

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 1 November 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):** 1

## **078/2022 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

## **079/2022 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 15 (a)).

## **080/2022 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.

From the 8 November 2022 if any Parish Councillor resigns there will not be the opportunity for the electorate to request an election (Section 89 (3) LGA 1972). However, the Parish Council must still advertise any vacancies that arise and a template notice is held with the Clerk. The Parish Council may co-opt to fill a vacancy for six months but is not required to do so.

The financing of the 2023 elections - if the Parish Council election and the District Council election are both contested (i.e. we receive more nominations than seats) some costs will be shared between the Parish Council and the District Council. As in 2019, SHDC will also be recharging parishes an administration fee for any uncontested elections to cover printing costs etc., dependent on how many candidates stand. Unfortunately SHDC is unable to give an estimate of the cost of the elections to be held in May 2023, however, once the costs have been calculated, they will send a communication after the elections in order that the Parish/Town Council can precept for it later in 2023. The Parish Council will then be invoiced in the next financial year. The nomination papers from SHDC will be sent to the Parish Clerk, in approximately February next year, to hand out to any Councillors who wish to re-stand or anyone else who is interested.

## **081/2022 EMAILED REPORT RECEIVED FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS**

Cllr Thomas has received a request from the Ermington Village Fund for a donation, to install a second defibrillator that would cover the shop, Church and pre-school. Discussion ensued and it was felt that in the absence of a request from other areas in the parish e.g. Westlake and Cadleigh, the Councillors would support the request. **ACTION: Clerk to respond to Cllr Thomas**

Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader – see attached press release from Devon County Council.

*Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House & A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) – Cllr Thomas has arranged a meeting with the Director of Highways at County Hall next Tuesday to discuss the A3121 and the 30 mph. Clerk to ask Cllr Thomas if Cllr Owens could attend the meeting or take part via Zoom. ACTION: Clerk*

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

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

**082/2022          EMAILED REPORT RECEIVED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY**

My main concern this month is the cost of living for our residents. Please encourage people to contact South Dartmoor Community Energy for advice on insulating their homes, and to contact South Hams District Council, via their website, to find out about financial help.

*Ermington House Nursing Home - complaints regarding external lights.*

**083/2022          PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Parishioner raised their concern over speeding in the village. They suggested encouraging people to park on the side of the highway in Ermington to stop people speeding. Cllr Owens pointed out that this seemed to work with the car parked outside the cottages, opposite the Reading Rooms. Also, Cllr Owens pointed out various ideas are being discussed with DCC Highways.

**084/2022          APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 4 October 2022 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

**085/2022          PLANNING**

Reference: 3445/22/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building consent for replacement, on like for like basis, of two external oak lintels above the ground floor windows

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

Recommendation: Support - *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: 3286/22/FUL

Proposal: Application to install solar panels onto roof & convert first floor of garage into habitable space

Site Address: The Shippen, Westlake, PL21 9GU

Recommendation: See comment - we support the installation of PV panels on top of the roof but have no comments on the development of habitable space - *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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## 085/2022 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 2935/22/FUL

Proposal: Provision of stables, manège and change of use of land to equestrian (Resubmission of 1404/22/FUL)

Site Address: The Barn, Back Lane, Ermington, PL21 9GW

Recommendation: No comments to make - *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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### Standing Orders were suspended at 8.07 pm

Parishioner asked what the pasture was used for in connection with the planning application 2935/22/FUL. Cllr Onley stated sheep and horses.

### Standing Orders Reinstated at 8.10 pm

#### **Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3173/22/ARC Ermington

DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER : 3018/22/HHO Ermington

DECISION: Refusal

APPLICATION NUMBER : 3075/22/PST Ermington

DECISION: Prior Approval Not required

#### **Planning Application withdrawn**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3262/22/AGR 223262 Ermington

DECISION: Withdrawn

#### **The following planning applications recommendations were ratified:**

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 was 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 might 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 6 December 2022 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Reference: 2880/22/F

Proposal: Proposed garage to Class Q approved dwelling

Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: No comments to make - *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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**086/2022 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to agree the following:

i) To note bank balances – Business Account as at 9 September 2022 - £45,930.35  
 Treasurers Account as at 13 October 2022 - £78,937.06

ii) Receipt – Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/09/2022 - £1.95  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Precept payment - £9,137.00

iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – October 2022 salary	£721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – October 2022 maintenance charge for parish council website	£40.00	-	-
Small Job Co – installing of sink and plumbing for hot water tank (Lower Room of Reading Rooms)	£295.00	-	-
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance electricity bill 26 July – 21 October 2022 (88 days)	£23.32	-	-

(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 September 2022 :		<b>£45,930.35</b>	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 October 2022:		<b>£78,937.06</b>	
Less: any un-presented cheques		£0.00	
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	001503	-£240.00	
	001505	-£1,000.00	
	001510	-£295.00	
	001511	-£20.00	
	<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£123,312.41</b>	
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>			
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000	
	<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£101,757.41</b>	

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

**087/2022 DISCUSS AND CONFIRM BUDGET FOR 2023/2024**

RESOLVED to confirm the budget for 2023/2024.

**088/2022 CONFIRM PRECEPT FOR 2023/2024**

RESOLVED to confirm the precept of £17,400 for 2023/2024.

**089/2022 ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – UPDATING THE PARISH COUNCIL LAPTOP TO WINDOWS 10**RESOLVED to replace the parish laptop with a new laptop with windows 11, with a SSD drive. Maximum spend £550.00 excluding VAT. **ACTION: Clerk****090/2022 REQUEST FROM ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENT GROUP TO HAVE A PAGE ON THE ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**RESOLVED to support the request. Clerk to inform the Ermington Environment Group. **ACTION: Clerk**

## **091/2022 PURCHASE OF FLASHING SPEED SIGNS FOR THE VILLAGE**

RESOLVED to purchase two ElanCity Evolis Radar Speed Sign – Solar version and support equipment, e.g. LED warning display USB and Bluetooth capability, with flashing option Data analysis software for PC. Thank you (green) Slow Down (Red) Programmable time slots, Too Fast (flashing Red). Programmable own messages i.e. Caution School). Maximum spend £5,500. Cllr Creese will liaise with DCC Highways in connection with the poles. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

## **092/2022 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens - nothing to report

(b) Ermington Park = Devon Air Ambulance newsletter reported the change of contact person. Cllr Onley continues to check the Devon Air Ambulance site monthly. RESOLVED Cllr Onley to contact Devon Air Ambulance to ascertain if a sign could be made and would be paid for by the Parish Council, informing people the field is a Devon Air Ambulance landing site. Cllr Onley will then liaise with SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Onley**

(c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = Invitation received from Cllr Baumer (Holbeton Parish Councillor) - Holbeton Parish Council is holding an open meeting on the sewage problem in the River Erme on Friday the 18th November at 7pm in All Saints Church, Holbeton. Sir Gary Streeter has confirmed that he will be attending as will representatives from South West Water and The Environment Agency. The focus of the meeting will be the sewage problems facing Holbeton Parish, and therefore centred on the Erme Estuary. However, a whole river approach to the problem is self-evidently needed. The invite is to members of the other local councils bordering the Erme to the meeting as well as our two District Councillors. As the SWW's draft Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan has a single catchment plan for both the Erme and Yealm Rivers it also seems appropriate that the River Yealm Water Quality Group members should be invited. RESOLVED Cllr Dunlop to attend on behalf of the Parish. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

(d) Road Warden Scheme = Cllr Creese has checked the parish grit bins to ensure they are full.

(e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Owens – nothing to report.

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

(g) Ermington Village Fund = Cllr Owens – as well as the grant offer to cover any losses on the village fireworks up to £1,000, the parish council contribution includes the provision of electricity from the Reading Rooms. Cllr Owens will supervise access. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

## **093/2022 CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE OF THE TOP FLOOR ROOM OF READING ROOMS**

A deep clean of the Reading Rooms will take place in November 2022 @ £20 p/hour. RESOLVED to increase the maximum number of hours from eight to nine.

Cllr Creese has obtained three quotes for the four replacement windows required in the top floor of the Reading Rooms.

The quotes are as follows:-

1. Avon Windows, Kingsbridge
2. ADS
3. Sunrise Windows, Plympton

RESOLVED to accept the quote from ADS. Deposit to be paid. **ACTION: Cllr Creese/Clerk**

Cllr Creese pointed out various items are required for the lower Reading Rooms e.g. kettle, crockery. RESOLVED for Cllr Creese to purchase various items to a maximum cost of £200 excluding VAT. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

**094/2022 REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS:**

The following policies were reviewed, no amendments made:

- Review Grant Awarding Policy and Procedure
- Review Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme
- Review Training Policy
- Review Complaints Policy

**095/2022 ERMINGTON PUBLIC TOILETS**

RESOLVED the Parish Council will not take on the responsibility of cleaning the public toilets in the village. Therefore, the public toilets in the village will be closed from November 2022 to the end of February 2023. Clerk to inform SHDC.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**096/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

- SHDC - Work or to serve a Tree Preservation Order - Reference: 3156/22/TCA  
Proposal: G1: Ash, Sycamore & Elm - Coppice to 1 metre from ground level due to concerns from residents due to the stability of the trees on the bank as well as light and close proximity to power cable. Site Address: Park Hill Cottages, Chapel Street, Ermington, PL21 9NF – **Information forwarded to the Parish Tree Warden**

**097/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [7 December 2022](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

*Denis Onley*

.....  
(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 7 December 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>

Attachment = Press Release - Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader

## Grave budget warning from Devon County Council leader

**Deep cuts to Devon's vital local services are inevitable unless the Government provides more support, county council leader John Hart warned today.**

Mr Hart said he fully agreed with new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak that the country faced a "profound economic crisis".

But he urged Mr Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt to use the extra time they now have to produce their economic recovery plan to ensure the balance between tax rises and spending cuts was fair and equitable. And that local government is not singled out for cuts.

"I have been a county councillor for more than 30 years and leader of Devon County Council for nearly 14 years during which time we have been through the austerity years and the pandemic," said Mr Hart.

"But our financial situation has never been so bleak as it is now.

"Before the summer we revealed a black hole in our finances for this year due to surging demand for help and support for vulnerable children and adults, the continuing costs of the pandemic and the dramatic rise in costs and inflation.

"We have been working hard to find savings in this current financial year but it's like filling the bath with the plug out as demand for our services and our costs keep escalating.

"On top of that we now calculate that - as things stand - we face a £75 million shortfall in our budget for next year."

Mr Hart said a report from the National Audit Office had revealed a 53.7 per cent cut in Government funding for local councils between 2010 and 2020. Devon's core funding from the Government had reduced by 72 per cent in real terms in the 11 years up to 2021/22.

"Despite that, this council has maintained help and support for the young, the old and the vulnerable by becoming more effective and efficient," he said.

"When other councils were closing libraries to save money, we kept all ours open. We maintained a youth service in every district. We've seen a steadily reducing number of potholes on our roads. We've ensured communities weren't cut off by subsidising bus services. We maintained our farms estate to give aspiring young farmers a chance to begin a career in farming.

"And we've helped to drive economic growth by overseeing infrastructure improvements on the A380 in South Devon and the North Devon link road, re-opening the Okehampton railway line and other stations and investing in improving high-tech skills through developments like the new training centre at Exeter Airport and support for work hubs for start-up businesses and small companies across the county.

"We've done all that without large-scale staff redundancies and we've kept council tax as low as possible. And we've done it all while committing to be net zero carbon by 2030.

"I am proud of that legacy. But all of the work we do will be under threat if we have to make drastic cuts across all our services to balance the books as we are required to do by law. However that will be the reality if the Government doesn't act to protect local government."

Mr Hart said Devon was not just calling for financial support and doing nothing to help itself.

The council had already put a freeze on staff recruitment in non-frontline areas, delayed planned investment in IT and infrastructure projects, cut its heating and lighting bills, squeezed all external contracts, stopped some routine road maintenance and reduced winter gritting routes as well as reviewing its school transport contracts and public transport subsidies.

Devon MPs were being briefed so they could champion the county's case at Westminster and the authority was working with the County Councils' Network and the Local Government Association on national lobbying.

"We are here to do the very best for local people and to protect and support the most vulnerable and those in real need" he said.

"We will do everything in our power to continue to do this and find new ways to do things better and more sustainably.

"But, quite obviously, a bankrupt council can do none of these things and we have no choice now but to make savings that will inevitably hurt some people."

- End -