

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 23 May 2023 at 8.00 pm

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

County Councillor Dan Thomas
District Councillor Alison Dewynter
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 3

Local Elections were held on 4 May which included Parish Councils. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office were duly signed and passed to the Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Onley welcomed Cllr Alison Dewynter the recently elected South Hams Ermington and Ugborough District Councillor to the meeting.

001/2023 ELECTION OF CHAIR

Cllr Onley was elected as Chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

002/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Patricia Hannam, Mark Walker

003/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens - listed on Parish Church electoral roll (see agenda item 20 (a)) and Planning application 1323/23/FUL minute reference 014/2023.

004/2023 VACANCIES FOR FIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

No applications have been received.

005/2023 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House – *Cllr Thomas reported that SHDC will organise the annual hedge flail for the roadside hedge as they are responsible for this now being the landowner. SHDC may also be responsible for cutting the vege back around this footpath entrance when it requires it.*

In the long term there is going to be some sort of management plan for this land. There is also land at Kitterford Cross and elsewhere which is associated with the A382 MRN scheme which will be managed.

- A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) - *The cabinet agreed to defer a decision on the speed limit. A shorter 30 mph stretch may now be proposed.*

006/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER

- Ash trees in Ermington Play Park – Rob Sekula will be personally assessing the trees in the area

- Fume/Air quality test around Ermington Primary School – waiting for tests to be carried out

007/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Parishioner is concerned that landowners are being blamed for the flooding at Westlake which is not correct and the Environment Agency (EA) will talk to the local farmers. Most of the water is not from a result of farming and they do not have a legal point they can raise and this might set a precedent. It seems that DCC Highways are not picking up their responsibility. Cllr Thomas will liaise with Nick Colton at DCC Highways, to discuss this matter further and any further meeting the parishioner will be invited to attend. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Parishioner – asked if the Parish Council could write to the Environment Agency (EA) in connection with the Ludd as they are not looking at a corporate negligence against South West Water (SWW). Cllr Dunlop had attended a recent meetings and the EA is not holding SWW to account as they do not have enough funding to take court action.

Cllr Dunlop – raised the issue of lorries passing through the village and damaging property. Cllr Thomas pointed out it is difficult to enforce prohibiting lorries due to businesses in the area, but he will look at what happened when a weight limit was placed on Keaton bridge. **ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Thomas**

008/2023

(a) Election of Vice-Chair – **Cllr Owens**

- (b) Election of Committees: -
- Planning - **all Councillors**
 - Parish Rooms maintenance - **all Councillors**
 - Finance – **RFO (Clerk) & Cllr Onley & Cllr Dunlop**
 - Cheque Signatories - **Cllrs Onley, Cllr Dunlop, Creese**

(c) Election to outside associations: -

- Churchyard – **Cllr Owens**
- Ivybridge & District Association of Local Councils – **all Councillors**

(d) Parish Tree Warden – **Ro Hughes (Parishioner)**

(e) Footpaths – **Cllr Owens**

(f) Snow Warden (1 Councillors – village and remainder of parish) – **Cllr Creese**

(g) Road Warden Scheme (Chapter Eight Trained) – **Cllr Creese**

(h) Defibrillator checks – **Josie Allis (Parishioner)**

(i) Web Site Maintenance – **Clerk & D B Computers website maintenance monthly increase with effect from 1 June 2023, £45 per month**

(j) Salt/grit bin checks - Penquit, Endsleigh, Marjery Cross, Westlake and three grit bins in the village (1 Councillor) – **Cllr Creese**

(k) Devon Air Ambulance light and site checks – **Cllr Onley**

(l) Parish Council Facebook Maintenance – **Cllr Dunlop**

(m) River Warden – **Mark Walker (Parishioner)**

(n) Review of hire cost for the Parish Rooms – **RESOLVED no changes to hiring costs**

Hire charge per hour	£6.00 per hour per room.
Hire charge for booking 4 hours or more	£20.00 per hour per room.
Hire charge for the day	£35.00 per hour per room.

(o) Parish Councillors were made aware of the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 10(2)(B) wherein it states that: *“Three clear days at least before a meeting of a parish council a summons to attend, the meeting, specifying the business proposed to be transacted at the meeting and signed by the proper officer of the council, shall be left at or sent by post to the usual place of residence of every member of the council.”* The Parish Councillors **RESOLVED** to receive such agendas, minutes and other documentation by email duly sent to the email address provided. Such service of documents by email will therefore be deemed to have taken place, unless a Councillor notifies the Clerk that such has not or cannot be received and requests a hard copy.

090//2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve minutes and Chair Cllr Onley to sign the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 4 April 2023 as previously circulated.

010/2023 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

- **RESOLVED** that Ermington Environmental Group will not be charged for the use of the Reading Rooms for their meeting, During the next six months. To be reviewed at the October 2023 parish council meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

- Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan - ongoing

- Ermington Parish Council website – **RESOLVED** to pay for the link request at a maximum cost of £200

011/2023 RIVERS ERME - CLLR DUNLOP

Joint funding – RESOLVED to divide any secretarial by the seven parish council's within the group.

Cllr Dunlop had recently attended a River Erme water quality meeting. It was discovered that South West Water (SWW) are only intending to install a single drainage pipe when they dig up Modbury high street as opposed to a system to include a separate pipe for run off water which would require two.

It was decided at the meeting, a robust stance must be taken by relevant stakeholders in order to prevent this 'oversight' at a time when even a SWW report, the water quality in the Erme is unacceptable. See attached information.

Cllr Dunlop asked if the parish council would lend it's support to Modbury Parish Council's opposition to the scheme in order to try and rectify this error before it goes too far ahead?

Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED to support Modbury Parish Council.

Also attached is the River Yealm Water Quality Working Group Terms of reference and Mothecombe Beach Bathing Water Investigation 2022_Redacted

014/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 1323/23/FUL Proposal: Installation of handrail to footpath in churchyard
Site Address: St Peter and St Paul's Church, Church Street, Ermington
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0847/23/ADV Proposal: Advertisement consent for Totem Company Signage measuring 3.985mtrs (height) x 2mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs (depth)
Site Address: Lee Mill 2, North Road, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0848/23/ADV Proposal: Advertisement consent for free standing Totem Company Signage measuring 2.4mtrs (height) x 1.12 mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs depth
Site Address: Lee Mill 3 Unit 2 Central Avenue, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0846/23/ADV Proposal: Advertisement consent for freestanding Company name Totem Signage measuring 2.4mtrs (height) x 2.4mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs (depth)
Site Address: Unit 1 Central Avenue, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 1107/23/HHO Proposal: Householder application for garage conversion & link extension (resubmission of 3508/22/HHO)

Site Address: Woodcock Barn, Burraton, PL21 9JZ

Recommendation: Support with the following comments:

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.

Planning Application Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0429/23/FUL 230429

PROPOSAL: Provision of manege

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0324/23/HHO Ermington

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0907/23/PIP Ermington

DECISION: Refusal

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1227/23/ARC Ermington

DECISION: Discharge of condition Refused

014/2023 PLANNING (continued)**Appeals:- DISMISSED**

Appeal Ref: APP/K1128/W/22/3307997 Ludbrook Manor, Lane to Ludbrook Manor, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0LJ
 • The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 • The development proposed is Change of use from residential with ancillary offices and holiday annex use to a mixed use of residential with ancillary offices and holiday plus occasional event venue (max 10 events per calendar annum).

Appeal Ref: APP/K1128/D/23/3314215 2 Erme Bridge Cottages, Totnes Road to School Road, Ermington, Devon, PL21 9NN
 • The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 • The development proposed is described as the erection of a 'rear extension'.

015/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

i) To note bank balances:-

Business Account as at 09 March 2023 - £46,012.45

Business Account as at 11 April 2023 - £46,042.57

Treasurers Account as at 13 April 2023 - £64,133.65

ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/03/2022 - £21.67

Bank Interest (Business Account) 11/04/2022 - £29.12

iii) Payments – resolve to make the following payments:-

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – April 2023 salary	£721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – April 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£40.00	-	-
TJ Electrical – PAT Tests Reading Rooms	£70.00	-	-
Internal Auditor	£74.90	-	-
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance Lights, Playing Field, Ermington	£26.46	£1.26	£25.20

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None.

(v) To approve the Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves

Financial Statement	
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 March 2023:	£46,012.45
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 April 2023:	£64,133.65
Less: any un-presented cheques	£0.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques	
Total Funds =	£110,146.10
Earmarked Reserves	
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£20,000

(vi) Review spends against budget 2023/2024 to date

(vii) Annual Internal Audit 2022/2023 – no action arising from the Internal Auditor's Report

(viii) RESOLVED to approve End of Year Accounts 2022/2023

(ix) RESOLVED to confirm the dates for the period for the exercise of public rights = 5 June – 14 July 2023

016/2023 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN SECTION 1, 2022/2023

RESOLVED to approve and sign the document.

017/2023 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN SECTION 2, 2022/2023

RESOLVED to approve and sign the document.

018/2023 NEW DEFIBRILLATOR INSTALLED NEAR ERMINGTON STORE & MORE

Ermington Village fund has purchased and installed the defibrillator near the Store and More. It was RESOLVED the Parish Council will pay for the annual maintenance by the same company that service the defibrillator, with a minimum contract of four years.

RESOLVED Cllr Creese will refurbish the telephone box which houses the defibrillator in Chapel Street, to a maximum cost of £200. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

019/2023 REVIEW PARISH COUNCIL'S REGISTER OF ASSETS

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council's Register of Assets with the addition of including the speed signs. **ACTION: Clerk**

020/2023 APPROVE ASSETS POLICY

RESOLVED to approve the Assets Policy.

021/2023 EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

RESOLVED not to pursue, most of the Parish Councillors have set up their own parish council email addresses.

020/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- (a) Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens** – handrail on the entrance path to the church is being actioned
- (b) Climate Change and Biodiversity = **Cllr Onley**
- (c) Road Warden Scheme = **Cllr Creese** is downloading speed camera data, please see attached information
- (d) Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Owens**
- (e) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = **Cllr Owens**
- (f) Community Speed Watch = RESOLVED Cllr Dunlop will place the information on the Facebook page. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

021/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

- Parishioner - Reporting and removing Japanese knotweed
- Devon County Council - ORD2200970 Ludbrook Rescheduled until the summer
- Plymouth Student - Masters research into churches as community hubs
- Parishioner - Traffic on Hunsdon Road
- Parishioner - PL21 9ND, Chapel St, Ermington - Dangerous Sunken Manholes
- Brixton Parish Council - River Yealm Water Quality Working Group - Terms of Reference
- Cllr Dan Thomas via a parishioner - Re: Devon Highways - Update - ENQ231622365
- eDF – RESOLVED to remain as per the letter from eDF dated May 2023

022/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [20 June 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 20 June 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>

River Yealm Water Quality Working Group

Terms of reference



The River Yealm Water Quality Group was set up in February 2021 with representatives from each of the seven Riparian Parish Councils (Brixton, Cornwood, Ermington, Newton & Noss, Sparkwell, Wembury and Yealmpton) including local people and organisations concerned about the water quality of the River Yealm.

The aim of the group

To work together to raise concerns with the relevant authorities and plan to improve the water quality of the River Yealm, as maybe influenced by inputs of treated and untreated sewage, industrial or agricultural waste.

Tasks - The River Yealm Water Quality Working Group will include:

- Work in collaboration with the Yealm Estuary to Moor Project (YEM) and the West Country Rivers Trust (WRT) to undertake regular water sampling on River Yealm as part of the West Country' Rivers Trust Citizens Science through the deployment of a continuous water monitor and recruiting volunteers to undertake the water sampling.
(Please note that YPC are the owners of the CWM to ensure that this is fully insured. YEM will have unlimited access to and use of the data and YEM will report regularly to RYWQWG on its finding.)
- Obtain appropriate / relevant data from SWW, EA and any other relevant party. Analyse and publish agreed data and findings obtained from local water monitoring and compare with data provided by SWW and EA to evidence levels of pollution and to raise concerns with the appropriate agencies.
- Support parish councils
 - o to respond to planning applications to new developments to ensure a consistent approach to the local Planning Authority on the disposal of surface water
 - o any other matter pertaining to water quality
 - o by providing specialised data and ecological knowledge to improve matters on the river (and land within the catchment).
 - o by working together as a group of riparian parish council, where interests overlap, to become a stronger partnership
- Raise awareness of the work of the River Yealm Water Quality Working Group by engaging the public via parish magazines, local Facebook pages and newsletters.
- In collaboration with other organisations contribute to the planning of longer-term projects to include River Bathing Waters designation and River Charter for the Yealm, if that is in the best interests of the group.
- To apply for funding where appropriate – any monies will be held by Brixton Parish Council on behalf of RYWQWG and will be updated regularly.
- To update Parish Councils via representatives attending the meeting
- Share information and knowledge and collaborate with other river groups e.g. River Erme
- Formulate and update an action plan regularly.

Meetings

The group will meet on a two monthly basis via zoom.



**Ermington
Parish Council**



wembury
Parish Council



Kirstie Aldridge, Clerk Brixton Parish Council

Updated at River Yealm Water Quality Working Group meeting 15th May 2023

