

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 20 June 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, John Dunlop, Patricia Hannam
County Councillor Dan Thomas
District Councillor Alison Dewynter
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 3

023/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Cllr Ian Creese and parishioner Mark Walker (River Erme Warden).

024/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens - listed on Parish Church electoral roll.

025/2023 VACANCIES FOR FIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

Cllr Onley welcomed Cllr Patricia Hannam to her first parish council meeting. No applications have been received to date.

026/2023 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

Cllr Onley congratulated Cllr Thomas on his new role at South Hams District Council.

- Public footpath entrance opposite Plantation House – various conversations have taken place with DCC and the long-term plan for the fields. Currently DCC does not have a plan. Cllr Thomas suggested the Parish Council may consider renting the area for a pepper corn rent or the Ermington Environmental Group. There will be upkeep of the area, which will obviously require costing. Cllr Onley pointed out the land was grazing land and is now wetland, Cllr Thomas suggested contacting the DCC Ecologist. **ACTION: Cllr Onley.** Cllr Onley also pointed out that the vegetation around the finger post to the footpath needs to be cut back.

- A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) – a cabinet meeting has taken place; it was decided not to revoke the speed policy and place an alternative plan. The principle behind the decision is the road does not lend itself to the reduction in speed. The suggestion to the parish council is to purchase cameras with smiling or sad faces that will indicate to a driver they are driving too slow or fast, on the A3121 as a trial. Cllr Thomas will point out at the next meeting this is an insult to Ermington parish and that the council is happy to pay for a reduction in speed between Town Hill and Bunkers Hill. There are road safety issues as pedestrians who walk along a road have vehicles passing at 40 mph or at time faster and at the current speed limit a person could be killed or very badly injured. Cllr Thomas will report back to DCC.

- Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake – ongoing

- Weight limit Keaton Bridge – ongoing

You will recall my referring to significant problems with Children's Services at DCC. Here are the key points from the latest OFSTED inspection:

Monitoring visit to Devon children's services

This letter summarises the findings of the monitoring visit to Devon children's services on 18 and 19 April 2023. This was the fifth monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate in January 2020. His Majesty's Inspectors for this visit were Steve Lowe and Sarah Canto.

Areas covered by the visit Inspectors reviewed the progress made in the quality and impact of services for children in care, with a particular focus on the following areas of concern identified at the last inspection:

- Permanence planning for children.
- The quality and timeliness of life-story work.
- The assessment of children looked after placed with parents.
- Strategic oversight and grip on areas for improvement and oversight by senior leaders, including case audits and supervision.

This visit was carried out in line with the inspection of local authority children's services (ILACS) framework. **Headline findings** The quality of social work practice across Devon **remains inconsistent**. Most children in care experience delays in securing permanent homes. This is for a variety of reasons but is mostly due to social workers lacking the confidence, professional curiosity and guidance required to understand children's needs and plan for their futures. Weak management oversight through supervision, insufficient challenge by independent reviewing officers, gaps in recording and poor care planning are often the root cause of these delays. Quality assurance through auditing still lacks sufficient impact in driving improvements in practice and has required a significant restart.

Foster Care Fortnight - fostering communities



Foster Care Fortnight™ is The Fostering Network's annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering and demonstrate how foster care can transform the lives of everyone it touches. It is a national campaign supported by fostering services, like Fostering Devon, up and down the country. This year it's taking place from Monday 15 May to Sunday 28 May.

The goal of Foster Care Fortnight (www.fosteringdevon.org.uk/fostering-a-child/foster-care-fortnight/) is to support fostering services to highlight the need for more foster carers of all backgrounds and life experiences. We also use it as an opportunity to highlight the fantastic work of our current foster carers and use it as a platform for them to share an insight into their experiences. The theme for this year is Fostering Communities.

Please do get involved this year by sharing stories of your fostering communities by using the hashtags #FosteringCommunities and #FCF23 on social media. Remember to tag @fosteringdevon on Instagram and Facebook!

027/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER

- Ash trees in Ermington Play Park – feedback is required from Rob Sekula at SHDC who was going to personally assess the trees in the area. The parish council also request regular checks on the trees.

- Fume/Air quality test around Ermington Primary School – if high density of fumes at school drop off or picking up times, there could be time zones on vehicles passing through the area. Cllr Dewynter will clarify if tests can be carried out.

- Cycling – A Local Cycling and Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) is being developed for towns and large villages, including Ivybridge Yealmpton & Modbury, but not Ermington. It is hoped new routes connecting these settlements will be through Ermington, but any investment will require DCC involvement. An exciting free, fun-filled cycle activity day for the whole family is being held in Ivybridge on Saturday 1 July. email - project to secure future funding cycling - <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/pedal-power>

SHDC

The leader of the new Council is Julian Grant, the Deputy Leader Dan Thomas and the Chairman, Guy Pannell. The Executive has a further seven councillors and the constituent members reflect the majority party's belief in Proportional Representation. It includes the Leader of the Green Party Group and the Leader of the Conservative Party Group. The Liberal Democrat Manifesto remains the guidance. Committee Membership also reflects the need for cross-party evaluation of decisions and inclusion of all the parties.

Community Ownership Fund Round 3

Application window is 31 May until 12 July 2023.

This fund provides capital and revenue grants to support community groups take ownership of community assets and amenities at risk of being lost such as community centres, parks, pubs and post office buildings.

Funding is up to £1m. Parish councils can bid for funds in the same way as community groups.

Information at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund>

Climate Adaptation Strategy

The Devon, Cornwall and Isle of Scilly Climate Adaptation Strategy will help people better understand the risks their area might face in the future, as climate change increasingly affects the UK. It will also help them to adapt to these changes.

Strategy: <https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk/#adaptation-strategy>

Public consultation (until 30 June 2023): <https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk/questionnaire/>

Support for Residents with Energy Bills

Residents with prepayment energy meters may be eligible for up to £400 off their energy bills.

Residents who have yet to claim can take their vouchers and ID to a Post Office or Pay Point by 30 June 2023.

Pedal Power Event in Ivybridge on 1 July 2023 from 10am until 5pm at Leonards Road Car Park

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/pedal-power>

Of interest, SHDC are teaming up with Aqua superpower, ZPN Energy, Plymouth University and the Harbour Master's Association to deliver the Electric Seaway Project. This is a project to install electric charging points for small boats all along the UK's South Coast.

028/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Cllr Owen pointed out to Cllr Thomas that Japanese Knotweed is obscuring vision on the road near Town Hill opposite Cherry Knoll Cottage and needs to be addressed. RESOLVED Clerk to contact Nick Colton DCC Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Dunlop and Onley asked if Ermington Industrial estate could be used for car parking outside of tenants who rent the units working times. RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will discuss with the relevant department at SHDC and tenants. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

RESOLVED Cllr Dunlop will ask for those of the cricket club who park at the industrial estate to place a sign in the window of their car, indicating they are playing cricket in Ermington playing field. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

029/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve minutes and Chair Cllr Onley to sign the Annual Parish Council Meeting minutes of 23 May 2023 as previously circulated.

030/2023 RIVER ERME – Cllr Dunlop

A meeting is being held at Holbeton on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at Holbeton Village Hall.

Ermington sewage works has planned investment.

Cllr Onley has received correspondence saying the YEM project are offering historic data analysis to other rivers. RESOLVED to contact to ask if someone can look at the historic data for the Erme and/or Lud, and provide baseline to compare more recent data sampling to : ACTION: Cllr Dunlop

031//2023 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – Cllrs Dunlop & Mr Demming

Parishioner Steve Deeming introduced himself as a link for the Community Speed Watch in addition to Cllr Dunlop.

RESOLVED Cllr Owens to also assist with the Community Speed Watch .

RESOLVED to move the speed camera currently located at Fawns Bridge to Town Hill and to include the speed information in the Parish Magazine. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

032/2023 ERMINGTON ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (EEG) – Mark Walker

- Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan – no update from EEG

Cllr Dunlop attended the last meeting of EE where questions were raised about the Parish Council environmental policies. RESOLVED to provide an article for the Parish Magazine outlining Parish Council responsibilities, recent work to address the climate emergency, and the parish council current priorities. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

RESOLVED Cllr Hannam will be the link between the group and parish council.

033/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 1521/23/LBC Site Address: Higher Ludbrook Farm, Ludbrook, PL21 0LL

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for conversion of barn into holiday accommodation & home office

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.

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033/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 1508/23/FUL Site Address: Land At Sx 619 532, Luson, Westlake
Proposal: Installation of 24no. ground-mounted solar panels
Recommendation: Support

Reference: 0713/23/VAR Site Address: Wombat Cricket, Land off Endsleigh Park, Endsleigh, Ivybridge
Proposal: Application for variation of condition 2 (approved drawings) of planning consent 4026/20/FUL for changes to design/
construction
Recommendation: Support

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Reference: 1631/23/HHO Site Address: Woodcock Barn, Burraton, PL21 9JZ
Proposal: Householder application for conversion of garage, link extension, additional PV panels & retrospective alterations to fenestration (resubmission of 3508/22/HHO)
Recommendation: Support

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Reference: 0820/23/FUL Site Address: Penquit Mill Cottage, strode, PL21 0LY
Proposal: Change of use of land to paddock and conversion of existing part structure to stables (part retrospective)
Recommendation: Objection – no evidence of an existing building prior to work commencing detailed in Application Reference: 3180/21/FUL
Proposal: Conversion of stone barn into residential dwelling

The existing building is unlawful and needs to be removed.

History of flooding in the area and there is no sustainable drainage plan.

Highway issues for access .

Would expect a more comprehensive biodiversity plan.

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Planning application for consultation as a neighbouring parish

Reference: 1006/23/FUL Site Address: The Old Gatehouse, Yealmpton, PL8 2LL
Proposal: Change of use of land from agricultural to equestrian and retention of extension to field shelter (Retrospective)
Recommendation: No comment

RESOLVED to ask SHDC planning department (under Freedom of Information), what percentage of land in the Ermington parish has been approved for equestrian use and for a list of sites/applications agreed in the last 10 years. **ACTION : Clerk.**

033/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0628/23/ARC Ermington LOCATION: The Barn Back Lane Ermington PL21 9GW
PROPOSAL: Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Landscaping), 4 (Gates and Fences), and 5 (Lighting) of planning consent 2935/22/FUL
DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0846/23/ADV Ermington LOCATION: Unit 1 Central Avenue Lee Mill PL21 9PE
PROPOSAL: Advertisement consent for freestanding Company name Totem Signage measuring 2.4mtrs (height) x 1.2mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs (depth)
DECISION: Advertisement Consent

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0847/23/ADV Ermington LOCATION: Lee Mill 2 North Road Lee Mill Industrial Estate Lee Mill PL21 9PE
PROPOSAL: Advertisement consent for Totem Company Signage measuring 4mtrs (height) x 2mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs (depth)
DECISION: Advertisement Consent

APPLICATION NUMBER: 0848/23/ADV Ermington LOCATION: Lee Mill 3 Unit 2 Central Avenue Lee Mill Industrial Estate Lee Mill PL21 9PE
PROPOSAL: Advertisement consent for free standing Totem Company Signage measuring 2.4mtrs (height) x 1.2mtrs (width) x 0.18mtrs depth
DECISION: Advertisement Consent

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1323/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION: St Peter And St Paul's Church Church Street Ermington
PROPOSAL: Installation of handrail to footpath in churchyard
DECISION: Conditional Approval

Planning Application Withdrawn

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1107/23/HHO 231107 Ermington and Ugborough LOCATION: Woodcock Barn Burraton PL21 9JZ
PROPOSAL: Householder application for garage conversion & link extension (resubmission of 3508/22/HHO)

034/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

- i) To note bank balances:- Business Account on 9 May 2023 = £46,067.74
Treasurers Account on 15 May 2023 = £72,101.45
- ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/05/2023 = £26.17
SHDC 1st payment of precept - £8,700.00

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – May 2023 salary	£721.20	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – May 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£40.00	-	-
Zurich Insurance (Long term Agreement) renewal	£910.12	-	-
Source for Business (water supply to Reading Rooms) – 2 February to 30 May 2023 (meter read on 30 May 2023)	£92.63	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – payment to HostGator (Domain Renewal for 1 Year)	£15.67	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None.

034/2023 FINANCE (continued)

(v) To approve the Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves

Financial Statement	
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 April 2023:	£46,067.74
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 =	£110,201.39
Earmarked Reserves	
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =	£90,201.39

RESOLVED to move surpluses over £85K, to a savings account with another regulated institution. **ACTION: Clerk.**

(vi) Parish Councillors reviewed spend against budget 2023/2024 to date

(vii) The Parish Clerk's hourly rate was reviewed. RESOLVED to increase the hourly rate by 9.00%, w.e.f. 1 May 2023.

035/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- (a) Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens** – handrail on the entrance path to the church has been approved by SHDC
- (b) Ermington Park = **Cllr Onley** – Devon Air Ambulance site is monitored regularly
- (c) Climate Change and Biodiversity = RESOLVED Cllr Hannam will report at future parish council meetings
- (d) Road Warden Scheme = **Cllr Creese** continues to download speed camera data
- (e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Owens** – Footpaths 9 at Chapel Street and 11 at Fawns Farm entrance require nettle cutting. RESOLVED to check cutting plan with DCC and employ agency using P3 grant if necessary. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**
- (f) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = **Cllr Owens**
- (g) Community Speed Watch = **Cllr Dunlop** – information is being detailed on the parish Facebook etc. Cllr Owens wished to volunteer to assist with the Community Speed Watch.

036/2023 REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED to make no changes to the following documents: -
 Risk Assessment of Reading Rooms – no
 Review Health and Safety Policy
 Review Fixed Asset Register

037/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

- Email from Parishioner - Roadside Hedge at Gransmore Walk, The Spires, Ermington – *the email has been sent to County and District Councillors and will be discussed by the Ermington Environmental Group.*
- Email - Introduction of Airband to Parish Council meetingsipplepencouncil@btopenworld.com RESOLVED not to invite the company to a PC meeting
- Email from Parishioner - Traffic on Hunsdon Road – *Clerk to send the parishioner Cllr Dan Thomas's email address and DCC report a problem website address to parishioner*
- Email from parishioners – Vandalism – *police matter*

038/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [18 July 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Denis Onley

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(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 18 July 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>