

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 6 December 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):** 5

## **098/2022 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

## **099/2022 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 14 (a)).  
Cllrs Creese and Dunlop – Tesco Planning Application  
Cllr Owens - Ludd House, Planning Application

## **100/2022 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.

## **101/2022 EMAILED REPORT RECEIVED FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS**

Please accept my apologies for tonight. Although my lateral flow is showing negative, I have all the symptoms of covid.

Turning to specific parish matters

1. Public Footpath opposite Plantation House to Sequers Bridge. I have asked Mr MacFadden, the PROW Officer, to offer some dates for January 2023 so that he and I can have a site visit there. As soon as he suggests some dates, I will liaise with Cllr Owens over his availability.
2. Speed Limit (variation of DCC policy). I recently met with the Director of Highways. Although the meeting was generally positive, no clear commitment was made to reduce the speed limit on the A3121. I have now approached Cllr Roger Croad, the Chair of South Hams HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee). My request is that this matter be considered by the next HATOC committee, of which all South Hams Devon County Councillors are members. Assuming he agrees, I will then request that Cllr Onley be allowed to attend and address the Committee.
3. Potholes in Westlake – I have recently had a site visit with Nick Colton DCC Highways, at Ley Lane where the potholes are more like craters in places. The inspection team have been out, and another gang is due in the area to lay hot tar.
4. Flooding in Westlake – I have passed the photos sent to me by Cllr Creese to the Flood Resilience Team at County Hall and insisted that they do something/anything to improve the situation.
5. DCC Review of Bus Services – although I regret the necessity, I warmly applaud the Parish being proactive in gathering data on potential demand. I will use anything I can to support your reasonable request to make a small diversion to the Number 3's route.

## **102/2022 REPORT RECEIVED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY**

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

*Fume/Air quality test around Ermington Primary School*

## **103/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

A parishioner explained that potholes are not being repaired properly as cold tarring is being used instead of hot tar. Cold tarring may be environmentally friendly but is a short term remedy and not satisfactory. This will be referred to Nick Colton DCC Highways and Cllr Dan Thomas. **ACTION: Clerk**

A parishioner pointed out approaching the new Kittaford Cross roundabout from the Avonwick direction, there is a dip which is a safety concern. Clerk to contact DCC Safer Roads Team. **ACTION: Clerk**

A parishioner informed those present that a Community Speed Watch Group has been formed and the three volunteers are awaiting practical training. Need to have a speed monitor on the road which monitors time and speed along the A3121. The Parish Council have already confirmed they support the Community Speed Watch Group. Five /six sites have been identified for a Community Speed Watch member to stand and the group are awaiting agreement to use these sites. Owners of the land to be asked if they will allow permission for a volunteer to access their land to record speeds of vehicles. We may need to buy a 'Black Cat' to assess traffic flows prior to any testing, but the flashing speed signs will provide the same data, so the group need to check whether these can be used instead. The Parish Council will need to use the new flashing speed signs in liaison with the CSW Group. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

A parishioner pointed out, the hedge from The Spires to the Shop is overgrown and needs to be trimmed. The owners of the properties need reminding to get the hedges cut every year. Information has been copied to SHDC Enforcement, to follow it up with the property owners.

A parishioner informed those present that Filham Park which is owned by Ivybridge Town Council, will be having an upgrade as a result of public consultation and will include a multi wheeled sporting track.

Cllr Dunlop raised the issues of SHDC recycling trucks travelling through the village in convoy each morning when not all can be collected within the restricted HGV access only zone. They should therefore exit the Recycling Centre towards the A38 and only pass through the HGV restricted zone when collecting within. The Parish Council will write to SHDC Waste Management Team (copy Cllr Tom Holway ) asking for the Recycling vehicles not collecting within the restricted HGV zone to be rerouted to not pass through the village. **ACTION: Clerk**

## **104/2022 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 1 November 2022 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

## **105/2022 DEVON WILDLIFE TRUST - LANDMARK TREE FOR ERMINGTON**

Cllr Onley explained that Saving Devon's Treescapes project will be providing us with a Landmark Tree in the New Year, to be planted in a community space that can act as a focal point. The Parish Council is considering planting the tree to support the Queen's Green Canopy, or to commemorate the coronation of King Charles III.

The Parish Councillors would appreciate thoughts from parishioners on either option and preferred location. More information is available on [http:// www.ermingtonparish](http://www.ermingtonparish).

There are ten Ash trees which need to be replaced in the area at the bottom of The Spires, near the riverside bank. RESOLVED the Clerk to email Rob Sekula, Senior Specialist – Natural Resources and Green Infrastructure at SHDC and ask for a representative from SHDC to assess the situation. **ACTION: Clerk**

## **106/2022 RIVER ERME POLLUTION**

An Ivybridge Town Councillor was welcomed to the meeting. He had attended a recent meeting organised by Holbeton Parish Council at Holbeton Church to discuss concerns about the water quality of the River Erme. In attendance were representatives from the Environment Agency, South West Water and Sir Gary Streeter MP.

The local rivers are not a priority for these agencies or Government, and the new Environment Act merely requires improvements to environmental standards by 2050. The operation of Ivybridge and Holbeton sewage plants had been non-compliant this year. The advice is not to bathe in local rivers or nearby beaches until about three days after heavy rain stops, to allow the sewage to pass down the rivers to the sea from the treatment works and storm overflows. There is a need to understand what has been done, to stop future non-compliances happening in the future, what future improvements could be made and the timescale.

## **106/2022 RIVER ERME POLLUTION (continued)**

Cllrs Onley and Dunlop attended the meeting at Holbeton and were disappointed at the response from the Environment Agency. It was felt they were working with South West Water and not monitoring them. The storm drain discharges have become a regular occurrence and some are due to infrastructure defects and poor maintenance such as collapsed drains and planned maintenance which better planning and oversight should remove. There is also concern about veterinary medicines in agricultural run off and human medicines in sewage, none of which is being monitored. What is needed is a simple water quality test to say when the river is polluted, and for the information to be available quickly.

*Standing Orders Suspended – 8.30 pm*

Parishioner pointed out that no powers were evoked from The Office of Water Services (Ofwat) and also the Office for Environmental Protection ( OEP ) who have statutory powers.

A parishioner asked why is the Environmental Agency not bringing a case against South West Water and where does OFWAT fit into this situation?

Cllr Dunlop pointed out; the Yealm Environment group have asked for information from South West Water under the freedom of information, but they are not producing the information because of an ongoing legal case. The recent EA prosecution of a paint company discharging chemicals into the Yealm took years to achieve, many of the discharges people are concerned about are legal because SWW have the required permits.

Parishioner - we need to work out what the local rivers contain and how much it will cost to get the catchment clean.

Parishioner – we need to get an idea where we need to get to and work out what can be done. There may be examples of where rivers have been cleaned up.

*Standing Orders Reinstated – 8.45 pm*

RESOLVED Ermington Parish Council to continue to press for improvements from the relevant agencies and request to Ivybridge Town Council ( ITC ) to take the lead and co-ordinate plans to encourage Councils along the river to work together.

## **107/2022 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP – DRAFT PLAN**

Ermington Environmental group has an article in the December 2022 Ermington Parish Magazine and a list of questions to answer. If parishioner could please answer the questions and return them to Ermington Store and More or send to [adam.parishmag@gmail.com](mailto:adam.parishmag@gmail.com).

A parishioner has offered a small area at Tallet Meadow, Ermington as a Community Garden.

The parishioner will be presenting a prize of £100 for a bee planter e.g., hanging baskets. Details to be announced in the New Year.

Community composting – currently the parish is not large enough to progress a community composting scheme. The SHDC brown bins that are no longer required, can be turned into a compost bin. The parishioner who owns Tallet Meadow could take some parishioners waste for composting, but there are items which could not be composted.

A working plan has been drafted and will be circulated, any additional comments to be added.

## **108/2022 PLANNING**

Planning Application Ref: 3076/22/HHO Description: Householder application for proposed first floor extension  
Address: 2 Erme Bridge Cottages Ermington PL21 9NN

Recommendation: No comment = 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.

**108/2022 PLANNING (contined)**

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: 3614/22/FUL Proposal: Erection of general purpose agricultural buildings (Retrospective)

Site Address: Churchlands Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: No comment = 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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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: 3810/22/FUL Proposal: Erection of a new agricultural livestock building 1

Site Address: Coyton Barton, Ivybridge, PL21 9LD

Recommendation: No comment = 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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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: 3377/22/FUL Proposal: Proposed installation of solar panels & erection of two outdoor sheds

Site Address: Ludd House, Strode, PL21 0LZ

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.

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**108/2022 PLANNING (continued)**

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: 3811/22/FUL Proposal: Erection of a new agricultural livestock building 2  
Site Address: Coyton Barton, Ivybridge, PL21 9LD

Recommendation: No comment = 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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Reference: 3962/22/ADV Proposal: Advertisement consent to install 3x Fascia & 4x Graphic sign  
Site Address: Tesco, Central Avenue, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE

Recommendation: No comment = 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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**Planning Decisions**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2941/22/CLP Ermington	DECISION: Cert of Lawfulness (Proposed) Certified
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3134/22/FUL Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval
APPLICATION NUMBER: 2522/22/HHO Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval
APPLICATION NUMBER: 3445/22/LBC Ermington	DECISION: Conditional Approval

**The following following planning application recommendations was ratified:**

Reference: 2880/22/F 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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**108/2022 PLANNING (continued)**

*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.*

**109/2022 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances – Business Account on 10 October 2022 = £45,932.30  
Treasurers Account on 15 November 2022 - £74,320.03

(ii) Receipt – Bank Interest (Business Account) 10/10/2022 - £1.95  
Hire of Reading Rooms - £40.00

(iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – November 2022 salary	£721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – November 2022 maintenance charge for parish council website	£40.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – setup new HP laptop – transfer of data etc	£55.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – purchase of HP 15.6” laptop	£579.99	£96.67	£483.32
Reimbursement to Clerk – purchase of Microsoft 365 Personal (1 year subscription)	£59.99	-	-
SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) – ½ of the cost of annual membership (shared with Holbeton Parish Council)	£88.50	-	-
Ermington Village Fund –firework revenue loss November 2022 (see minute ref 052/2022)	£250.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Ian Creese for items for the lower room in the Reading Rooms e.g. chopping boards, drawer slides and plywood sheet	£64.64	-	-

(iv) Grant Request – Citizens Advice South Hams – RESOLVED to grant £250. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 10 October 2022 :		<b>£45,932.30</b>
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 November 2022:		<b>£74,320.03</b>
Less: any un-presented cheques		£0.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	001514	-£40.00
	001518	-£172.25
<b>Total Funds =</b>		<b>£120,040.08</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>		<b>£99,827.83</b>

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

**110/2022 INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2022/2023**

RESOLVED to ask Mrs Clapham, at a cost of £65.00.

## 111/2022      **REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

(a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens – Twilight Christmas Fair recently took place in the Church and was very well attended. The carol service will be taking place on Wednesday 21 December 2022, 19:00 - 20:00.

(b) Ermington Park = Cllr Onley has had contact with the Community Interest Company involved in the project to develop the multi wheeled sporting track at Filham Park ( Filham Pump Track ), they may be able to undertake some skateboard coaching and other outreach project work in Ermington. RESOLVED Cllr Onley will contact the Skate South Devon Community Interest Company re. support for skateboarding and other projects for young people in Ermington.  
**ACTION: Cllr Onley**

(c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = nothing to add

(d) Road Warden Scheme = Cllr Creese – a quote has been received from Elan City Evolis Radar for two speed signs. RESOLVED to purchase the speed signs in collaboration with Cllr Dan Thomas and request he liaise with DCC re funding and also ask DCC Highways to install the poles/post for the signs with his support. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

Pedestrian in the road sign has been installed in Chapel Street, in response to a parishioner's request.

(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.

## 112/2022      **REPAIRS TO THE TOP FLOOR ROOM OF ERMINGTON READING ROOMS**

- ADS have carried out a full assessment and windows will be installed in the new year. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

## 113/2022      **MAINTENANCE OF THE ERMINGTON VILLAGE TELEPHONE BOX WHICH STORES THE VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR**

RESOLVED to have the telephone box cleaned. **ACTION: Clerk**

To assess redecorating the telephone box in the summer.

## 114/2022      **REVIEW OF PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Protocol on the filming and recording of Parish Council Meetings was reviewed, no amendments made.

## 115/2022      **CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

Free Landmark Tree for Ermington – Devon Wildlife Trust  
Pre Planning Consultation Cellnex COM-0024526 – *no comment*  
SHDC - South Hams garden waste service subscriptions are now live  
Parishioner - River Erme volunteers  
SHDC - New South Hams Sport and Community Development Officer  
Neighbourhood Watch Network - FREE 'Stand up against street harassment' bystander webinar  
Libraries Unlimited - Libraries provide vital support to local communities in Devon  
SHDC South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Newsletter November 2022  
DCC - Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Consultation  
The Ramblers - Don't Lose Your Way: Volunteer to save lost paths today  
South Hams CVS - Query about cost of living projects in Ermington parish – *actioned by the Clerk*  
DCC - Five ways to protect under 5s this winter and it's Stress Awareness Week  
*Parishioner* - Christmas Fair, Reading Room toilet access request – *access granted*  
SHDC - Affordable homes in South Brent  
SHDC - Cost of Living Community Action Fund South Hams  
SHDC - Christmas Recycling and Waste Collections in the South Hams

**116/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [7 February 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

*Denis Onley*

.....  
(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 7 February 2023

**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>