

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 1 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, John Dunlop
County Councillor Dan Thomas (from 8.30 pm to 9.15 pm)
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 1

138/2021 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from District Councillor Tom Holway.

139/2021 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.

140/2021 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens - listed on Parish Church electoral roll (see agenda item 12 (a))
Cllr Creese and Cllr Dunlop – Tesco pensioners (see agenda item 10)

141/2021 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Parishioner had recently met with Cllr Thomas and walked around the Cadleigh area. Discussion took place on the amount of litter in the area, fly tipping, speeding of traffic, lack of road signage and the number of road accidents. RESOLVED the Clerk to contact Nick Colton DCC Highways and ask for a safety plan for Woodland Road and Beech Road which connects Ivybridge to Lee Mill and Cadleigh Lane. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED the Clerk to inform Cllr Holway that fly tipping occurs in the layby on Beech Road. **ACTION: Clerk**

142/2021 TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DANIEL THOMAS, INCLUDING OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS - Daniel.thomas@devon.gov.uk - 07917 877706:

Budget - Council tax increase of 2.99%, meaning a rise of £45.18 for a Band D – the total for Band D now being £1556.46 for the year.

Extra £29.6 million on adult care and health (up 10.5%)

Extra £17.1 million in Children's Services (up 10.8%)

Highways – no change in real terms which is going to cause us a significant headache with local requests going forward, I'm sorry to say, as I had hoped for an increase here too.

Much of this extra money is going to have to be found out of Council reserves. Not only is the Govt not giving local authorities enough cash to carry out their statutory duties, but it is also actively insisting that all Councils raise Council Tax by the highest amount allowed. I believe this to be the wrong approach, not least because it (Council Tax) is a regressive tax which takes no account of income and bases everything on outdated property values.

The other piece of very bad news is that the locality budget given to each County Councillor to support your local schemes has been reduced from £10,000 to £8,000. This reduction, representing saving of £120,000 - or 0.0024% of the Council's total spending power (some £600 million) seems difficult to justify, in financial terms, in meeting our requirement to help communities stay strong, connected and resilient, but most of all in supporting local projects that do not attract other funding streams. All opposition councillors voted against this but were defeated by the ruling administration.

127/21 River Erme erosion A3121 – RESOLVED Clerk to ask Cllr Thomas for an update. **ACTION: Clerk**
127/21 Potholes in Westlake and Luson. Flooding in Westlake – *a meeting is being arranged by Cllr Thomas*
127/21 Modbury Cross Woodland Planting

143/2021 EMAILED REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY

SHDC will be increasing Council Tax by £5:00 a year for band D properties.

Council tax bands A to D will receive a one-off payment of £150 towards the rising cost of energy bills with SHDC expected to credit those who pay through Direct Debit to receive the one-off payment in April. RESOLVED to send an email to Cllr Holway stating that the Parish Councillors were disappointed that SHDC raised their portion of the Council Tax in light of the recent issues with the Recycling and Waste Collection, it was hoped it would be contained as parishioners have increasing costs e.g. fuel cost. **ACTION: Clerk**

The grant system for Climate Change and Biodiversity has been modified to make it easier for groups to access funds. Councillors will have until March 2023 to use their £3,000 CC&B Locality funds.

The Council is launching a £50,000 Climate Engagement Fund to help the District reduce its carbon emissions by supporting community engagement and behavioural change projects. Ideally, the Council are looking to fund proposals that improves awareness and action among the public. Applicants can bid for funds ranging from between £3,000 and £25,000, projects with match funding or those leveraging in additional funds being looked upon more favourably.

The government has responded positively to lobbying by SHDC and others to close the loophole whereby second home owners can avoid paying Council Tax or Business Rates. We will have to wait and see to be sure the measures are tough enough.

The half term Talking Forest project, that enabled youngsters to make puppets and use them in a theatrical production to make people aware of the dangers of deforestation, was an amazing success. Following two day workshops in Kingsbridge and Totnes, the project culminated with workshops, rehearsals and the Grand Finale production on Saturday.

The police have launched Project Wingspan to address crime associated with badger, raptor and bat persecution; cyber-enabled wildlife crime; illegal trade (CITES); and deer and freshwater poaching.

The Council Chamber at Totnes has been refurbished to include improved air extraction and the Council and other meetings have returned there after some meetings at Tavistock.

144/2021 SPEEDING IN THE VILLAGE

Mobile speed camera is now ready for placing in the village. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

145//2021 LOWER READING ROOMS: Progress report - Cllr Creese

The kitchen units are being installed.

146/2021 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve and Chair Cllr Onley to sign, the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 25 January 2022 as previously circulated.

147/2021 PLANNING

Planning Application Ref: 0059/22/HHO Address: Rose Cottage Westlake Ermington PL21 9JT
Description: Householder application for improvements to highway access from existing off street parking
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0320/22/VAR Site Address: Tesco, Central Avenue, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE
Proposal: Application for variation of condition 1 schedule 3 (removal of reference to DIY materials) and removal of condition 3 (permitted products for retail) of planning consent 3997/17/VAR
Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 0157/22/VAR Site Address: The Shippen, Westlake, Ivybridge, PL21 9JZ
Proposal: Application for variation of Condition 1 (approved plans) to planning consent 2114/20/FUL.
Recommendation: Support

147/2021 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 4458/21/TPO – Parish Tree Warden’s comments - No plans were available online, for the positions of the trees. Tree Warden tried several times to visit, but was not been able to find anyone to speak to. Therefore it was guessed which trees are of concern by the species and probable need for works. The Ash should be replaced by suitable replanting, possibly further within the site, where roadside trees are concerned. The works seem likely to be appropriate management, particularly where they overhang the road. They can be seen by roadside viewpoints and by a nearby footpath. Tree Warden would in principle, support the application.

The following planning application was ratified:

Reference: 0056/22/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from Class E (g) to E (d) to use part of the building for health and fitness. And E (g) to E (a) Display and sale of retail goods and B8 storage and distribution

Site Address: Henlake House, Endsleigh, Ivybridge, PL21 9JL

Recommendation: Support

Planning Application Decision:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 4537/21/COL Ermington

DECISION: No objection Recommend Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0033/22/ARC Ermington

DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

Appeal Decision:

0887/21/HHO - DISMISSED

148/2021 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- i) Bank balances – Business Account as at 10 January 2022 - £45,924.59
Treasurers Account as at 14 February 2022 - £67,916.99
- ii) Banked receipts – Bank Interest (Business Account) 10/01/2022 - £0.40
Hire of Reading Rooms = £35.00

iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – February 2022 salary	£645.45		
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance Lights – playing field 22 October 2021 – 24 January 2022	£24.94	£1.19	£23.75
Source for Business (South West Water) 1 December 2021 – 1 February 2022 estimate	£21.21		
Ivybridge and District Association of Local Councils – annual membership	£7.00		
Reimbursement to Clerk for the purchase of mailing list labels from Amazon	£5.63		
Reimbursement to Cllr Ian Creese for the purchase of items for Lower Reading Rooms – water heater, kitchen units	£370.99		

iv) Grant Request(s) – None

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

Financial Statement			
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 10 January 2022 :		£45,924.59	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 February 2022:		£67,916.99	
Less: any un-presented cheques	001404	-£7.00	2020/2021 cheque not cashed in January 2021
	001459	-£393.21	
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	£0.00	£0.00	
	Total Funds =	£113,441.37	
Earmarked Reserves			
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000	
	Total uncommitted Funds =	£93,041.16	

(vi) The budget for 2021/2022 was reviewed.

148/2021 FINANCE (continued)

(vii) Financial Standing Orders requirement:

2.2 Every six months and at each financial year end, a member other than a cheque signatory shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Council.

RESOLVED Cllr Owens will verify bank reconciliations. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Owens**

149/2021 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens has received the following email from the Ermington Parish Church:
The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is willing, provided any necessary faculty legislation is complied with to grant permission for the Parish Council to improve the access to the Parish Reading Rooms through the grave yard.

The PCC is at the present looking at improving the accessibility along the path from the Lychgate to the Church via the introduction of a handrail and was wondering if the Parish Council would support this project with a grant? RESOLVED to wait for design plans and quotation of the handrail. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

RESOLVED Cllr Owen will obtain costs and ideas for directional signs to the Reading Rooms. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

b) Ermington Park = Claire Cross (parishioner) – no update.

c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = Cllr Onley has sent an email South Devon AONB, but to date has not received a reply.

d) Road Warden Scheme update = Cllr Creese has straightened a few road signs around the parish. Also he has spoken to the parish contact to arrange litter picking around the parish. RESOLVED to place an article in the next Parish Magazine. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

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 has written an article for the next edition of the Ermington Parish Magazine.

The following wish list” of improvements to improve safety along the A3121 and providing a safe and usable footpath to Hollowcombe Cross has been emailed to Cllr Dan Thomas in preparation for a meeting with him Thursday 3 March 2022: -

Lane to Fawns Bridge

1. Move speed limit to start from the lane leading to Ermington Woods
2. Change limit from 40 to 30mph
3. Pavement from Lane to Fawns Bridge on south side of the road
4. Safe area for the footpath emerging from Fawns Farm
5. Pedestrians Crossing signs
6. Pavement over Bridge north side
7. One way traffic over bridge

Town Hill to Plantation House

1. Pavement from Town Hill to Plantation House on north side of the road
2. Pedestrians Crossing signs
3. Safe area for the footpath emerging from Meadow

Footpath Plantation House to Hollowcombe Bus Stop: 1 – Existing Route

1. Aggregate path
2. Improve drainage channels in Plot 4 of DCC planting area
3. Aggregate path alongside A379

Footpath Plantation House to Hollowcombe Bus Stop: 2 – Divert Footpath

1. Follow existing footpath to pylons
2. Divert to Gate in Plot 2 of DCC planting area.
3. Bridge over marsh drainage near to gate.
4. Create path in Plot 2 towards Bus Stop
5. Create a gate in Hedgerow by Bus Stop

149/2021 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY: (continued)

Foothpath Plantation House to Hollowcombe Bus Stop: 3 – Divert Footpath

1. Follow existing path to track leading to SW Water Treatment Works.
2. Create Path in Plot 3 close to the hedge alongside A3121
3. Create a raised walkway from Plot 3 to Plot 2 over marsh area by Eastern Lodge.
4. Create path in Plot 2 towards Bus Stop
5. Create a gate in Hedgerow by Bus Stop

Sequers Bridge

1. Pavement over Bridge north side
2. One way traffic over bridge

150/2021 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE PARISH CELEBRATION(S) – June 2022

Cllr Owens attended the recent Village Fund Meeting. Councillors agreed in principle, if required the electric point in the box where the electricity meter is located for the Devon Air Ambulance light could be used.

151/2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – FORMAT / GUEST SPEAKER IDEAS

RESOLVED to invite parishioners to view the refurbished Lower Reading Rooms – Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meeting to take place on 24 May 2022.

152/2021 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

SHDC - Planning application consultation (ref: <4458/21/TPO>) Ermington – sent to Parish Tree Warden

SHDC - South Hams 2022/23 Budget Engagement

DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - Crownhill Cross to Strode Cross, Ermington (TTRO2244284)

SHDC -Have your say: tackling homelessness in the South Hams

SHDC -District Council Balances the Budget and Supports Residents

FOUR RIVERS DEMENTIA ALLIANCE Invitation to Conference ' LETS TALK ABOUT DEMENTIA' on 25th March at The Watermark, Ivybridge

SHDC - Community Forest planting underway with week of action

Royal British Legion - Celebrating Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee 2022

SHDC - Let's Talk Teenagers - your help please

SHDC - When the Going Gets Rough

SHDC - Ethical Lettings Offer a Win-Win for Local Landlords and Communities

DCC - Free support for small businesses and community groups

DCC - A3121 Safer Roads – Ermington Signing proposals – *discussion took place on the ideas from SHDC. RESOLVED the Clerk to respond to DCC, stating there should be signs stating pedestrians crossing at the point where the Erme Valley trail comes onto the road opposite Plantation House and by Fawns Farm. Could the "Welcome to Ermington" signs be moved back to near the sign 2 on the map. ACTION: Clerk*

Email from parishioner – Ermington Nursing home exterior lighting – RESOLVED to inform Cllr Holway and ask Environmental Health to investigate and point out there is an additional exterior light. **ACTION: Clerk**

Email from parishioner - 2 points - Tesco are trying to widen their products again. Historically, the PC and SHDC have objected due to the impact on Ivybridge. If they wish to include DIY then Lawsons will be badly affected. Lawsons 2 shops are a mainstay of Ivybridge, Fore Street. Parishioner has not heard re. Westlake flood meeting. When it has been arranged, can it include time to visit the slip road pavement? It used to take Dame Hannah's wheelchairs, now it's pushed to take a dog in places. SHDC policy is to promote walking, green policy.

153/2021 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting to be held in the Reading Rooms will take place on [5 April 2022](#) at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 5 April 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>