

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 18 July 2023 at 7.30 pm

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

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 1

039/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from County Councillor Dan Thomas.

040/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens declared a personal interests to the following:

- listed on Parish Church electoral roll - 049/2023
- parish church grant application 047/2023.

041/2023 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 to date.

042/2023 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- *Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House*

Matters arising

Keaton Bridge has a 7.5t limit except for access. Therefore, our challenge would be proving legitimacy of access. Nick says the best thing that can be done is that a Parish Council contacts any offending lorry company via its external sign writing to ask the company to remind the driver of the weight limits.

A3121

HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) have requested another site meeting between Cllr Thomas, Cllr Croad (Chair South Hams HATOC), Cllr Hughes (Cabinet Member Highways), senior officers and Cllr Onley (at the request of Cllr Thomas). It is hoped that this will happen in late August. HATOC members were disappointed to hear of the options presented to the parish via Cllr Thomas and believe that the situation needs a proper reappraisal.

Mobile Libraries

The Cabinet at County Hall decided last week to discontinue the mobile library service, saving £217k pa. This decision has been called to the Scrutiny Committee by the Lib Dem group as we feel it's the wrong call. A further debate will now take place.

LGA: Overwhelming majority of councils want hybrid meeting powers

A new survey by the LGA to make the second anniversary of the closing of the Government's call for evidence has found that there is still overwhelming support for councils to be allowed to use virtual meeting options for council meetings.

95 per cent supported the return of powers to councils to decide for themselves whether or not to use virtual and hybrid meeting technologies for council meetings. In addition, one in 10 councils had had a councillor voluntarily step down because of the in-person meeting requirement and nine in 10 councils said they have disabled councillors who would use virtual attendance as a reasonable adjustment. The majority also said they have councillors who would use virtual attendance to manage clashes with work, childcare and other care commitments.

Air pollution around Ermington Primary School

On 28 June 2023 I met with two officers from SHDC to discuss air quality at drop off and pick up times at Ermington Primary School. The council measures NO2 levels to measure air quality on and around roads. This is done with static tubes that take an average measurement over time. They are read once a week but remain in place for long periods. These are sited in main thoroughfares in towns and are there to ensure air quality meets government standards (NO2 < 40 ppm). Spot measuring devices do exist. They are positioned and measure changes in air quality over the course of a day. The council doesn't own one. Could source one but they come with practical issues: they require a power source (can't use a generator for obvious reasons); permission is required from whoever owns the place they are situated; must be in a secure location where can't be damaged or tampered with. SHDC Officers were interested in finding out where the concern came from about air quality. Was it the school or was it the community? Cllr Onley confirmed it was raised by the parents of children attending the school. As it is the school, the environmental health officer can provide resources to measure air quality within the school and is happy to liaise with the school. Measurements in school are of CO2 levels and mould spores, not NO2. They are an indicator of adequate ventilation, not pollution, although advice includes the best times of day to ventilate to minimise pollution from roads.

<https://www.transform-our-world.org/campaigns/clean-air-for-schools-resources>

If it is the community, and part of a more general concern around traffic through the village, need to liaise with DCC about road measures that can be put in place. Generally, the favoured policy to reduce air pollution around schools is to encourage behavioural change. The main change needs to be parents taking more time out of their day to walk their children to school, even if this is just the final mile, which makes the walk safer for all children and hence enables more children to feel safe walking.

Cllr Onley asked if an enforcement officer could visit the area when children are dropped off at the start of the new term in September. ACTION: Cllr Dewynter

Some parents dropping off or picking up their children park on pavements and park on the double yellow lines at the entrance to Fawns Close. RESOLVED Ermington Environment Group to assess the situation and a walk to school plan. ACTION: Cllr Hannam

A. **Ash trees** – I raised this with Rob Sekula at SHDC and he has looked at the situation and work will commence soon.

B. **Cutting of hedge** – this is the content of the email I received from Enforcement at SHDC:

Good Afternoon Cllr Dewynter,

This case has been discussed this afternoon during our Enforcement case triage meeting, a decision has been made to close the case for the time being as no action can be taken at this time. The reason for this is that we cannot insist on the maintenance of hedge during bird nesting season, as that may constitute a criminal offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

It has been agreed that if this matter is reported again once the nesting season is over, after the summer has ended, then either this case can be reopened or a new case can be opened to investigate the issue further and take action if necessary. Apologies that we cannot take any action for the time being, but if you could pass this message on to the complainant that raised this issue initially, they may want to report it later on in the year.

News from South Hams DC that is relevant to Ermington PC:

Corporate Strategy

All Parish Councillors are invited to a meeting at 1800 hours on Wednesday 26th July 2023. This meeting will focus on developing the new council's priorities for the next four year term.

There are two options to join the meeting:

- a. **From a computer, mobile app or room device** [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- b. **Or call in (audio only)** [+44 20 7660 8338,775870035#](tel:+442076608338775870035)

Phone Conference ID: 775 870 035#

RESOLVED Cllr Hannam will be present and Cllr Onley will produce a list of items to raise. **ACTION: Cllrs Onley and Hannam**

Active Travel Survey

SHDC want to better understand the barriers which may prevent people from getting out and about by foot or on wheels. To this end, they have designed an Active Travel Survey - [Active Travel Survey](#) - which closes on 31 July 2023.

My Place, My Views

My Place, My Views is a survey completed by residents to inform about their experiences accessing facilities and services where they live. The views shared, together with information collected in Neighbourhood Plans and the mandates of our elected councillors, will directly inform the Joint Local Plan (JLP).

To explore the points raised from My Place, My Views:

- Use the [interactive dashboard](#) to view what residents said about the areas they live in by clicking on interactive maps, graphs, and tables.
- View the [Future Talking Points](#) report which provides an overview of the key recurring topics and themes raised during the consultation which will inform future work including future conversations about the Joint Local Plan.
- View the [original consultation page](#) to see comments and a Questions and Answers page.

Any questions please email ed.mannings@swdevon.gov.uk.

New online service to help tenants

Tenants who need help to act against landlords because of damp, mould and disrepair in their rented properties should use this address www.southhams.gov.uk/report-disrepair to access a new simplified online reporting system. Tenants can upload photos and will get a clear point of contact for advice and support.

Sustainable South Hams

SHDC have pledged £40 000 to support the work of Sustainable South Hams.

SHDC Drive for Cleaner Waters

A consortium comprised of SHDC, Aqua superpower and ZPN Energy plus Plymouth University and the Harbour Masters' Association has secured £3.2m of government funding to support the delivery of a marine electric charging infrastructure along the UK's south coast.

More info here: <https://southhams.gov.uk/article/10078/South-Hams-joins-forces-in-its-drive-for-cleaner-waters>

A Reminder about Waste Enquiries

- For all general waste enquiries please email Waste@swdevon.gov.uk or go to www.southhams.gov.uk/recyclingwaste and select 'contact the waste team'
- Please direct any missed collections to www.waste.southhams.gov.uk/missedcollection
- For full dog/litter bins or street cleaning (comes under litter header) requests through our report it page - www.southhams.gov.uk/report selecting the subject you require

SHDC

South Hams and West Devon District Councils have won the MJ award for best Senior Leadership Teams in Local Government. The award cited the strong focus on working on behalf of residents, making sure that high-quality, customer-focused services were delivered.

Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Parent of children aged 5-16, who receive benefit-related free school meals, are invited to take part in a range of activities over the summer holidays. The government-funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free activities, plus healthy meals during the school holidays.

This link should go to further information:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/eys/holiday-activities-and-food-programme-haf-2023/>

043/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER (continued)

Active Devon Volunteer Awards

Nominations are now open for the Active Devon Volunteer Awards. For the second year running, the awards will recognise people across Devon who go the extra mile, giving up their time and energy to make a big difference to the health and wellbeing of others in their local community, helping them to be more active. Find out more at this link: <https://www.activedevon.org/volunteer-awards/>

044/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

The Clerk was asked to contact Nick Highways DCC highways to ascertain when the knotweed will be actioned and the cutting of the verge either side. **ACTION: Clerk**

Clerk to ask Cllr Dan Thomas to request again, if a bus route could pass through Ermington as the nearest regular bus stop is near the Flete gate entrance. Also, could a review take place of the bus services within the parish. **ACTION: Clerk**

Cllr Owen has been informed that parishioners who attend the church services are not permitted to park within Ermington industrial estate. Would it be possible to ask the Enforcement Officer why people are not permitted to park there and if there a someone who is complaining? **ACTION: Cllr Dewynter**

Cllr Hannam pointed there is an environmental sign asking for no parking near the monitoring equipment, but there are several cars parked and blocking the area at the bottom of the Ermington Industrial Estate.

Cllr Creese is refurbishing the old BT phone box in Chapel Street which houses the defibrillator. Also, he has made a "Reading Room" sign which is hung at the entrance to the property.

Cllr Creese reported that have been recent occasions when a parishioner and himself have had to deal with incidents in the Reading Room toilets. **RESOLVED** to that Cllr Creese will lock the toilets as the public toilets near The Square are open. **ACTON: Cllr Creese**

045/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 20 June 2023 (as previously circulated).

046/2023 RIVER ERME – Cllr Dunlop

Various meetings have been held and EPC has confirmed support to Modbury Parish Council in connection with the programme of works that has been proposed by South West Water for Modbury for the replacement of pipes at Church Hill.

047/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 2037/23/FUL

Proposal: Application for agricultural access track to link up with 2 existing tracks (Retrospective)

Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 2063/23/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural building to equestrian with associated sand school & signage (Retrospective)

Site Address: Cleeve House, Ivybridge, PL21 0LP

Recommendation: See 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.

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 hedgerow highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

047/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 2035/23/FUL

Proposal: Provision of manege, change of use of part of agricultural building to equestrian use & associated engineering works (re. submission of 0429/23/FUL)

Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP

Recommendation: See comment

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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.

The parish council would like to know what their guidance is on the change of land for equestrian use, as there seems more planning applications being supported. **ACTION: Cllr Onley**

Planning Decision

APPLICATION NUMBER : 1631/23/HHO Ermington LOCATION : 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)

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER : 0713/23/VAR Ermington LOCATION : 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

DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER : 1848/23/ARC Ermington LOCATION : The Roost, Clickland Farm Ermington PL21 9JY

PROPOSAL : Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 3 (Stonework) and 4 (Slates) of planning consent 0324/23/HHO

DECISION: Discharge of Conditions - SPLIT DECISION

048/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

i) Bank balances:- Business Account on 9 June 2023 = £46,097.08
Treasurers Account on 14 June 2023 = £65,997.89

ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/06/2023 = £29.34

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – June 2023 pay & working at home allowance (includes backdated pay increase to 1 May 2023)	£842.26	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – June 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-
Community Heartbeat – annual support 01/06/2023 – 01/06/2024 Ermington Telephone Box, Chapel Street, Devon, PL21 9LP (D00000018693)	£126.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – HostGator \$143.86 (£110.24 plus £3.03 sterling transaction fee) Hatchling plan which supports hosting for one domain name – ermingtonparish.com	£113.27	-	-

(iv) Grant Request – Ermington Parish Church handrail = discussion ensued and due to guidance from NALC a grant can not be given. RESOLVED Clerk to notify the applicant of the grant. **ACTION: Clerk**

048/2023 FINANCE (continued)

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 June 2023:		£46,097.08
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 June 2023:		£65,997.89
Less: any un-presented cheques	001553	-£40.00
	001554	-£92.63
	001555	-£910.12
	001556	-£15.67
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00
Total Funds =		£111,036.55
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£89,978.13

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

(vii) Parish Councillors discussed the situation of the money held with Lloyds Bank, as the maximum of £85,000 should not be held with any one bank. Under the FSCS the first £85,000 of your savings are protected if the bank, building society or credit union goes bust.

RESOLVED to retain what is necessary to run the parish council for the financial year and move the remainder of the money to another bank/building society. The Clerk circulated information on interest rates with other banks and building societies. Councillors to consider what amount of money to be transferred and ideas they have on what financial organisation should be used. RESOLVED to place on September 2023 agenda. **ACTION: Councillor/Clerk**

049/23 RESOLVE TO WAIVE THE COST OF THE HIRE OF THE READING ROOMS FOR RIVER ERME COUNCILLORS MEETING

RESOLVED to waive the cost of the hire of the Reading Rooms for the meeting.

050/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- (a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = Cllr Owens – pet service to take place on Sunday 23 July 2023. Cream teas to take place in August.
- (b) Ermington Environmental Group, Erme Climate & Biodiversity Plan = Cllr Hannam – meeting of the Ermington Environmental Group to take place on 8 August 2023.
- (c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllr Creese continues to download speed camera data, which can be viewed on the parish council FaceBook page. RESOLVED to purchase another pole for the speed camera. The highway near Fernham is not in a good state of repair.
- (d) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Owens continues to monitor the footpaths.
- (e) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = Cllr Owens – no update.

051/2023 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW) – Cllr Dunlop and Steve Deeming (Parishioner)

One person is being trained tomorrow; it was confirmed two people can carry out a community speed watch. The main problem is speeding down Town Hill, which is difficult to monitor. Various sites are being assessed for CSW to use, but it takes time to register with Devon County Council. In addition, it would be advantageous for a survey to be devised for all parishioners to complete a survey about speeding in the village.

RESOLVED the CSW will be a separate group within the parish and report to the council when necessary.

Survey to parents at the school in connection with speeding in the village – RESOLVED the CSW group to work with the school.

RESOLVED the group can access the printer and laminator owned by the parish council for producing posters etc.

051/2023 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH (CSW) – Cllr Dunlop and Steve Deeming (Parishioner)
(Continued)

Cllr Onley was disappointed that Devon County Council members have not yet agreed the parish request for reducing the speed limit on the A3121, which would hopefully slow down motorists entering the village, but Cllr Onley has been invited to a meeting with DCC Cabinet and Cllr Hart.

052/2023 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

No amendments.

053/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Parishioner - School Warning Lights
Parishioner - trees over road opposite Leat House
SHDC - 1508/23/FUL - Development Management Committee Meeting Notification 26th July 2023
DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - KEATON BRIDGE TO IVYBRIDGE ROAD, Ermington (TTRO2351693)
Citizens Advice South Hams - Grant - Thank You Letter
DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - MOOR CROSS TO UPPATON LANE, Cornwood, Shaugh Prior, Ermington, Sparkwell (TTRO2351561)

054/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [5 September 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Denis Onley

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(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 5 September 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>