

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 4 October 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, John Dunlop
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 3

060/2022 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence accepted from County Councillor Dan Thomas and District Councillor Tom Holway.

061/2022 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 11 (a)).

062/2022 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 in the Ermington Parish Magazine.

063/2022 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

River Erme erosion A3121 and public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House – Cllr Thomas has been asked to evoke a reduction of speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph speed.

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.

Planting and works to DCC land adjacent to A3121- update.

DCC Review of Bus services to Ermington and response from Sir Gary Streeter MP.

A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) and timetable of works to junctions in village – new road signs have been erected on the approach to Ermington. The location of the new Welcome to Ermington sign and the pedestrians in road half mile sign to be reviewed.

County launches its carbon plan

The Devon Carbon Plan is the roadmap for how Devon will reach net-zero emissions by 2050, at the latest. It has been built on detailed, ongoing assessments of Devon's greenhouse gas emissions. Its publication follows a summer which was the joint hottest on record, where the impact of human-induced climate change has never been more apparent. The Plan's launch marks the beginning of a new phase of action – it is crucial that everyone in Devon now works to implement the Plan.

Broadly speaking, emissions in Devon can be divided into five key sectors: economy and resources; energy supply; food, land and sea; transport; and the built environment. The Devon Carbon Plan outlines actions for how each of these sectors can reach net-zero emissions by 2050, and how people at every level can contribute – including individuals, communities, organisations and local policy makers.

You can find it at www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/view-devon-carbon-plan/

063/2022 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (Continued)

U-turn on Councillor Locality budgets

Cllr Hart has decided to bring back our £8000 annual locality budgets after much negative feedback. Members successfully argued the importance of the budget as a funding source for small scale parish council projects. Please consider how a payment could help your parish.

Public Health Nursing launches online support and guidance for young people and parents

Life can be difficult enough sometimes, and for children and young people, those day-to-day interactions with others, your attitude about yourself, your relationships with people at home, at school or work, can be especially overwhelming.

It's also a challenge for parents and carers seeing changes in their child's behaviour or personality and not really knowing what's going on or the best way to support them.

We have launched the latest in a trio of websites dedicated to providing help and advice for young people, and parents, from pre-natal right through to teenage years.

- Health for under 5s (www.healthforunder5s.co.uk/devon/) – pre-natal up to children aged five, was launched earlier this year.
- Health for Kids (www.healthforkids.co.uk/devon/) – the primary school years – includes games, videos, and quizzes. It's split into four 'worlds': healthy bodies, healthy minds, health issues and getting help. It's aimed more at the parents and carers.
- Health for Teens (www.healthforteens.co.uk/devon/) – the secondary school years – is for young people and their parents and carers and tackles the issues many teens go through as their bodies change, and they become more self-aware, while also still working out who they are.

The sites welcome any additions from residents. If you have any content, articles or local events you would like to submit for consideration please email: health.publichealthnursinghealthwebsites-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

064/2022 EMAILED REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY

The present non-statutory Garden Waste collection service will finish at the end of October. Any brown bins not emptied on the last scheduled date in October will be collected in early November. A chargeable fortnightly Garden Waste collection service will be introduced from early Spring 2023 at a charge of £49 per bin per year. This brings the service in to line with that of the other Devon district councils and will hopefully bring about an increase in home composting and/or the use of community composting facilities.

The Plymouth and South West Devon Climate Emergency Planning Statement will be adopted by SHDC. This, together with proposed changes to Building Regulations will hopefully secure the construction of energy efficient homes that will not require retro-fitting to achieve a good standard of insulation.

The Council will write to the Prime Minister to stress the serious impact the Cost of Living Crisis is having on our residents and will ensure that all financial help is distributed without delay.

The Council will continue to work towards achieving the Freeport in collaboration with Plymouth City Council and Devon County Council.

Ermington House Nursing Home - complaints regarding external lights

065/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Parishioner pointed out the funds in the parish council banks total nearly £100,000. Other local parishes for example Holbeton, Kingston, Yealmpton average £25,000 less in their banks. Cllr Onley pointed out the parish precept since 2019, has been reduced to return funds to parishioners and reduce the money in the bank accounts. The previous council was raising the precept 5% per year which was generating a surplus to build a village hall, which is longer being pursued. During COVID there was not a lot of money being spent. Money that was spent on the Reading Rooms was covered by grants. The plan is to reduce the money in the bank. One of the ideas is to purchase and install safety speed signs. We also have to consider outlining areas of the parish who also have speeding issues. Cllr Owens stated that if there were any projects in the village that would be accepted by parishioners this could be looked into e.g. speed cameras, as speeding through the village is an issue. Cllr Onley pointed out that the council has offered to pay for safety improvements to reduce traffic in the village and we are awaiting a response from Cllr Dan Thomas. Parishioner agreed that the proposal to do something on roads and speed control through the village would be supported by 99% of the village.

Parishioner has had a meeting with Cllr Dan Thomas, and it was suggested that if evidence of speeding is available he could action traffic calming ideas. The parishioner is happy to help with using a speed gun if one is purchased. Cllr Dunlop pointed out, Andy Potter the last PCSO, there is nowhere in the village that gives a clear line of sight.

Parishioner has sent information e.g. photos of lorries who were travelling through the village to a local police contact, who would contact the companies. Also there is a need to carry tests on emissions near the Primary School. RESOLVED the Clerk to contact Cllr Dan Thomas if an obnoxious fumes test could be deployed outside the primary school. Also, Speed Watch group to be considered once information and criteria has been confirmed. **ACTION: Clerk**

Parishioner asked if Cllr Holway could ensure the height restriction of the hedge 2.3 metres by The Spires is enforced SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Holway**

Parishioner asked if there are any plans to extend the churchyard. Cllr Owens was not aware of any plans, but a good point to raise and will liaise with the church. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

066/2022 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 6 September 2022 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

067/2022 PLANNING

The following planning applications were discussed but had not been placed on the Agenda. This meant that any decision could not be final. Deferral to the next meeting might 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 plans would be placed on 1 November 2022 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Reference: 2498/22/FUL

Proposal: Application for creation of new agricultural access

Site Address: Land at SX 605 561, Lee Mill, Ivybridge, PL21 9HN

Recommendation: Support

Reference: 3134/22/FUL

Proposal: 30 ground mounted solar panels 3 frames of 8 panels & 1 frame of 6 panels

Site Address: Ermecot House, Ermington, PL21 0LH

Recommendation: Support

The following planning application recommendation was ratified:

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 general guidance as agreed in June 2022 was also submitted.

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1058/22/ARC Ermington

DECISION: Discharge of Conditions - SPLIT DECISION

068/2022 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- i) To note bank balances – Business Account as at 9 August = £45,928.40
Treasurers Account as at 15 August 2022 - £71,772.12
- ii) Receipt – Bank Interest (Business Account) = 09/08/2022 - £1.52
- iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – September 2022 salary	£721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – Parish Council health check on laptop	£60.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – Parish council website monthly maintenance charge for September 2022	£40.00	-	-
Small Job Co, - materials for kitchen, new sink,taps and plumbing parts for Lower Reading Room	£539.00	-	-
British Legion – purchase of Parish Council poppy wreath for Remembrance Day Service	£20.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 August 2022 :		£45,928.40
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 September 2022:		£70,876.26
Less: any un-presented cheques		£0.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	001503	-£240.00
	001505	-£1,000.00
Total Funds =		£115,564.66
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£94,324.66

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

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

069/2022 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Cllr Onley confirmed the parish council agreed to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (see minute ref 071/21) as per South Hams Climate Action Network request. A response of support was also copied to Sir Gary Streeter MP. The new Ermington Environmental Group are asking for the Parish Council to build on this and formally declare both a climate and a biodiversity crisis. They are offering to develop a plan to present to the Parish Council

Also there is a Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan – or DWMP which has been circulated and on Saturday 8th October 2022, there is a meeting at Kingsbridge Community College being hosted by Sustainable South Hams Assembly. RESOLVED Cllr Owens agreed to attend. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

There is now a need to look at food miles, plastic packaging, and the things groups and parishioners can do to support the environment. SHDC needs to ensure in any new Planning Applications, drainage is considered.

Cllr Owens asked for the Ivybridge Plan to be used as a recommended example and the Ermington Environment Group assess it and modify as necessary.

069/2022 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP (continued)

Standing Orders were suspended at 8.18 pm

Parishioner reported on the recent meetings of the Ermington Environment Group. Parishioner confirmed the group has looked at the Ivybridge Plan and feedback ideas. It is proposed to hold open meetings on Monday evenings at The First and Last, where everyone is welcome and in December to present a working plan to the Parish Council and to be reviewed at meetings. There will be articles in the parish magazine and parishioners consulted. Cllr Onley pointed out the council will not be able to impose on other organisations or bodies. The hope is to achieve a more sustainable and resilient village.

There are issues with the Erme sewage treatment plant, and there is a schedule of works but there is no time frame. Spot checks on river water quality are being carried out by two parishioners. A report was written 1965, which could be reproduced and identify the difference.

Ermington sewage works and storm drains needed to be assessed as there are problems when at full capacity. Cllr Dunlop stated South West Water are not producing information and at the meeting he attended with them and Holbeton Parish Council it was confirmed they were not doing anything illegally.

Standing orders were reinstated at 8.45 pm

RESOLVED to note the support Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill sent by South Hams Climate Action Network which was also copied to Sir Gary Streeter MP (see minute 071/21).

RESOLVED to formally declare a climate and biodiversity crisis and for the Ermington Environmental Group to be asked to develop a plan and present to the Parish Council. **ACTION: Ermington Environmental Group**

RESOLVED the parishioner will prepare a response to South Devon aonb - SWW DWMP consultation in conjunction with Cllr Onley by 7 October 2022.

070/2022 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

(a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens – memorial service was held on the Sunday after the death of Queen Elizabeth II at the parish church, a very good attendance. Book of condolence at the church will be sent to the Diocese. A barn dance has recently taken place in the church to celebrate harvest and the church was extremely grateful for the use of the Reading Room toilets. Rewilding has taken place in the upper churchyard. A bat count is taking place on 5 October 2022 at the church. The Church had been provided with details of the Growing Communities Fund, as a possible source of financial support for accessible improvements.

(b) Ermington Park = no report

(c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = no further information

(d) Road Warden Scheme = Cllr Creese – DCC Highways recommended additional batteries are purchased, when flashing speed signs are purchased. Information on Modbury and Yealmpton Parish Council flashing speed signs to be assessed. Cllr Creese will check the salt bins in the parish.

(e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Onley asked for the poster in connection with registering footpaths (Ramblers don't lose your way campaign) to be placed on the website.

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

(g) Ermington Village Fund – Cllr Owens attended the recent meeting. Current funds are £7,200. A new constitution has been adopted, which states the Ermington Village Fund will work closely with the Parish Council. It was asked if the Reading Room lights could be used. RESOLVED that Cllr Owens will ensure the lights are switched on where necessary. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

Suggestions are being asked for Christmas celebrations within the parish.

071/2022 REVIEW OF THE TOP FLOOR ROOM OF THE READING ROOMS – cleaning and maintenance

Cllr Creese has obtained two quotes to replace windows with upvc as current windows are rotten. Awaiting a third quote. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

RESOLVED to ask a local company to clean the Reading Room - £20 p/hour (maximum of eight hours).

072/2022 REVIEW GDPR POLICIES:

The following policies were reviewed, no amendments made:

Data Protection Impact Assessment
Information & Data Protection Policy
Privacy Notice For staff, Councillors and Role Holders
Public Privacy Policy

073/2022 REVIEW OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE PROTOCOL

Amendments made to the protocol document. New version will be available on the parish council website by 6 October 2022.

074/2022 DISCUSS AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2023/2024

Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED Cllrs Onley, Dunlop and Clerk will meet prior to the next meeting to prepare the budget for 2023/2024. **ACTION: Cllrs Onley, Dunlop/Clerk**

075/2022 CONSIDER PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024

Discussion ensued and due to rising costs e.g. electricity, gas, and interest rates it was considered to reduce the precept by 5%. To be confirmed at the November 2022 meeting.

076/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Emails of complaint from parishioners on behalf of Ermington Village Fund in connection with the decision making process for grant requests for the Parish Magazine and Ermington Village Fund firework display - Cllr Onley responded within 21 days as per the parish council Complaints Policy and the report needs to be recorded with the minutes – see attached.

Email from parishioner in connection with potholes - *Clerk responded.*

Email from parishioner – enquiring if the council is doing anything in or around the village to mark the passing of the queen - *Cllr Onley asked parishioners if they have ideas, to please contact him.*

Email from parishioner – photo for the website homepage. *RESOLVED to agree to use the photo on the homepage of the parish council website. ACTION: Clerk*

SHDC - Condolence Books for Her Majesty The Queen at Follaton House

SHDC - Application Number: 3075/22/PST, Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for the proposed installation of roof mounted solar PV panels. Location: Endsleigh Garden Centre, Endsleigh, Ivybridge, PL21 9JL - for information only.

DCC - Book of Condolences opens at County Hall, where to lay floral tributes, and High Sheriff of Devon to make public proclamation at County Hall on Sunday

SHDC - In remembrance of Her Majesty The Queen.

DCC - Crowds gathered at County Hall as our new King is proclaimed

SHDC - South Hams Bank Holiday Waste and Recycling Collections

SHDC - South Hams Executive rearranged due to mourning period

SHDC - Garden waste collection subscription service moves closer in South Hams

SHDC - Cost of Living Help and Advice

SHDC - Garden waste collection subscription service will go ahead in South Hams

076/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE (continued)

DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - CADLEIGH LANE, Ermington (TTRO2247428)
Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Fire service consultation
SHDC - Ideas Welcomed on How to Keep the Buzz in Totnes!
South Devon aonb - SWW DWMP consultation responses STILL ACCEPTED UNTIL 07/10/2022
DCC - Unpaid carers given free access to leisure centres; government's announcement is a step in the right direction and secondary school place applications open!

077/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [1 November 2022](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 1 November 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>

Record of Complaint from Ermington Village Fund regarding grants made to The Parish Magazine & the Village Fund.

The complaint:

From the Vice Chair, Ermington Village Fund;

We would all like to record our disappointment in what we feel is an unfair outcome to a grant application for the village fund.

Why is it that the village magazine got a £1000 grant on immediate approval when they are obviously working outside of their budget constraints.

Please record this as a formal complaint against our current parish council.

From the Treasurer, Ermington Village Fund;

Subject: Ermington Village Fund

After last night's parish council meeting, I feel I must complain about the outcome of the grant application made by our community group.

Ermington Village Fund is run by volunteers for the benefit of our whole community. The annual fireworks event is very well attended by residents of all ages and members of the wider community also come along which promotes cohesion across our villages

The decision taken at last night's meeting was that 'IF' the fund had a shortfall after the event the council would only then consider making a contribution.

The Parish magazine also applied for a grant which was immediately approved. (Notwithstanding that if the magazine remained vigilant of its budget it would not need any additional funding as the advertising charges should cover the production costs.)

Are you able to assist with why the two applications were treated differently?

My understanding is that any application should be considered on its merits alone without any councillors personal interest being part of the decision.

I would appreciate your attention and early response to this matter.

From the Secretary, Ermington Village Fund;

It has come to my notice that the subject of "Silent Fireworks" was raised when the Village Fund made an application for a grant towards the annual firework night.

I would like it publicly noted that before the 2019 display I did extensive research into Silent Displays. The outcome was that for many reasons listed, and after a Committee meeting, it was decided that it would not be a route the Village Fund would be going down. The extortionate cost runs into many £1000's and is well beyond the Village Fund budget. An adequate and safe electricity supply.

The possible sites i.e. Honeys field, or the playing field, being unsuitable. Companies unable to travel, to do short displays even if it was within our budget.

The proximity to Plymouth's air defence. I did not research this.

Firework night is an event that brings together Ermington residents of all ages. It always gets positive feedback and until that changes, we will continue to do what we do best.

Personally, I think it is a shame that the PC is unwilling to support the Village Fund without conditions. As our Constitution, which you have seen, says "The Village Fund works closely with the Parish Council" the opposite of what OUR Parish council is willing to do for its Parishioners.

The response from Ermington Parish Council:

Further to my email of 13th September to the Village Fund Secretary in answer to the points she raised regarding our discussions in 2019, and the changes which the Parish Council hope could still be made before this year's display occurs, I am now able, following the mourning period for the Queen, to respond to your request for a review of recent grant decisions.

As I am sure you know as a former editor of the Parish Magazine, the Parish Magazine exists for the benefit of all parishioners and the grant will enable the team to produce and distribute free to parishioners a larger magazine, despite increased printing costs, and no profit is accrued.

The Magazine contains important information as well as keeping all informed about local news, including Village Fund events and summaries of Parish Council business & our contact details. There is clearly a balance to be found with regard to the amount of (and charges for), advertising. We want the Magazine to remain full of relevant articles rather than move towards the content of other local 'Magazines', such as Signpost & the Beacon, which have much more advertising, and as I'm sure you are aware the advertising costs have been increased.

Financially supporting the provision of printed editions of local news, is enabled under the Local Government Act 1972 (Newsletters, Section 142), whereas supporting a firework display is discretionary and not specified in Parish Council responsibilities.

The Parish Magazine completed their grant application form correctly and provided copies of all the required supporting information such as the printers costs covering the various page number options and an un-redacted bank statement, so it is quite clear where the Parish money will be utilised.

This was in contrast to the Village Fund grant application form which was incomplete with significant amounts of relevant financial information omitted or redacted and not supplied when requested at the PC meeting.

We find it difficult to understand why the Village Fund feel it appropriate to provide a bank statement with the figures blanked out & are not prepared to declare how much the group hold in funds or what the planned costs and expected profits will be when asking for financial support for an event. We think most people would agree the request to provide this information from all groups seeking Parish funds is necessary for the Parish Council to come to a considered decision on whether to commit Parish funds, and is not unreasonable. It may even be helpful to the group in terms of, for example, the insurance costs which were not provided and we assume will be quite high for a firework display ?

The planned firework display we were told is a chargeable event and despite the representations that the entry fees are being frozen at £4, by the very nature of this, it could be excluding parishioners (particularly families with several teenagers) who may be unable to afford the entry fees. Also no information was provided about expected ticket sales (either in advance or on the night) or fundraising from the catering provided on the night. Having run this event for so many years we would expect some financial figures to be available, even if only a comparison of the best and worst attendance and profit & loss figures from previous years.

If the event breaks even or makes money then we were told any grant provided would not be returned to the Parish Council and instead be retained by the Village Fund to spend as they wish. The Parish Council have a duty to safeguard parishioners money, we therefore cannot agree to give parishioners funds for unspecified purposes, any such outcome would be in contradiction of our Grant Policy, which states unspent grant monies must be returned to the Parish Council.

It became clear that due process was not followed in appointing the contractor as only one price was sought and accepted. Indeed, the company has already been contracted and the deposit paid, making the application retrospective, again in contradiction of our Grant Policy.

It is a shame you were not at our meeting to hear the discussion about these issues and also your emails do not respond to the questions raised or the conversations we had with the Village Fund in 2019. Furthermore, the comments latterly provided by Di in response to these, were not included in the application form and neither Pete nor Susan seemed aware of, and didn't mention the points now made by Di, when discussing the request at our meeting.

As I have mentioned in the email response to Di, at the Parish Council meeting we were discussing silent fireworks which people can enjoy without excessive noise when it comes to people with health conditions such as PTSD and children with autism and anxiety, the elderly and also domestic and wild animals in the surrounding areas, and I mentioned the RSPCA recommendation that the display should not exceed 90db, as opposed to the fireworks your contractor has previously used which were followed with a very loud bang after ignition.

The comments Di makes appear to be about alternative silent displays such as laser light shows and are therefore not relevant to our discussion regarding funding towards this year's display, as we were told the contract for fireworks has already been agreed and cannot be cancelled. However, looking to the future, they may be worthy of reconsideration, as alternatives become more popular, costs sought in 2019 may have reduced, and some factors have clearly changed, for example we now do have electricity at the Park.

The important point is to discuss these issues in a timely manner, and not wait 3 years, and respond by way of a complaint two months before the next event.

As previously mentioned, we still hope the Village Fund will arrange with your contractor to substitute suitable silent fireworks in this year's display to alleviate people's legitimate concerns regarding the noise, and also to address the request we also made in 2019 to use only plastic free and metal free fireworks.

We believe Village Fund members will be equally concerned to protect and support parishioners with additional needs to consider, such as the medical conditions mentioned above, and also those with animals, and would want to protect the environment and do whatever possible to mitigate the climate crisis.

In these circumstances we believe the decision to underwrite up to £1000 of any loss, is reasonable as it mitigates the Village Fund's exposure to a potential loss and gives financial security in delivering the event the group has committed to.

We look forward to receiving the financial information omitted from the submitted Grant Application form and details of the funds raised and costs incurred on the night, so we can consider how much to contribute.

The Parish Council want to support and help local groups and have provided information on the many differing grants available through our website. Some other local groups and social businesses have been very successful in applying for funding, which the Village Fund may also benefit from. For example, please see the funding opportunities and support available from the Rural Services Network: <https://rsnonline.org.uk/category/news>

We wish the Village Fund well with all its activities, and look forward to conversations continuing about the firework display in November and future fundraising plans and events.

I hope this information is helpful and explains our position.