

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 5 September 2023 at 7.30 pm

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

County Councillor Dan Thomas (from 8.40 pm to 9.00 pm)
District Councillor Alison Dewynter
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 5

055/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

056/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Owens declared a personal interest; he is listed on Parish Church electoral roll - 065/2023.

057/2023 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.

058/2023 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- *Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House*
- *A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) – site visit with representatives from DCC has recently taken place. The request to reduce speeding to 30 mph on A3121 will now go cabinet in November 2023. Also, options for off road footway opposite Town Hill to PROW to be explored.*
- *Potholes in Westlake and Lusson and flooding in Westlake*

Highways teams thanked for swift clear-up after storm.

Storm Antoni left our Highways teams with an extensive clear-up operation over the weekend of 5 - 6 August.

Strong winds of up to 50mph kept teams busy with call outs to more than 50 incidents of trees or branches down which were either blocking, or partially blocking, roads. Councillor Stuart Hughes, Cabinet Member for Highway Management, has thanked colleagues for their efforts to re-open roads as quickly as possible to keep Devon moving.

- Enforcement Officer requested to visit the school when children are being dropped off at Ermington Primary School, at the start of the new term in September. **ACTION: Cllr Dewynter**
- Clarification requested from SHDC, as to why an Enforcement Officer is visiting Ermington Industrial Estate on a Sunday. Is someone complaining? – Cllr Dewynter understood that the area will not be patrolled by an SHDC Enforcement Officer on a Sunday. Cllr Dan Thomas will speak to his contact at SHDC. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

A. Dog waste bins

Teresa and I have been communicating about dog waste bins in Ermington Playing Fields. There are currently two waste bins in the fields, which can be used for dog waste as well as general litter. Teresa has requested a third bin to be located near the exit from the fields to “The Spires”. I have proposed this to the councillor in charge of bins at SHDC. Council policy is that no new bins are supplied in the district but redundant bins can be moved. The councillor concerned is conducting a review so if a bin is found to be under used, it could be moved to this site.

On the same theme, full litter bins can be reported here:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/report?fbclid=IwAR3b2kxOCCjbDS7qd-kCu5LLZB-Tu-wGMSj8HdeKp9eqRCjkavzM6BaYgn0>

B. Ash trees

When I asked the tree officer when the work on the ash trees with die back was scheduled to happen, he said that this work has been done.

C. Cutting of hedge

Enforcement of height of hedge Church Road Ermington PL21 9NT. This is being allocated to an officer to investigate. Reference number is 028091.

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

1. Corporate Strategy

SHDC would like to thank all of those who contributed to the meeting in July. Contributions are now being used to shape the corporate strategy. More information to follow.

2. Let's Talk Teens and Pre-teens

These are online support sessions aimed at parents and carers that offer the chance for a chat about some of the challenges facing young people today and to find out about tools available to support them.

The dates for the sessions are:

- Tuesday 19 September (Teenagers)
- Thursday 21 September (Pre-Teens)
- Tuesday 26 September (Teenagers)
- Thursday 28 September (Pre-Teens)
- Tuesday 3 October (Teenagers)
- Thursday 5 October (Pre-Teens)

Please circulate information about the sessions to residents of your wards. Sign up at this link: www.devon.cc/letstalk

3. Rural Crime

Police and Crime Commissioners from around the South West have launched a survey to explore how crime is affecting rural communities. They have requested that the link be shared with rural communities:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RuralDC>

A parishioner pointed out that parking in Fawns Close is an issue, especially during picking up and dropping off at school time. Also, drivers park on double yellow lines at the entrance to Fawns Close which is dangerous.

Cllr Onley stated that Livewell Southwest are responsible for monitoring the parking at Fawns Close and SHDC are responsible for ensuring that drivers do not park on the double yellow lines at the entrance to Fawns Close.

Cllr Dunlop asked if the school could be contacted to ask them to inform parents not to park on double yellow lines at the entrance to Fawns Close and to be respectful to those living at Fawns Close. Also, to ask parents not to leave their vehicle engines running. **ACTION: Clerk**

The parish Community Speed Watch (CSW) Coordinator reported there is a keen group in the village, which is focusing on Town Hill. Currently the group can only do speed checks on those coming up Town Hill and not down. Twenty-three speeding incidents have been reported. The group have written to Devon and Cornwall Police, the Chief Constable and Vision Zero SouthWest as follows: -

As CSW coordinator for the Ermington team, I am becoming increasingly disillusioned with the effectiveness that a small team, alongside Parish Council detectors/recorders, actually exerts on speeding through our village.

Whilst the CSW team are volunteers and clearly cannot be at the Town Hill or any roadside continuously the recorder/detector on Town Hill has that capability.

Its results are promulgated at every Parish Council meeting and show, every time, that there is a significant disregard for the 20mph speed limit. There have been averages up Town Hill of 24.97mph, down Town Hill of 27.48mph, top speed down Town Hill of 42mph and up Town Hill of 45.00mph - the down hill one being beaten last night by 2 black BMWs racing each other at a speed that should be verified by tonight's Council meeting but seemed to be at least in the 50s judging from the required braking to stop at the junction. This was followed by excessive wheelspin as both vehicles entered the A3121 into a 40mph limit.

Ermington CSW has had 2 hourly sessions on Town Hill monitoring up hill traffic. We are waiting for D&CCSW to add a monitoring downhill option. In those 2 sessions, in those 2 sessions, 23 drivers were speeding and reported.

Control of the 20mph limit both ways on Town Hill will dictate the speed of traffic through the village.

CSW clearly cannot interact/remonstrate with speeders and, as such, has not received any abuse. But many villagers have sought to bring to the attention of errant drivers the fact they are clearly speeding... and they have been abused. Simply a call to 'Slow Down!', especially by adults accompanying children, have resulted in abuse.

We have the case of an older person who was walking through the village and was hit by a wing-mirror. It was reported, but with no evidence what will happen, except for the incident to be logged as yet another statistic? What caused anxiety for that person was the fear that they could have been walking a grandchild to the shop when they were hit.... a purely ordinary activity for members of a family to take part in.

Town Hill is a walking route for children and parents to school. Some parents are scared to do this. It is also a route through the village to the shop, Parish Rooms, Church, dog walkers for all ages. These people have also expressed concern for their safety - have they not the right to be safe on these roads??? Some parishioners are frightened to leave their homes, especially at night-time. I live on Town Hill and, as with other residents on Town Hill, I park my vehicle on the other side of the road. I am totally unsighted in crossing the road from an uphill perspective, except that I can hear vehicles changing into 3rd as they progress up the hill. So, I don't step into the road...thankfully my children are all grown up and I don't have grandchildren ...yet.

A family on Church Street has sadly decided to sell up and move away...the reason given? '...speeding and inconsiderate drivers..'

Through the village, cars have been hit as impatient drivers work their way through narrow streets. Ermington is a rat-run between the A3121 from Plymouth and Ivybridge and the A38. In May, a weekly count put the number of vehicle movements (both ways) through Ermington at 16,000.

060/2023

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors (continued)

You may be aware of the Parish Council campaign to reduce the speed limit of 40mph to 30mph on the A3121 along the bottom of Town Hill to make it safer to walk to the public footpath along the river and then on to the bus stop on the Modbury road and safer for parishioners who reside on the A3121. It seems that Devon County Councillors might have finally decided to ignore the 'directives' of their officers who have refused this. The refrain from these officers appeared to be that change was only possible if someone was killed... I cannot take that assumed statement as seriously meant, but if so what value for human life?

I have read reports on the Ivybridge Police Office webpage regarding anti-social behaviour by young people in Ivybridge. I have yet to see any police officer in Ermington dealing with anti-social behaviour by errant drivers. I am aware of the staffing and financial issues put upon forces all over the country, but at the end of the day, from a legal and moral point of view, a crime is a crime. When it affects individual and community life in a small village and puts life at risk, then it certainly is a crime.

I have written to the Police Commissioner to express my concerns and invited them to come for a cup of tea and a cake in my garden which abuts Town Hill. I await a reply with interest and anticipation.

I have written to Vision Zero South West as I am interested in the provision of speed cameras that they and Devon and Cornwall Police have been involved in - just to note informally that the Parish Council might consider financial support for the placing of such a device on Town Hill.

I have no idea whether you would be the right person to be receiving this communication. If not, I apologise for taking your time and would ask that you forward it to anyone in your organisation that might have an interest/input with my concerns.

Thank you,

A parishioner raised concern about the speeding on the A3121. Cllr Onley informed them that a meeting has recently taken place with Devon County Council representatives and cabinet members are trying to help with reducing the speed in the village.

Cllr Onley pointed out there was a plan that the Town Hill junction would be moved out further and the hump removed, but new highway works are due at Kitterford Cross. Therefore, the money that was allocated may be used at Kitterford Cross instead of the work at Town Hill.

Parishioners who are DCC foster parents have had to walk the children along the road to Ermington Primary School and wish to inform the parish council of their safety concerns in addition to informing DCC and Cllr Daniel Thomas.

061/2023

APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 18 July 2023 (as previously circulated).

062/2023

PLANNING

Appeal reference: APP/K1128/W/23/3323793

Site Address: Yeo Farm, Ermington Road, Ivybridge PL21 0LF

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Application reference: 0757/23/PDM

Description of development: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No. dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q (a+b))

Appeal reference: APP/K1128/W/23/3320840

Site Address: Yeo Farm, Ermington Road, Ivybridge PL21 0LF

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 - APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78 Application reference:1042/22/PDM

Description of development: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 1No. dwellinghouse (Class C3) and for associated operational development (Class Q (a+b))

062/2023 PLANNING (continued)**Planning Decisions:**

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2317/23/TEX Ermington LOCATION: Spirebrook Chapel Street Ermington Ivybridge PL21 9NE
 DECISION: Tree Works No Objection Raised

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1044/23/TCA Ermington LOCATION: Post Office Cottage, The Square Ermington Ivybridge PL21 9LP
 DECISION: Tree Works No Objection Raised

APPLICATION NUMBER: 1508/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Land At Sx 619 532 Luson Westlake
 DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2037/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Strashleigh Farm Ivybridge PL21 9JP
 DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2063/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION: Cleeve House Ivybridge PL21 0LP
 DECISION: Refusal

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2461/23/ARC Ermington LOCATION: The Roost Clickland Farm Ermington PL21 9JY
 DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

APPLICATION NUMBER : 0820/23/FUL Ermington LOCATION : Penquit Mill Cottage Strode PL21 0LY
 DECISION: Conditional Approval

063/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Treasurers Account on 15 August 2023 = £64,455.64
 Business Account on 10 July 2023 = £46,128.40

(ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) July 2023 = £31.32

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – July 2023 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
Parish Clerk – August 2023 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – July 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – August 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-
DALC and NALC affiliation fee and DALC service Charge	£242.42	£329.42	£213.00
eDF – Air Ambulance Lights, Playing Fields, Ermington	£45.93	£2.19	£43.74
Ivybridge And District Association of Local Councils – annual subscription	£7.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr I Creese for replacement plastic sheet for the noticeboard at Westlake	£31.39	-	-
Source for Business – services at Reading Rooms, Ermington	£46.15	-	-
PKF Littlejohn LLP review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2023	£252.00	£42.00	£210.00
Cllr I Creese – refurbishment of the phone box where a defibrillator is stored and replacement plastic sheet on noticeboard at Westlake	£131.39	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None

063/2023 FINANCE (continued)

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 10 July 2023:		£46,128.40
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 August 2023:		£64,455.64
Less: any un-presented cheques	001559	-£126.00
	001623	-£45.93
	001624	-£242.42
	001625	-£7.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00
Total Funds =		£110,162.69
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£89,741.34

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

(vii) Transfer of money £85,000 > to an alternative bank/building society – RESOLVED to transfer £54,000 to The Cambridge Building Society. **ACTION: Clerk**

(viii) Financial Standing Orders 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 Cllr Owens to verify reconciliation. **ACTION: Cllr Owen**

064/23 REMEMBRANCE DAY - PURCHASE OF THE PARISH POPPY WREATH

RESOLVED the Clerk to purchase the parish council poppy wreath and pass to Cllr Owens. **ACTION: Clerk**

065/23 REVIEW CODE OF CONDUCT AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS POLICIES

RESOLVED to make no amendments.

066/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

(a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = Cllr Owens – churchyard has been cut. A bat watch will take place on 20 September 2023 at 7.30 pm.

(b) Ermington Environmental Group, Erme Climate & Biodiversity Plan = Cllr Hannam – Cllr Hannam – a meeting took place on 22 August. The group has raised concerns about vehicles and parking at school drop off and pick up. There is a need for the group to obtain public liability insurance. The Biodiversity Group is planning events. The communal gardens project is ongoing. Support is needed to have an energy local group. Cllr Onley pointed out, if there are any formal requests for support, there must be a project plan submitted so it can be discussed at a parish council meeting so decision(s) can be made. The Erme Climate & Biodiversity Plan, which was presented to the Parish Council in December 2022, still needs to be completed and Cllr Hannam is assisting in its development.

(c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllr Creese - the data of the August 2023 records from the speed cameras was circulated. Most vehicles travel at 30 mph when they travel over Fawns Bridge. One of the speed cameras is to be sited near the bottom of Town Hill.

Minor potholes to be repaired in the parish by Cllr Creese at the end of September.

(d) Assessment of Parish footpaths = Cllr Owen reported the footpath from Burraton to be trimmed back in September.

(e) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = Cllr Owens – no update.

067/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

eDF – monthly energy payment £27 starting on 13 September 2023

Parishioner email - Additional Dog Waste Bins – Cllr Dewynter has investigated the possibility of a new bin. This is not possible, but waste bins can be moved so Cllr Dewynter will put this on his list and if a bin is found to be redundant elsewhere, it could be reallocated.

Parishioner email - Church letter to PC – re. solar panels

Parishioner email - height of The Spires hedge

2 x Parishioners – branches of trees in a road hedge are growing over the telephone lines – owner of hedge was contacted by Clerk and owner advised parishioners to contact BT.

Parishioner – near miss Bunkers Hill

068/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [3 October 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Denis Onley

.....
(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 3 October 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>