

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 6 September 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)  
District Councillor Tom Holway (from 7.30 pm to 9.15 pm)  
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 5

## **044/2022 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

## **045/2022 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA**

Cllr Owens listed on the Parish Church electoral roll (see agenda item 12 (a)).  
Cllr Onley hosts Ukraine refugee (see agenda item 15).

## **046/2022 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.

## **047/2022 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

Cllr Hart, Conservative Leader of DCC, has unilaterally decided to suspend county locality payments in the face of the Council's budgetary difficulties. Cllr Thomas thinks this is wrong and totally against the Corporate Strategy aim to help Communities to remain strong, connected and resilient.

*River Erme erosion A3121 and public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House – no further information available. Cllr Thomas has asked DCC if the footpath gate entrance could be sensitively pruned.*

*Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake – Cllr Thomas has sent a formal letter to the landowner, but to date no response has been received. RESOLVED Cllr Creese and in agreement with a parishioner, will liaise with the landowner*

*Planting and works to DCC land adjacent to A3121 – trees are being planted in November 2022*

*DCC Review of Bus services to Ermington and response from Sir Gary Street MP – mixed messages from DCC which Cllr Thomas is attempting to clarify*

*Locality Money payment – Cllr Thomas explained the application for a grant towards the recently purchased chairs in the lower Reading Rooms, was not successful. As the chairs were purchased prior to the grant application.*

*A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) and timetable of works to junctions in village*

## **048/2022 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

Three Support Ukraine Officers have been recruited at SHDC.  
Waste collection service will be brought in house in October 2022.  
Please contact Cllr Holway if there are any parish schemes as Locality money is available.

*Ermington House Nursing Home complaints regarding external lights. Cllr Holway has been informed the lights have been turned down.*

## **049/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Parishioner asked if costings would be available when the waste collection is taken in house at SHDC. Cllr Holway reported that money is being given for set up costs. SHDC have withheld money to the current waste contractor as bins have been missed, this is why parishioners are asked to report any waste collections that have not taken place.

Parishioner asked if anything is happening with assessing the company "Fusion" who look after the leisure centres. As there has been adverse comments about their operation of leisure centres in the media? Cllr Holway was not aware of anything specific.

Parishioner asked why Modbury Lane had been closed for three weeks. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will investigate.  
**ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Parishioner asked why the Reading Rooms toilet had a key entry lock, as he understood it was part of public toilets. Cllr Onley was not aware of the Reading Toilets being public toilets. RESOLVED the toilets to be opened. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

Cllr Dunlop asked Cllr Holway if the waste collection vehicles could be asked to slow down on their route from Ivybridge to Ermington. RESOLVED Cllr Holway to action. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

Cllr Onley pointed out, the recently revised Ivybridge Erme Court car parking system is causing confusion, as although two hours parking remains free, parking for longer is now chargeable 24/7, parishioners attending evening events at the Watermark are therefore advised to park in the SHDC Leonard's Road car park, as it remains free after 6pm. Cllr Holway pointed out the Erme Court carpark is not operated by SHDC.

## **050//2022 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 5 July 2022 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

## **051/2022 PLANNING**

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

Reference: 3541/21/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for proposed single storey rear extension and hip to gable roof

Site Address: Cadleigh View, Beech Road, Cadleigh, PL21 9HN

Recommendation: No comments to make, but to add the general guidance as agreed in June 2022 as follows - 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

Reference: 2426/22/ARC

Proposal: Application for approval of details in part reserved by condition 6 (Repointing) of planning application 2760/19/LBC

Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: No comments

Reference: 2496/22/ARC

Proposal: Application for approval of details reserved by condition 11 (Roof Lights) of planning application 2760/19/LBC

Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: No comments to make

## 051/2022 PLANNING

Reference: 2435/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for rear extension

Site Address: 2 Erme Bridge Cottages, Ermington, PL21 9NN

It was noted SHDC had already Declined to Determine this application

Reference: 2522/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for proposed single storey rear extension

Site Address: 18 Pinwill Crescent, Ermington, PL21 9FS

It was noted a neighbour had commented in support and soakaway plans were included.

Recommendation: Support and:

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.

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The following planning application was discussed but had not been placed on the Agenda. This meant that any decision could not be final. Deferral to the next meeting would mean that the decision would be outside the statutory time limit for response. The rules allowed the Clerk as the Proper Officer to respond under delegated authority in line with discussions at this meeting. The plan would be placed on 4 October 2022 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Reference: 3018/22/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for rear extension (Resubmission of 2435/22/HHO)

Site Address: 2 Erme Bridge Cottages, Ermington, PL21 9NN

Recommendation: *Objection - it is a conservation area with a modern extension which is not in keeping with the historic frontage of the building and:*

*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*

**051/2022 PLANNING (continued)**

**Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1607/22/FUL Ermington LOCATION: The Smithy Ivybridge Road Ermington PL21 0LG  
DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1619/22/LBC Ermington LOCATION: 1 Rectory Cottages Totnes Road Ermington PL21 9NR  
DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 4451/21/ARC Ermington LOCATION: Henlake House, Endsleigh Ivybridge PL21 9JL  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1447/22/ARC Ermington LOCATION : Strashleigh Farm Ivybridge Devon PL21 9JP  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1448/22/ARC Ermington LOCATION: Strashleigh Farm Ivybridge Devon PL21 9JP  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1681/22/HHO Ermington LOCATION: Cowsberry Farm Burraton PL21 9JZ  
DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0783/22/FUL Ermington LOCATION: PYI Ltd - Unit 1 Central Avenue Lee Mill Industrial Estate Lee Mill PL21 9ER  
DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2435/22/HHO Ermington LOCATION: 2 Erme Bridge Cottages Ermington PL21 9NN  
DECISION: Decline to Determine

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2426/22/ARC Ermington LOCATION: Strashleigh Farm Ivybridge PL21 9JP  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2580/22/ARC Ermington LOCATION: Brook Farm Ivybridge PL21 9LE  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2703/22/ARC Ermington LOCATION: Strashleigh Farm Ivybridge PL21 9JP  
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

**Planning Withdrawn**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0990/22/HHO 220990 Ermington and Ugborough  
LOCATION: The Roost, Clickland Farm Ermington PL21 9JY  
DECISION: Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0460/22/FUL 220460 Ermington and Ugborough  
LOCATION: Unit A and B East Way Lee Mill Industrial Estate Lee Mill PL21 9GE  
DECISION: Withdrawn

## 052/2022 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- i) To note bank balances – Business Account as at 11 July = £45,926.88  
Treasurers Account as at 15 August 2022 - £71,772.12
- ii) Receipt – Bank Interest (Business Account) 11/07/2022 - £0.40
- iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – July 2022 salary and back pay	£872.70	-	-
Parish Clerk – August 2022 salary	£721.20	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – HostGator \$128.88 (£109.47 plus £3.27 sterling transaction fee) Hatchling plan which supports hosting for one domain name	£112.74	-	-
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance Lights, Playing Field = 27 April – 25 July 2022	£24.65	£1.17	£23.48
Source for Business Water) – services at Reading Rooms	£19.68	-	-
Cllr Ian Creese – reimbursement for purchase of battery for the village flashing speed sign	£103.98	-	-
PKF Littlejohn LLP – review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2022	£240.00	£40.00	£200.00
DB Computers monthly charge for maintenance of website - August 2022	£40.00	-	-

- (iv) Grant Request(s) –

Ermington Parish Magazine – to contribute to production costs – RESOLVED to grant £1,000. **ACTION**

Ermington Village Fund - to contribute funding towards the parish jubilee firework display, on bonfire night 2022.

### Standing Orders Suspended at 8.00 pm

Representatives from Ermington Village Fund explained the reason for the grant and questions were asked by Parish Councillors. The cost of the fireworks is £2,250, and the Village Fund are seeking a contribution of £750 - £1000 towards this in case the event receipts fail to cover the cost. Entry ticket prices are to be £3.50 in advance & £4.00 on the night.

Cllr's asked if the request made in 2019 ( Minute 62/19 ) to use plastic free fireworks had been adopted, and if consideration had been given to a silent display or drone light show alternative or reducing the noise levels as several parishioners had previously said they find the noise distressing & some have conditions such as PTSD. Also is the RSPCA recommendation to limit the noise of fireworks to below 90db to reduce the impact for animals being followed ?

It was noted the pollution and climate change impact required national action to have any significant effect and the contract for this year was already committed to, so no changes could be made without financial penalty. The Village Fund agreed to ensure any plastic or metal firework debris is cleaned up after the event.

### Standing Orders Reinstated at 8.15 pm

RESOLVED to grant up to £1,000 on the submission of detailed accounts, of receipts of money raised and any shortfall arising from the Jubilee firework display.

**052/2022 FINANCE (continued)**

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

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 July 2022 :		<b>£45,926.88</b>
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 August 2022:		<b>£71,772.12</b>
Less: any un-presented cheques		£0.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	001499	<b>-£103.98</b>
	<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£117,595.02</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		<b>-£20,000</b>
	<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£97,491.04</b>

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

(vii) Option to opt out of the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointment central external auditor appointment arrangements which are set up by National Association of Local Council to procure external audit services. RESOLVED not to opt out.

(viii) 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: Cllr Owen**

**053/2022 EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2021/22 AND NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Parish Councillors noted the comments from the external audit report.

The notice of conclusion of audit for the year ended 31 March 2022, has been published.

**054/2022 REMEMBRANCE DAY - PURCHASE OF PARISH POPPY WREATH**

RESOLVED to purchase a poppy wreath. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED Cllr Owens will lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

**055/2022 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens - no report

(b) Ermington Park = no report

(c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = Cllr Onley has circulated information that the Environmental Agency has advised not to bath at Mothecombe as it is polluted. For more info, see:

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fenvironment.data.gov.uk%2Fbwg%2Fprofiles%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7C20b8a96a6d1943480f0908da8f8e74e0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637980139249585683%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAilCJQljojV2luMzliLjBtIl6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&data=MgpVlBj7cxFnOMC40YOfuSjhStxKUKdcvaoAM%2FxpUW4c%3D&reserved=0>

(d) Road Warden Scheme = Cllr Creese – new batteries have been purchased for the traffic camera. RESOLVED to purchase another traffic camera. Clerk to speak to Modbury & Yealmpton Parish Clerks to ascertain where they purchased their cameras to ensure compatibility with DCC systems. Cllr Thomas & Cllr Holway were asked if DCC & SHDC could provide Locality Grants. **ACTION: Clerk**

(e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Owens - no report

(f) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham – Cllr Owens – has not yet submitted an application for definitive map modification order.

**056/2022 REVIEW CODE OF CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS POLICIES**

No amendments made.

**057/2022 REVIEW OF THE TOP FLOOR ROOM OF THE READING ROOMS – cleaning and maintenance**

RESOLVED Cllr Creese will fill in the gap between one of the windows and the surround. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

Quotes for various window composites to replace the rotten windows and internal decoration to be obtained.

**ACTION: Cllrs Creese/Owens**

**058/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

- DCC Highways - structures team who look after the highway bridges in the area, is are aware of an Ash sampling growing in Fawns Bridge
- DCC Highways – centre lines were a low priority and as it was a Parish remark it will be a few years before it moves up the list again. Response to an email from EPC in connection about the remarking of white lines in the centre of the highway throughout the village
- DCC – information on the construction of a new eastbound off slip from A38 etc.
- DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - 35506971 ROAD NORTH FROM SUNNY PARK, Ermington (TTRO2246439)
- SHDC - Waste, recycling and street and toilet cleaning services: A statement from South Hams District Council and FCC Environment
- Parishioner - Ermington 20mph speed limit
- Ivybridge Town Council – the vegetation has been trimmed back. Response to EPC asking if footpath which follows the A38 slip road to Endsleigh Gardens needs to be made wider for pushchairs and wheelchairs.
- SHDC Solar Panel statement in response to recent Devon Live story
- DCC - A38 Eastbound 'On' Slip at the Lee Mill Junction
- SHDC - Free Trees Information
- Introduction to Calancombe Wine Estate
- Temporary Traffic Notice - 35506971 ROAD NORTH FROM SUNNY PARK, Ermington (TTRO2246439)
- SHDC - Councils Stands in Unity with the Ukraine
- River Erme pollution - Ofwat investigation of South West Water sewage pollution

**059/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [4 October 2022](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

*Denis Onley*

.....  
(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 4 October 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>