ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 4 April 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, John Dunlop

County Councillor Dan Thomas (from 8.15 pm – 8.30 pm) District Councillor Tom Holway (from 7.30 pm – 8.00 pm)

Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 7

Cllr Onley welcomed everyone to the meeting, then Parish Councillors introduced themselves.

134/2022 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

135/2022 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens - agenda item 13 (a).

136/2022 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.

137/2022 REPORT RECEIVED FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS

- Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House Cllr Thomas has asked Paul Mcfadden at Devon County Council to contact Cllr Owens.
- A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) a site meeting of DCC Cabinet members and the Police is to take place, but Parish Councillors and members of the public can attend but are not able to speak.
- Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake The Environment Agency Land Management team are going through a re-prioritisation process to focus on proactive visits to improve land management. They've asked for areas that have a concentration of muddy/surface water flooding that is related to agriculture/land management and County (via Nick Colton) is recommending your part of Westlake as part of the process.

The land management team at the EA are able to undertake meetings with landowners offering farm advice and can potentially take enforcement action under farming rules for water - Rules for farmers and land managers to prevent water pollution - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

- Safety of unusual dips and cambers on new roundabout at Kitterford Cross a meeting took place with North Huish and Ugborough Parish Councils Level 3 document has been sent to the Clerk, but it is not a public document. There are recommendations raised from the level 3 audit that need to be reviewed.
- Tree planting and weed killing near Hollowcombe roundabout Information received from DCC stated the brown substance around the base of each plant is a biodegradable mulch mat. This suppresses weeds that would otherwise compete with a tree sapling whilst it establishes. Such a measure was specified as an environmentally friendly option that aims to avoid the need to use chemical weed control around the saplings during the 5 year maintenance period. This was specified at greater cost than chemical weed control, to comply with DCC's new environmental policy to avoid the use of herbicides 'unless absolutely necessary'.

However, there is provision in the contract for using glyphosate as a 'one off' to kill off vegetation in a 50cm diameter prior to planting a sapling. Such provision was considered necessary as the most effective way of doing this and the only viable option given the scale of vegetation clearance needed. Steve confirms that there was some weed killing done using a spray.

Cllr Onley was disappointed that the Parish Council was not informed weedkiller had been used. Cllr Dunlop asked how much glyphosate was used. RESOLVED to ask DCC how much glyphosate was used and what concentration. **ACTION: Clerk**

News from County Hall, April 2023

Devolution deal for Devon, Plymouth and Torbay moves a step closer

A new deal that will transfer money and powers into the hands of local Leaders across Devon, Plymouth and Torbay, has moved a step closer with the backing of the Government's Levelling Up Minister, Dehenna Davison. Outline approval has been given for a Devon-wide devolution deal which could bring greater local control and allow partners to tap into additional resources to help tackle key local priorities, such as affordable housing, better public transport and connectivity, and providing for the skills that the local economy needs.

The deal wouldn't require a change to the established democratic structures across the area, or the need for an elected Mayor. Instead, new powers would be devolved to a partnership of existing local councils who would deliver on a joint programme working alongside a wide range of other local stakeholders. Local partners across Devon have now been invited to work together to prepare a final business case to present to Government for approval later in the year.

Any final deal would require local consent with the full agreement of all the constituent councils as well as Parliamentary approval.

Every penny of the extra £9.4m will be spent making our roads more resilient

Every penny of the extra £9.4 million for Devon, announced in the Chancellor's budget recently, will be spent on improving our roads and making them more resilient. Most of it will go towards the Local Area Capital Programmes, which will reflect local priorities identified through our elected members and Neighbourhood Highway Officers.

Using inspections and survey data, the remaining funding will be directed to preventative works to stop potholes forming in the first place. Prolonged spells of very wet weather and freezing road temperatures this winter have been hugely detrimental to the condition of our 8,000 mile road network. To tackle it, over the past few months, we doubled the number of pothole teams, introduced weekend working and extended working hours across the network. That resulted in up to 2,200 potholes being repaired each week.

138/2022 REPORT RECEIVED DISTRICT COUNCILLOR TOM HOLWAY

- Ash trees in Ermington Play Park waiting for a response form Rob Sekula at SHDC
- Fume/Air quality test around Ermington Primary School
- SHDC have had staff working with Ukraine guest and hosts
- Budget has been agreed and there is a £5.00 increase on a band D property
- A grant has been given to Ermington Environmental Climate Change Group
- Roll out of electric charging points is being rolled out slowly
- Housing affordable housing available at Filham Chase and Saxon Gate, in lvybridge. Over the last four years 500 affordable houses has been made available
- Council Tax reduction scheme to help people in the South Hams 10% have been helped
- Waste collection has improved, but there is still a need for improvement. Parishioners may see all the waste bags collected going into the same vehicle, they are sorted
- SHDC are working with the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund with support from Devon County Council
- Plymouth Freeport is continuing, and expansion of MOD work is expected to increase opportunities for well paid jobs and training for young people.
- SHDC have agreed a scheme to install PV panels on their leisure centres to reduce heating costs and keep the centres viable.
- PL21 have been successful in getting grant funding from SHDC to pay for the Ivybridge/ Bittaford cycleway feasibility study

Remember:

- Register to vote by 11:59 pm on Monday 17 April 2023
- Apply for a postal vote by 5 pm on Tuesday 18 April 2023
- Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by Tuesday 25 April 2023

139/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Cllr Dunlop – Ermington park footpath concerns have been raised by parishioners and they would like to set up a working party to carry out repair works to the tarmac and crushed limestone footpaths. Cllr Holway asked Cllr Dunlop to inform the parishioners, to liaise with Rob Sekula at SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

A parishioner had attended a PL21 group meeting recently and there is still a desire to have a link between Ivybridge and Ermington, which is accessible for all. Cllr Holway pointed out Ros Davies is the link at Devon County Council to discuss footpaths.

139/2022 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Parishioners wished to raise the following concerns in connection with planning application 0907/23/PIP

- In 2018 was identified for allotments by the Parish Council
- Planning application does not mention bats in the area
- Narrow lane with restricted width to access land
- Flooding from least and sink
- Road is private and maintained by local residents, would be seeking cost from developer if there us any damage
- Possible subsidence to a neighbouring property
- Vehicles have grounded on the road to access the land
- Conservation area
- The enlargement of the entrance at the top of the site by the road junction has undermined a substantial tree
- Tunnel under property in the area could be damaged

A parishioner owns land in the Yealmpton/Ermington parishes at Wilburton Cross will be submitting a planning application within the next three months for an agricultural dwelling for stock and welfare of animals. If there are any questions, or concerns please contact the Clerk who will pass them to the parishioner for clarification.

140/2022 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 21 February 2023 (as previously circulated) and Chair Cllr Onley to sign.

141/2022 RIVER ERME POLLUTION – CIIr Dunlop

The Parish Council River Warden gave a very comprehensive presentation at the Rivers Assembly, which took place on Saturday 18 March from 10am – 2.30pm at Kingsbridge Community College.

Cllr Dunlop has attended recent meetings in connection with the river Erme and Yealm. It was RESOLVED that in the future Cllr Dunlop would attend the River Erme Water Quality Group Meetings but not attend River Yealm meetings but continue to receive information.

142/2022 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Members of the Speedwatch Group have carried out four speedwatchs within the village and from data received, Town Hill has had 5 reportable incidents.

The road police officer has been very supportive.

143/2022 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP – Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan

- Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan ongoing
- Ermington Parish Council website link request (approximate maximum cost of £200). RESOLVED to discuss further at the Annual Parish Council meeting in May 2023. **ACTION: Clerk**

Attached is a report from the Ermington Environmental Group presented by a member of the group.

144/2022 PLANNING

Reference: 0324/23/HHO Site Address: The Roost, Clickland Farm, Ermington, PL21 9JY

Proposal: Householder application for construction of single storey extension to rear of property including in-roof solar panels

to the southeast facing roof slope 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: 0429/23/FUL Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP

Proposal: Provision of manège

Recommendation: No comments to make

Reference: 0907/23/PIP Site Address: Land West of Park Hill Cottages, Chapel Street, Ermington

Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle for the erection of up to 2no dwellings

Recommendation: Object

In the Parish Council forward planning, identified this land as a potential site for allotments.

The site is known to have a bat population, and this has not been detailed in the documents supplied.

The site has an invasive weed e.g., Japanese Knotweed.

The access is through a recently installed gate, which has been enlarged without notice and includes undermining of a substantial tree.

Chapel Street is narrow and there is not a public footpath at the access point.

The access point will have impeded vision due to being close to the junction, and the area is used as informal parking which is in short demand in the village.

Chapel Street floods regularly from the leat and sinks near Preston Cottages.

The track near Robin Hill Cottages is not known as being adopted and is not suitable for access to new housing. It is a footpath, and any motorised and any other traffic could undermine the Devon bank.

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Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3377/22/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Ludd House Strode PL21 0LZ

PROPOSAL: Proposed installation of solar panels & erection of two outdoor sheds

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0065/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Land at Sx 605561 Beech Road Lee Mill

PROPOSAL: Creation of new agricultural access (resubmission of 2498/22/FUL)

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3961/22/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Tesco Central Avenue Lee Mill Industrial Estate Lee Mill PL21 9PE

PROPOSAL: Proposal to install Timpson's Pod & 12x Ramraid Bollards

DECISION: Refusal

Planning Application Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3508/22/HHO 223508 Ermington and Ugborough LOCATION: Woodcock Barn Burraton PL21 9JZ PROPOSAL: Householder application for conversion of existing garage to habitable room, link extension to connect to existing

property & addition of PV panels

DECISION: Withdrawn

144/2022 PLANNING (continued)

To ratify the following planning application recommendation:

Parish Council being consulted as a neighbouring parish.

Reference: 4436/22/FUL

Proposal: Extension of residential curtilage, new garage, fenestration improvements & external alterations to dwelling

Site Address: Waye Farmhouse, Ermington, PL21 9NU

RECOMMENDATION: See comment below

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145/2022 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- (i) Bank balances Business Account on 9 February 2023 = £45,990.78 Treasurers Account on 13 March 2023 = £65,833.29
- (i) Receipt Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/02/2022 = £23.42

(iii) RESOLVED to make the following payments:

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – February 2023 salary March 2023 salary	£721.20 £721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – February and March 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£80.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – purchase of A4 lever arch file	£5.60	£0.93	£4.67
Providing 2022/23 Payroll Service for Parish Clerk	£120.00	£20.00	£100.00
NALC Affiliation Fee 2023-2024 £54.82 No VAT, DALC Service Charge 2023-2024 £11.07 Exempt, DALC Affiliation Fee 2023-2024 £147.11 20.0% S	£242.42	£29.42	£213.00

- (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 February 2023:		£45,990.78
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 March 2023:		£65,833.29
Less: any unpresented cheques		£0.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	001529	-£40.00
	001538 001538	-£695.20 -£26.00
	001534	-£40.00
Total Funds =		£111,022.87
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£90,221.67

145/2022 FINANCE (continued)

- (vi) Spend and income against budget 2022/2023 to date was reviewed
- (vii) Internal Audit will take place on Monday 17 April 2023
- (viii) RESOLVED Ermington Environmental Group will not be charged for use of the Reading Rooms for their meetings, to be reviewed in May 2023

146/2022 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- (a) Church Liaison = Cllr Owens handrail to be placed on the main access route to the church
- (b) Ermington Park
- (c) Climate Change and Biodiversity
- (d) Road Warden Scheme = Cllr Creese two speed cameras are now working in the village (see data attached).
- (e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Owens reported that a meeting has taken place with Ros Davies DCC P3 coordinator in March 2023, to discuss the Modbury to Ermington and Higher Keaton to Fernham possible footpath. Land registry to be contacted in May 2023 to ascertain who owns the land, and then notices to be served regarding definitive map modification.
- (f) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = Cllr Owens application still not submitted for definitive map modification order.
- (g) Community Speed Watch RESOLVED the Speedwatch Group dates will be advertised on Ermington Residents Facebook page and data will continue to be collected. **ACTION: Clir Dunlop**

147/2022 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III – SATURDAY 6 MAY 2023

Ermington Village Fund are organising events to celebrate the Coronation.

148/2022 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2024 AND STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL

RESOLVED to accept the presented documents.

149/2022 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS 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 CIIr Owen to verify the bank statements and reconciliations. ACTION: CIIr Owens

150/2022 REVIEW ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE POLICY

RESOLVED to accept the presented documents.

151/2022 eDF FIXED BUSINESS CONTRACT ENDS ON 24 MAY 2023 – READING ROOMS

Noted.

152/2022 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Brixton Parish Council - Planning guidance from River Yealm Water Quality Working Group. RESOLVED to send the Parish Council planning guidance for their consideration. **ACTION: Clerk**

2 x emails from parishioners in connection with planning application 0907/23/PIP

Local Elections – 4th May 2023

As the local elections will be on Thursday 4 May 2023, all current councillors will stand down and elections will be held to replace them. The deadline of delivery by hand of nomination papers to the Returning Officer was 4pm on Tuesday 4 April 2023.

For the local elections on 4 May, the deadline to register to vote is Monday 17 April, and the deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5pm on Tuesday 18 April. You will need to be registered to vote, and this can be done on the government website: https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

You will also now need to show photo ID to vote, such as a passport or driving licence. You can check what ID is accepted on the electoral commission website: https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/iam-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id

If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate: https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate

The deadline to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate is 5pm on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

153/2022 AGREE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FORMAT, DATE AND TIME

RESOLVED the Clerk to contact AONB to enquire if they would give a presentation, specific reference to rivers. The meeting will be held on Tuesday 23 May 2023 at 7.00 pm.

154/2022 TO CONFIRM DATE OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on <u>Tuesday 23 May 2023</u> after the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed at 10.20 pm.

Denis Onley	
	Date: 23 May 2023
(Ermington Parish Council Chair)	

Agenda and minutes can be viewed on the Ermington Parish website

https://www.ermingtonparish.com/

To report highway issues - https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/

SHDC website to report issues - https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit

Report on Ermington Environmental activities in March 2023

8th EE representatives at SusSH area group leaders meeting at the Watermark on renewables

15th EE monthly meeting – theme was biodiversity

14th – Presentation of STEM kit to Ermington Primary school + presentation of vouchers for EE logo design

 16^{th} — meeting with Dan Thomas (DCC) — discussion of EE developments , including traffic issues (speed on A3121 and 20mph limits in village) — ahead of CSW training/ renewables — County initiatives — DCE plan/ River Erme pollution and wider catchment.

Agreed to work together on these and future issues towards positive outcomes. $18^{th} - SusSH$ rivers assembly – Kingsbridge Academy – Over 100 conference attendees – South Devon River Catchment forum.

EE provided one of the 4 key speakers – Erme/Avon/Dart/ Salcombe Estuary.EE exhibition promoted issues around river pollution, how to support landowners/ farmers and the many ways that everyone can encourage wildlife and biodiversity. 21^{st} – Community Speedwatch Training – 5 residents were trained to use the equipment having completed online training. The CSW group have been out at 5 sites in the last 2 weeks. Initial results showed tha drivers slowed down when seeing group – makes roads safer which is our goal. Need a discussion on how to make the most impact. CSW will be joined on a regular basis by an officer from Devon and Cornwall constabulary.

22nd -Meeting with Mike Hodges from Thurlstone – understanding the electricity supply network in the village with a view to the possibility of connections from renewable energy sources (solar, hep, wind, biogas). Work is ongoing to identify sites/ projects that will benefit the community/ individuals, reduce the use of fossil fuels and create a more sustainable community.

23rd Erme Catchment Councillors meeting which showed the high level of support for effective monitoring of the water quality and the need to make changes now. 27th EE attendance at Village Fund meeting – discussion around different renewable sources of energy and the health of the river – positive community support and example of organisations working together.

30th Interactive talk on the River Erme Catchment in the Hub room by Mark Walker. Attended by 25 concerned residents. Positive outcomes – how our shop is supplying eco friendly products. Raised awareness of where pollution is entering the Catchment (SWW sewage, Agricultural policy and our lifestyles) + lack of effective monitoring by SWW and EA. Need to move forward as the current mechanisms have not brought about a 'healthy' river. Discussions are happening to ensure we have a 'group' Catchment wide approach to supporting the changes needed and the ability to attract funding on a scale that is required.

Note – From the above activities it is obvious that members of the Community are putting in a considerable amount of time and effort .

Ermington Environmental is an 'open' organisation that welcomes inputs from as many residents as possible - so please join us to make our world a better place for future generations.

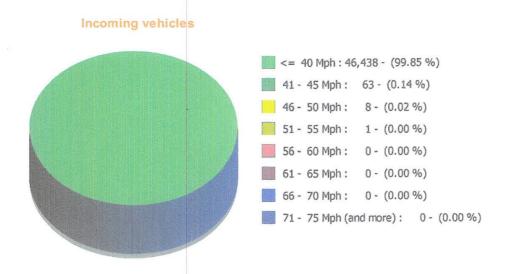
EE activities forthcoming dates for Parish Council calendar

19th April - EE monthly meeting – lower reading room @ 10am 20th April – am Churchyard working party (pasties and soup will be served!) 20th April -7pm in the Hub - Talk on Churchyard Project/ biodiversity

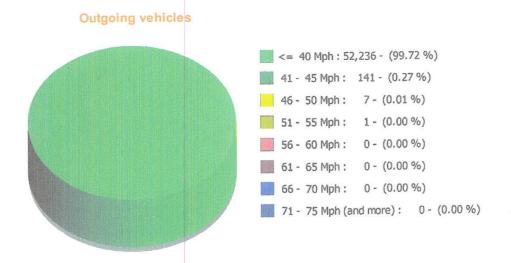
Bee friendly planter residents competition

Fawns Bridge Speed Camera Data up to 04/04/23

Incoming towards Plymouth



Outgoing towards Exeter



Town Hill Speed Camera Data from 29/03/23 to 04/04/23

Green Trace is traffic incoming to Ermington, Blue Trace is traffic leaving.

Average Speed incoming = 18.45mph outgoing = 21.00mph

