applications have been received since the last Parish Council meeting. The notice advertising vacancies can be seen on parish notice boards, Ermington Parish website and in the Ermington Parish Magazine.

082/202 SPEEDING IN ERMINGTON

The flashing sign located near the Ermington Store and More, will be replaced by DCC Highways.

083/2021 UPDATE ON FLASHING SPEED SIGN NEAR ERMINGTON STORE AND MORE – Cllr Creese

Cllr Creese has sent Nick Colton, DCC Highways, the various suggested sites for the flashing speed sign in the village, for his approval.

084/2021 READING ROOMS:

- Reading Rooms, lower room - Cllr Creese has completed the flooring, the toilet and kitchen units to be installed.
- Discussion took place on the purchase of six tables at a cost of £900.00. RESOLVED to purchase the tables.
ACTION: Clerk
- Discussion took place on the purchase of twenty four chairs for the lower rooms at a cost of £1,000. RESOLVED to purchase the chairs. **ACTION: Clerk**

085/2021 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and Chair Cllr Onley to sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 20 September 2021 as previously circulated.

086/2021 PLANNING

Reference: 3546/21/HHO
Proposal: Householder application for new porch to side of property
Site Address: Three Acres, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR
Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 2350/21/HHO
Proposal: Householder application for extension
Site Address: Rose Cottage, Westlake, PL21 9JT
Recommendation: Over development of site, which will have an impact on flooding in the area.

Prior to the meeting a parishioner present circulated their objections in connection with planning application reference: 2350/21/HHO (see attached).

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2556/21/HHO
DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2827/21/TPO
DECISION: Tree Works Allowed

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0038/21/FUL Ermington
DECISION: Refusal

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3468/21/AGR Ermington
DECISION: Prior Approval Details required

087/21 CLIMATE & ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCY BILL

RESOLVED to support.

088/2021 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

i) Bank balances – Business Account as at 9 August 2021 - £45,922.66
Treasurers Account as at 13 September 2021 - £68,274.58

ii) Banked receipts – Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/08/2021- £0.39

iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
PKF Accountants & Business Advisers – external audit of accounts for year ending 31 March 2021	£240.00	£40.00	£200.00
Parish Clerk – September 2021 salary	£606.34	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk - poppy wreath for Remembrance Day	£20.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Creese for materials to redecorate the Lower Reading Rooms	£264.36	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk for the purchase of ink cartridges (shared cost with Holbeton Parish Council)	£33.47		

iv) Grant Requests - None

v) RESOLVED to approve the following Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves

Financial Statement				
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 August 2021 :		£45,922.66		
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 September 2021:			£68,274.58	
		Total Funds =	£114,197.24	
Less: any un-presented cheques	001404		£-7.00	2020/2021 cheque not cashed in January 2021
	001441		£-590.92	
	001441		£-15.42	
	001442		£-60.00	
	001443		£-50.02	
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00	£0.00	
Earmarked Reserves				
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington			£-20,000	
		Total uncommitted Funds =	£93,473.88	

vi) Penny Clapham has kindly agreed to carry out the Internal Audit for 2021/2022

vii) PKF External Auditors report 2020/2021 - noted

viii) Cllr Owen verified the bank statements and reconciliations, no issues raised

089/2021 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Churchyard liaison = *Minibeast Hunt will take place on 29 October 2021 in Ermington Churchyard, as part of the church's biodiversity recording. A dialogue is taking place with Ermington church to improve access from the Reading Rooms top room to the churchyard.*
- Ermington Park = **Claire Cross (parishioner)** RESOLVED to report the Playing Field gate nearest the road side is broken and the fence needs repairing to SHDC. **ACTION Clerk**
- Climate Change and Biodiversity = **Cllr Onley**
- Road Warden Scheme update = **Cllr Creese** – will be checking the grit bins in the parish
- Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Owens** – Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham - parishioners have enquired why this footpath is not on current OS maps. Cllr Owens will be surveying the footpaths over the summer and will liaise with the Devon County Council PP3 Officer.

090/2021 REVIEW GDPR POLICIES:

The following documents were reviewed, no amendments made
Data Protection Impact Assessment
Privacy Notice For staff, Councillors and Role Holders
Public Privacy Policy

RESOLVED to make a minor amendment to "Information & Data Protection Policy".

091/2021 THE BEACON FEDERATION – PROPOSAL TO CONVERT TO ACADEMY STATUS AND JOIN THE WESTCOUNTRY SCHOOLS TRUST (WEST) MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (MAT)

Discussion ensued on the proposal to convert to academy status and join the Westcountry Schools Trust (West) multi-academy trust (MAT)

Points raised:

Disappointed there was not enough time for the Parish Council to discuss with parishioners
There was no presentation to Parish Councillors
The proposal would cause further erosion of links between the school and the community
Would like the school available for community events as it has been funded by the community
Fear it might preclude the use of the school for the community

092/2021 RIVER ERME POLLUTION

Cllr Dunlop attended the meeting organised by Holbeton Parish Council at Holbeton Village Hall on 23 September 2021 at 7.30 pm. Those present were Sir Gary Streeter MP, Rhidian Howells and Hazel Tranchant from South West Water.

Cllr Dunlop was disappointed that the EA was not present to answer questions.

It was pointed out by South West Water, that if they breach licences it has to be reported to the Environment Agency (EA).

Sir Gary Streeter MP stated the following:

- Contact him - deans@parliament.uk (Sally Dean is his Constituency Office Manager) if there are any issues
- The quality of our water and beaches has improved and great progress is being made
- Government is in the process of rewriting laws, as a result of Brexit. This will ensure companies are held responsible if their goods are labelled as flushable and biodegradable
- Suggested an open meeting is held with the Environment Agency to review the current legislation
- A meeting will be arranged by him, with the EA and South West Water at a strategic level to discuss the issues raised and he will report back

093/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Western Power Distribution - Shutdown for Ermington – arrangements being made to the shutdown of Ermington to do maintenance work and also two jobs for paying customers. The shutdown is on 10/11/21 we are hoping to do this at 06:00 to 08:00 but this hasn't been confirmed yet. Another email with the confirmation closer to the time and letters will be sent to all the residents of Ermington two weeks before the proposed shutdown.

Discussion ensued. RESOLVED the clerk to write to WPD and ask for an alternative time. The current proposed time of 06:00 to 09:00 will be when parishioners are preparing for work and it will be dark. **ACTION: Clerk**
SHDC - Draft Memorandum of Understanding
PKF Littlejohn LLP - DV0150 2020/21 AGAR Section 3 External Auditor Report
SHDC - The People's Plan To Shape Better Lives for All
SHDC - Council Declares a Housing Crisis
SHDC - District Council Offer Sympathy at Devastating Fire
SHDC - Broadband update from South Hams Council
Cllr Holway - Better location of felled trees!

093/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE (continued)

SHDC - Council Puts Housing Motions in Action
SHDC - Overwhelming Public Support for Council's Rewilding Plans
Devon Communities - Management of Volunteers updated guidance
South Hams CVS - Ivybridge Community Hub - we'd love to get the message out to your residents
SHDC - Council Reluctantly Suspend Garden Waste Collection Until Spring
Cllr Holway - Find Out About How Our Community Grants Fund Could Help Your Scheme

Parishioner to Cllr D Thomas - Road signage Ermington
Parishioner – re. Proposed Cost to Purchase Tables and Chairs for Reading Rooms
Parishioners - Ermington Village Fund Grant for November 2021 Fireworks
Parishioner - Withdrawal of grant request from Ermington Village Fund Grant for November 2021 Fireworks
Parishioner – thank you for grant towards the rewilding of the churchyard from the Parish Council
Parishioner – thank you for grant towards the Ermington Parish Magazine from the Parish Council

094/2021 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting to be held in the Reading Rooms will take place on [2 November 2021](#) at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Denis Onley

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(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 2 November 2021

Agenda and minutes can be viewed on the Ermington Parish website

<http://www.ermingtonparish.com/parish-council/archives>

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

SHDC website to report issues - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>