

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 5 July 2022 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, John Dunlop  
County Councillor Dan Thomas (from 7.30 pm to 8.00 pm)  
District Councillor Tom Holway (from 7.30 pm to 8.00pm)  
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 1

## 023/2022 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

## 024/2022 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 Onley - hosts meetings for Ukraine refugees (see agenda it 11 (viii)).

## 025/2022 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 the vacancies can be seen on parish notice boards, Ermington Parish website and the Ermington Parish Magazine.

## 026/2022 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

*River Erme erosion A3121 and public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House*

*Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake – Cllr Thomas has sent a formal letter to the landowner, but no response has been received to date.*

*Footpath along A38 slip road - needs widening to minimum regulated width - awaiting response from Roger Croad – see below*

*Bus services to Ermington - see below*

*Safer Roads Fund works - timetable for works and signage – see below*

*Planting and works to DCC land adjacent to A3121 – see below*

Safer Roads Fund works - timetable - we were promised by Richard Kingsley Smith DCC works would start mid-May, however, nothing to date indicating works starting to the Town Hill, Bunkers Hill or Penquit junctions any time soon.

Cllr Thomas has received updated comments from Richard Kingsley Smith (Devon County Council) which are highlighted in blue. Cllr Thomas will not defend DCC, as their response has been very disappointing.

**New signs – footpath warning sign amendments and obtaining land agreements for the posts on private land.**  
**Signage package [has now been ordered](#) - See sign package details attached.**

**Bunkers Hill - new signage in the bell-mouth (will be done with the signage package). This is included in the signing package (see pages 10 and 11 of the attached schedule).**

Town Hill - waiting for street lighting team to move the columns out the way to check how much space there is to pull the stop line forward.

Centre line corrections to be applied after the Town Hill works.

Road hump markings were recently repainted and the give way road markings, which will need to be removed when the junctions are changed. It was a Parish wide re-mark - the stop signs were defective and had to be redone – we couldn't wait for the SRF scheme and indeed I had asked for pressure to be put on the lining gang to get the work done.

Complaints raised by parishioners. Aware that speeds have increased since the roundabout was put in, does there not come a time when DCC officers have to collect some average speeds data? Nick Colton, DCC Highways tells me that he has given an approved site to Cllr Creese for the Vehicle Activated Sign – it would be really useful if the Parish collected data. I am now starting the process of applying for a departure from policy to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph.

#### From Highways Team at County Hall:

We understand from some previous surveying work that the river isn't moving towards the road at a significant pace, so as it stands undertaking further monitoring isn't an immediate priority. We are aware of the close proximity of the river to the road and it is our interest as the highway authority to prevent the river damaging the road.

We will have a better look at the situation when we carry out the planting in the autumn/winter

Bus services to Ermington - how do we get the services reassessed, one Friday morning bus to Plymouth or Totnes from the village surely cannot be considered sufficient. How do we get a considered response to our request for the No.3 that treats us equally with other villages such as Slapton on the route? I have lobbied Devon County Council on your behalf and have had a long conversation with the Principal Transport Co-ordination Officer. A bid has been made to central government which, if successful, I believe will allow a level of bus service to the village.

Footpath along A38 slip road which is in Cllr Roger Croad's ward, doesn't meet the required width how do we progress? I will commit to talk to Cllr Croad at County Hall, but it might also be sensible for the Parish Council to raise the matter with Ivybridge Town Council so that it can be considered at their next meeting. Their support and lobbying is vital as it is in their area. RESOLVED Clerk to contact Ivybridge Town Council. **ACTION: Clerk**

Planting and works to DCC land adjacent to A3121, no sign of any planting or land management, and no updates from DCC Team, works were meant to happen last planting season, will this now happen November onwards? Emily Harper DCC has spoken to colleagues, and DCC has the intention to go out to tender this summer and plant the area from November onwards.



# Your voice matters...

What would a great future for children and young people in Devon look like to you?

Get creative and share your ideas:  
➤ [devon.cc/wish-for-devon](https://devon.cc/wish-for-devon)

Devon County Council

## Get involved in making a Child Friendly Devon

As part of our ambition to create an even better place for children and young people to grow up in – a **Child Friendly Devon**, we are creating a new visual identity and vision to bring Child Friendly Devon to life.

We want to hear the views of as many people as possible to help us shape a Child Friendly Devon, especially the thoughts and ideas of children and young people, parents, carers and guardians. The thoughts and opinions shared by everyone will directly impact the way we shape and develop this piece of work, and we encourage you to take part and share with your friends and family and ask them and their children to take part too.

### Advice for Ukrainian refugees on Covid vaccination

- Refugees arriving from Ukraine are eligible to have the Covid vaccination and do not need to wait for an NHS number.
- If you have had no vaccinations:
  - You can attend any walk-in vaccination clinic. You do not need to bring ID.
- If you have had one or more doses of a vaccine approved for use in the UK would be eligible for another dose (2<sup>nd</sup> dose, booster, spring booster) under UK guidelines:
  - You can attend any walk-in vaccination clinic. If you have any documentation for your previous vaccine dose(s) please bring it with you. If you have no documentation and, if you remember them, make a note of the rough dates when you had your previous dose(s) and vaccine type.
- If you have had one or more doses of a vaccine not currently approved in the UK:
  - You can attend any vaccination centre where staff can advise you or refer to [national guidance](#) on further doses. If you have any documentation for your previous vaccine dose(s) please bring it with you. If you have no documentation, if you remember them,

make a note of the rough dates when you had your previous dose(s) and vaccine type.

- You will get an NHS number after you register with a GP. If you already have an NHS number we can link the vaccination to your records to help you to prove your vaccine status. If you do not yet have an NHS number we can link the vaccination to your records at a later date.
- You can also attend a vaccine clinic to request vaccinations you have had outside England to be [added to your NHS vaccination record](#).

### Lower-income households invited to apply for free energy efficiency improvements to their homes

Residents in a household with an income of less than £30,000 a year, who live in Devon or Torbay, may be eligible for free energy efficiency improvements to their home worth thousands of pounds.

From this week members of the public can check their eligibility and apply through the Cosy Devon website ([www.cosydevon.com](http://www.cosydevon.com)).

The scheme is being delivered by the Cosy Devon partnership which consists of Devon County Council (DCC), East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge and Torridge District Councils, Torbay Council, West Devon Borough Council, Exeter City Council and Plymouth City Council.

It follows the partnership securing nearly £10m of government funding. The scheme will offer householders the chance to improve their homes by ensuring that they are warmer, less draughty, and less damp.

Improvements will also reduce their energy bills and lower their home's carbon emissions. More than 20 percent of Devon's carbon emissions are caused by our homes.

**026/2022 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)**

Devon has higher levels of fuel poverty (13%) than the UK (10.6%). Many homes in Devon need substantial investment and the Cosy Devon partnership is committed to reducing Devon's domestic carbon footprint and lifting communities out of fuel poverty.

The scheme is available to Devon residents who have an annual combined household income of less than £30,000 and whose homes have an energy Performance Certificate rating of E, F or G.

If you are a homeowner, and live in that property, you can access funding to cover 100 percent of costs to retrofit your home up to a cap.

**027/2022 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

*Ermington House Nursing Home - complaints regarding external lights* - RESOLVED Cllr Holway will speak to a contact at SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

Cllr Holway is attending a site meeting tomorrow, in connection with the planning application at Back Lane.

**028/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Owens pointed out, that a representative from DCC has not visited the parish to observe the issues of traffic in Ermington, also to view the blocked culvert near Ermington sewage plant.

Parishioner pointed out, that the Ash sampling growing in the bridge parapet at Fawns Bridge still needs to be addressed. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will look at the issue and the Clerk will liaise with Nick Colton DCC, Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas / Clerk**

Parishioner pointed out the DCC cycle route which passes Upton Farm, the highway is very badly eroded – Cllr Thomas stated, it would not be possible to repair the highway as there is no funding available.

Parishioner pointed out where the two pipes are located at the bottom of Town Hill, Japanese Knotweed is growing and spreading rapidly. Cllr Thomas pointed out the Flood resilience is working with the landowner.

A parishioner reported the Penquit Road by the weir is still sinking towards the leat and needs repair before it collapses. Cllr Thomas had discussed this with Nick Colton and they are waiting on an engineer's assessment of the repair work required.

Parishioner reported the fly tipping on the A3121 at the rear of 2 Erme Park had not been removed and has now been cleared by himself. Cllr Onley pointed out that fly tipping can be reported direct to SHDC on their website, rather than waiting for a Parish Council meeting, South Hams have acted quickly in other instances to remove and check the contents of materials tipped for addresses and identifiable material, which can result in prosecutions.

**029/2022 A3121/A379 SPEED OF TRAFFIC**

RESOLVED the Clerk to contact Modbury Parish Clerk to ascertain where they obtained their flashing speed signs. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED to move the flashing speed sign from the village, to the A3121 below Erme Park. **ACTION: Cllrs Onley / Creese**

**030//2022 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Parish Council Meeting minutes of 24 May 2022 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

## **031/2022 PLANNING APPLICATIONS – STANDARD CLIMATE CRISIS PARAGRAPH**

Cllr Onley circulated the following paragraph to Councillors prior to the meeting:

“Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

We will always assess any proposed planning application in terms of the contribution to climate change.

Steps we wish applicants to take include the following, although this is not an exhaustive list and we would also welcome other solutions:

Incorporating energy efficiency, high standards of insulation, and low carbon systems for heating, cooking and lighting, together with renewable energy generation including PV solar, wind turbines, and electric vehicle charging points.

The use of locally sourced low carbon building materials and the use of building locations and designs to minimise carbon use and include the recovery and reuse of water and building materials.

Ensuring adequate drainage to reduce the risk of flooding and the use of permeable surfacing materials to hard landscape areas. N.B. The use of traditional soakaways in areas of known flooding risk will not normally be supported.

Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes”.

RESOLVED to agree to the paragraph for future planning comments where applicable.

Cllr Owens pointed out, that he had recently attended a meeting of parishioners who are looking into various ways energy could be generated, e.g. solar panels on the church roof as it is south facing.

## **032/2022 PLANNING**

Reference: 1626/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for side & rear extension with PV Panels to roof (Resubmission of 3828/21/HHO)

Site Address: Highlands Church Street Ermington PL21 9NJ

Recommendation: See comment - to include the standard climate crisis paragraph

Reference: 1681/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for first floor extension including roof alterations (Resubmission of 4505/21/HHO)

Site Address: Cowsberry Farm, Burraton, PL21 9JZ

Recommendation: See comment – to include the standard climate crisis paragraph

Reference: 1619/22/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building consent to replace three ground floor window frames and casings on like for like basis & renovate led light glass panels, replace 1No. Broken slate windowsill on like for like basis & 1No. Concrete windowsill with slate sill

Site Address: 1 Rectory Cottages, Totnes Road, Ermington, PL21 9NR

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0783/22/FUL

Proposal: Installation of extract flue to unit 1 PYI langage

Site Address: PYI Ltd - Unit 1, Central Avenue, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9ER

Recommendation: See comment – to include the standard climate crisis paragraph

### **To ratify the following planning application recommendations:**

Reference: 0990/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application to remove existing paving and retaining walls, erect new single storey extension, air source heat pump plant room, 6No. PV panels to roof, construct stone retaining walls on south west elevation and new paving to provide access route to rear

Site Address: The Roost, Clickland Farm, Ermington, PL21 9JY

Recommendation: Support

**032/2022 PLANNING (continued)**

Reference: 1607/22/FUL Site Address: The Smithy, Ivybridge Road, Ermington, PL21 0LG  
 Proposal: Construction of workshop and welfare facilities (Re-submission of 0089/22/FUL)  
 Recommendation: Support

**Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1124/22/CLE Ermington	DECISION: Cert of Lawfulness (Existing) Certified
APPLICATION NUMBER: 1265/22/HHO Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval
APPLICATION NUMBER: 4701/21/FUL Ermington	DECISION: Refusal
APPLICATION NUMBER: 0945/22/FUL Ermington	DECISION: Refusal
APPLICATION NUMBER: 0968/22/PDM Ermington	DECISION: Prior Approval Required and Given
APPLICATION NUMBER: 1404/22/FUL Ermington	DECISION: Refusal
APPLICATION NUMBER: 1262/22/FUL Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval
APPLICATION NUMBER: 2496/22/ARC Ermington	DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3541/21/HHO Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval

**Planning Withdrawn**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1094/22/FUL 221094 Ermington and Ugborough  
 LOCATION: Garden Cottage, Ivybridge PL21 0LP

**033/2022 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to agree the following:

i) To note bank balances – Business Account as at 9 May 2022 - £45,926.09  
 Treasurers Account as at 13 June 2022 - £72,886.84

ii) Receipt – Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/05/2022 - £0.35

iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – May 2022 salary	£645.45	-	-
Parish Clerk – June 2022 salary	£645.45	-	-
South West Water – water bill for Reading Rooms 2 February 2022 to 31 May 2022 estimate	£43.32	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk who paid Hostgator's invoice for Domain renewal – com, 1 Year	£16.06	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – Monthly website maintenance for June and July 2022	£60.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None.

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

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 May 2022 :		<b>£45,926.09</b>
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 June 2022:		<b>£72,886.84</b>
Less: any un-presented cheques	001485	-£64.90
	001484	-£50.00
	001491	-£645.45
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	£0.00	£0.00
	<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£118,052.58</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		<b>-£20,000</b>
	<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£97,292.23</b>

(vi) Spend against budget 2022/2023 to date was reviewed.

(vii) Review Parish Clerk salary - RESOLVED to pay £16.00 p/hr with effect from 1 May 2022 and home allowance £26.00 per month.

**033/2022 FINANCE (continued)**

(viii) Support for Ukrainian Refugees – RESOLVED the Clerk will raise an invoice if the Reading Rooms are hired for English language classes, but the Parish Council will waive the payment as a grant.

(viii) RESOLVED to agree to pay the increase in DB Computer Repairs website maintenance monthly charge with effect from 1 July 2022, from £30 per month to £40.

**034/2022 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens – no update**

(b) Ermington Park = **A thank you letter from the Village Fund was received, to thank the Parish Council for providing electricity at the Queen’s Jubilee party which was held in the park.**

(c) Climate Change and Biodiversity

(d) Road Warden Scheme = **Cllr Creese – Marjery Cross has recently been resurfaced**

(e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham – following the article in the April 2022 Ermington Parish Magazine, to date Cllr Owens has received five responses. RESOLVED to submit an application for definitive map modification order. **Cllr Owens – no update**

**035/2022 RIVER ERME POLLUTION**

Cllr Dunlop attended a recent meeting in connection with River Yealm water quality. The Ivybridge South West Water Sewage plant has reported 16 spills a day. There will be a campaign to advise how chemicals can be disposed of, to prevent them being poured down the drain. The next meeting will be held in September 2022.

**036/2022 REVIEW RISK ASSESSMENT OF READING ROOMS**

No amendments made.

**037/2022 HIRE OF READING ROOM REQUEST FOR BAND PRACTICE – EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT**

Concern was raised because of the close proximity to properties and local residents. RESOLVED not to agree to the hire application. **ACTION: Clerk**

**038/2022 REVIEW HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

No amendments made.

**039/2022 REVIEW FIXED ASSET REGISTER**

No amendments made.

**040/2022 REVIEW STANDING ORDERS**

No amendments made.

**041/2022 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY ERMINGTON**

Discussion ensued on the information received from Ella Peters, Development Worker for the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance who was the guest speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting in May 2022.

RESOLVED to contact Ella and ask for advice on signage for the Reading Rooms. **ACTION: Clerk**

**042/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

SHDC - Councillors Agree Discretionary Council Tax Payment Scheme

South Hams Town and Parish Briefing on Homes for Ukraine

DCC - Proposed changes to Countywide Parking Order reference IMR/B06948-5868

SHDC Statement on Waste Service



**042/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE (continued)**

DCC - Apply for free energy efficiency improvements; progress report on reaching net-zero this decade; Farms Estate also driving down carbon emissions; it's Carers Week, and more  
SHDC - Unauthorised Siting of mobile home at Highview Yard, Westlake - Enforcement Case No: 019184 - CASE CLOSED  
SHDC - A Lofty Picture of Funding Success  
SHDC - New affordable homes completed in Ivybridge  
Open Reach - Help needed - notifying residents of proposed road closure between Sheephams Bridge and Chatwell Lane. The proposed dates for closure are 31 October – 11 November 2022, subject to approval from Devon County Council  
SHDC - Artist Donates Covid-Inspired Sculpture  
DCC - Are you struggling with the cost of living?  
Ivybridge Ring and Ride  
DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - ROAD FROM SUNNY PARK TO MARJERY CROSS, Ermington (TTRO2246101)  
Citizens Advice South Hams - Our Impact  
DCC - First of 80 new Electric Vehicle charging points ready for use and an invitation to join us in the Refill Revolution!  
DCC - Free GCSE Courses for Adults in Devon  
DCC - Kitterford Cross works  
Village Fund – Thank you letter  
DCC - Growth of 'shop local' is a 'huge opportunity' for businesses

Ermington House Nursing Home - awaiting response regarding changing vulnerable persons road sign, to beware pedestrians in the road sign.

Parishioner - Flying high in Ermington  
Parishioner - Weddings at Ludbrook Manor. Ref.026660  
Parishioner - Pollution of the Erme River  
Parishioner - speed Flete Eastern Lodge A3121

**043/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [6 September 2022](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

*Denis Onley*

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 6 September 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>