

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 7 December 2021 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, John Dunlop
County Councillor Dan Thomas (from 8.15 pm to 9.00 pm)
District Councillor Tom Holway (from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm)
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 1

108/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

109/2021 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens - listed on Parish Church electoral role.

110/2021 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Public Questions

Cllr Onley has asked SHDC for details of the maintenance of the hedge boundaries around the playing field. The owners of Valley Lodge would like to ensure the top of the hedge is cut, as well as the sides and the hedge spills over the wall into the road along Bunkers Hill and A3121. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

Cllr Onley asked if SHDC could liaise with the cricket club, to make sure the field is cut to the required length before matches during the playing season. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

Cllr Owens asked if SHDC were looking at simplifying the waste recycling collections. Cllr Holway confirmed SHDC are reviewing the waste collection.

Report from County Councillor Daniel Thomas Daniel.thomas@devon.gov.uk - 07917 877706:

Covid - Happy to be able to include stats for boosters / third doses as well as standard 2 dose data.

Vaccination data for Devon

- 1,849,897 first and second doses have been given between 8 December 2020 and 14 November 2021, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows:

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+	78,666	78,110	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 40 and over
75-79	60,932	60,596		
70-74	76,827	76,336		
65-69	72,619	71,853		
60-64	80,108	77,962		
55-59	86,313	84,682		

50-54	80,639	79,021		
45-49	65,499	63,621	91.4%	
40-44	60,737	58,298	96.8%	
35-39	61,217	57,751	92.7%	87.4%
30-34	61,163	56,247	89.9%	82.7%
25-29	56,036	50,261	82.7%	74.2%
18-24	84,482	74,328	84.2%	74.1%
16-17	17,373	4,246	72.1%	17.6%
12-15	23,532	n/a	45.1%	n/a
Total (% 16+)	966,143	893,312	93.6%	88.7%

Report from County Councillor Daniel Thomas: (continued)

Age Group	Number of booster and 3rd doses given	Approx % of age group received booster or 3rd dose
80+	65,192	80.6%
75-79	50,703	87.5%
70-74	57,086	71.2%
65-69	37,506	50.1%
60-64	25,148	31.2%
55-59	21,766	24.8%
50-55	17,720	21.1%
Under 50	38,341	n/a
Total	313,462	

Supporting Devon Residents into Homes of their Own

Very happy to report that Cabinet are recommending support of the motion and have agreed that County will lobby our local MPs to strengthen the criteria for properties becoming liable for business rates, instead of council tax. This would avoid the huge amounts of business grants paid out over COVID in Devon.

COP 26

A motion has gone to Cabinet asking Council to support the following:

[DCC] will work with Government and local Government networks, to make sure the COP26 text is translated into meaningful local and national programmes to reduce carbon which are supported by agreed and sufficient funding by Government.

Divestment of Fossil Fuels

DCC has received numerous communications from Devon residents (including this Division) asking County to divest its pension fund stakes immediately. Regrettably, the administration has voted this down and for now, the various pension funds will continue to profit from fossil fuels. There is a commitment not to make new investments, but I know many residents will be extremely concerned. I will continue to vote against the status quo when I can.

Defibrillator at Penquit

Happy to have offered support for this project to the tune of £700.

080/21 Make the footpath safer from opposite Plantation House to the bus stop near Sequers Bridge - *RESOLVED a meeting to be arranged with Emily Spurway and Paul McFadden, Public Rights of Way, Devon County Council to discuss the condition of the footpath.*

080/21 Drains near the new roundabout at Hollowcombe were blocked which caused flooding during a recent rainfall - *Cllr Denis Onley has had a lengthy email from Richard Kingsley Smith at Devon County Council and Cllr Thomas has spoken to Nick Colton, DCC Highways, who has spoken to the design engineer too.*

005/21 River Erme erosion A3121 – *Nick Colton, DCC Highways has assured Cllr Thomas that while there are no answers yet, he is aware of a regular string of internal emails being sent.*

005/21 Flooding Westlake – *RESOLVED a meeting to be arranged with Cllr Creese and Cllr Thomas to attend a new meeting to kick start matters.*

005/21 Modbury Cross Woodland Planting - *Cllr Thomas has sent a copy of DCC planting to the Parish Council. Planting to start in March 2022.*

Report from District Councillor Tom Holway:

SHDC are attempting to recruit planning staff.

There are schemes across wards to combat Climate Change and Biodiversity, which may benefit this ward.

“Better Lives for All” consultation - no issues were raised.

SHDC will be increasing the Council Tax.

SHDC supported the removal of business rates from holiday accommodation.

111/2021 VACANCIES FOR SIX PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

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.

112/2021 PARISH CHURCH, PARISH COUNCIL AND THE COMMUNITY – David Sayle - Rector of The Three Rivers Mission Community

Rev David Sayle has been in situ for six years covering seven local parishes. The church would like to improve connection with the community. Would like to work together for the parish in future events e.g. Queens Platinum Jubilee. There is the parish church, village shop, hub and Village Fund, how could these organisations work together for the community?

Discussion ensued on how the Reading Rooms could be made accessible from the church. It was pointed out that the Diocese would need to be consulted on any plans. RESOLVED Cllr Owen to obtain confirmation that the Diocese is in agreement with the necessary churchyard alteration. This will enable the top room of the Reading Rooms, to be made disabled friendly from the churchyard. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

Cllr Onley stressed, if the Parish Council were to create disabled access path to the Reading Rooms via the churchyard, there would need to work closely with the church and to ensure parishioners are aware of costs which may be covered by grants.

113/202 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

The flashing speed sign near Ermington Store and More is now working.

Mobile speed camera – RESOLVED Cllr Creese to liaise with Cllr Holway to obtain the camera. **ACTION: Cllrs Creese/Holway**

114/2021 READING ROOMS: Progress report on repairs and maintenance - Cllr Creese

Reading Rooms, lower room - heating now installed, new fire extinguishes in situ. Toilet and kitchen units to be installed.

Reading Rooms key pad lock number has been changed by Cllr Creese as requested by Councillors.

115/2021 OWNERSHIP OF LAND CURRENTLY USED FOR PARKING VEHICLES ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE GOING UP TOWN HILL

Cllr Onley and Clerk have attempted via land registry and Western Power to find out who owns the land, but there is no information.

RESOLVED an article to be placed in the Ermington Parish Magazine to ask if anyone knows who owns the land. **ACTION: Clerk**

116/2021 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and Chair Cllr Onley to sign, the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 2 November 2021 as previously circulated.

117/2021 PLANNING

RESOLVED to ratify the following planning application, discussed at November 2021 meeting:

Reference: 3510/21/FUL

Proposal: Application for extension and modifications to existing farmhouse, demolition of existing barn/store, erection of new store and annexed accommodation (resubmission of 1064/21/HHO)

Site Address: Brook Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9LE

Recommendation: No comment

117/2021 PLANNING (continued)

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2026/21/FUL Ermington
 APPLICATION NUMBER: 3546/21/HHO Ermington
 APPLICATION NUMBER: 2499/21/PDM Ermington

DECISION: Conditional Approval
 DECISION: Conditional Approval
 DECISION: Prior Approval Required and Given

Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2350/21/HHO 212350 Ermington and Ugborough
 LOCATION: Rose Cottage Westlake PL21 9JT

118/2021 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- i) Bank balances – Business Account as at 11 October 2021 - £45,923.45
 Treasurers Account as at 15 November 2021 - £71,605.02
- ii) Banked receipts – Bank Interest (Business Account) 11/10/2021- £0.40

iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – November 2021 salary and home allowance	£606.34	-	-
GoPak Ltd – tables and chairs for Reading Rooms lower room	£2105.30	£350.88	1754.42
DB Computer – maintenance of website for October and November 2021	£60.00	-	-
Chapman Electrical – replace power outlets in the Reading Rooms lower room and provide certification	£342.53	£57.08	£285.45
Dart Fire Protection – fire extinguishers, signs etc	£393.21	£65.53	£327.68
SLCC - ½ of the total membership cost with Holbeton Parish Council - £171.00	£85.50	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk - Land Registry Searches for owner of land Town Hill, Ermington	£48.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Creese for the purchase of heaters, toilet roll holder and adhesive for the Reading Rooms, lower room	£72.96	-	-

- iv) Grant Requests - Citizens Advice South Hams - RESOLVED to grant £250.00
 Penquit Defibrillator – RESOLVED to grant £500.00 and the Clerk to request a copy of the invoice. Also, ask for clarification on how it will be maintained, to ensure there is a common policy throughout the parish. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

Financial Statement			
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 October 2021 :	£45,923.45		
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 November 2021:		£71,605.02	
	Total Funds =	£117,528.47	
Less: any un-presented cheques	001404	-£7.00	2020/2021 cheque not cashed in January 2021
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	£0.00	£0.00	
Earmarked Reserves			
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000	
	Total uncommitted Funds =	£97,521.47	
Precept 2020/2021 = £19,440			

(vi) RESOLVED to increase the Clerk salary to £14.50 per hour, to be backdated to 1 April 2021.

(vii) The budget for 2021/2022 was reviewed – no comments.

a) Churchyard liaison = RESOLVED Cllr Owen to obtain clarification from the church on the plan for disabled access to the Reading Rooms top room to the churchyard. RESOLVED Cllr Onley will obtain ideas for the replacement door. **ACTION: Cllr Onley**

b) Ermington Park = Claire Cross (parishioner)

c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = Cllr Onley – Mark Walker (parishioner) has agreed to be the River Warden. There is a 'virtual' meeting with the ANOB to look at the River Catchment Management Plan which he will attend.

d) Road Warden Scheme update = Cllr Creese – attempted to attend a Devon County Council Highway online meeting, but the internet connection was poor.

Cllr Onley reported on communications he has had with DCC and the landowner of the field below the A3121 by Bunkers Hill. A leat is piped under the field and DCC Highways are responsible for its maintenance, the landowner believes the pipe is blocked or broken, causing flooding to the field, and this is backing up the drains onto the A3121, causing regular flooding of the road. DCC have cleared leaves from the gully and are arranging to camera survey the drains.

Cllr Creese has cleared leaves and detritus from a number of drains and shared photographs (see below) of flooding at Westlake which has been reported to DCC.





119/2021 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY: (continued)

e) 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 is liaising with DCC to get the footpath reinstated on the definitive footpaths map.

120/2021 REVIEW PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The document was reviewed, RESOLVED to make no amendments.

121/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Citizens Advice South Hams Annual Report
DCC - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter - October 2021
POLLING OPEN: Election of Community Representatives to the South Devon AONB Partnership Committee
DCC - Highways Parish & Town Council Conferences 2021 - Virtual Events
SHDC - Christmas Waste Calendar Dates
SHDC - Is The South Hams Pitch Perfect?
SHDC - Councillor Apologises and Pays for Waste Collection
SHDC - Supporting vulnerable rough sleepers across the District
SHDC - Helping residents to pay essential bills this winter
Consultation: Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service - draft Community Risk Management
Message from South Hams Community and Voluntary Services to Parish Councils
SHDC - Free weekend parking in Ivybridge in the run up to Christmas
SHDC - Council Improves Popular Totnes Walk
SHDC - South Hams is Our Special Place
SHDC - Housing Crisis – Working in partnership with our Residents & Communities
SHDC - Are you ready for winter in the South Hams?
SHDC - Co-mingled collected waste video
SHDC - Housing Crisis Update Report Outlines Steps Taken To Address Local Housing Issues
SHDC - Funding Support for Climate Change and Biodiversity Community Groups
SHDC - Don't miss out on business grant funding - deadline extended
SHDC - Council Wins Bid to Plant More Urban Trees
DCC - Devon Countryside Access Forum - request to Parish Councils
Cllr Holway - £120,000 in donations waiting to help
Plymouth City Council - Consultation on school admission arrangements 2023/2024
SHDC – for comment - Draft proposed SHDC Grounds Maintenance layer (to enhance biodiversity on Council green spaces)

2 x Emails from Parishioners – Grant Request towards a Defibrillator in Penquit
D Butler - NZ Family Seeks Devon Relocation
Parishioner - Interruption to electricity supply

Email from Cllr Thomas - Obstruction to watercourse due to build up of silt and vegetation in the channel at land south of the A3121, Ermington

122/2021 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting to be held in the Reading Rooms will take place on [25 January 2022](#) at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 10.03 pm.

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(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 25 January 2022

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>

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