

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 3 October 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): 11

069/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from County Councillor Dan Thomas.

070/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

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

071/2023 VACANCIES FOR FIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

No applications received to date.

072/2023 ERMINGTON COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH/DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE REPORT - speeding traffic through village.

Cllr Onley welcomed police representative Tim Wills, the Devon and Cornwall Neighbourhood Beat Manager based at Ivybridge Police Station.

A parishioner who is one of the five members of Ermington Community Speed Watch pointed out the issues of the community speeding issues e.g., narrow streets, pedestrian safety, volume of traffic, but he wished to acknowledge the response of Devon and Cornwall Police particularly Paul Madge the Geographical Devon Supervisor Road Safety Operation, Devon and Cornwall Police. Two police documents were referenced – national police chiefs council speed policy enforcement guidelines and the duty of the police to enforce the law. There is an acknowledgement of speed enforcement, but police have budgets and statutory obligations, but they have the right to uphold the law.

Priority is put with the driver to drive to the speed limit. The speed limit of 24 mph (20 mph plus 10% to bring the limit to 24 mph) is dangerous up and down Town Hill. Town Hill is well marked; it has a speed camera which flashes the vehicle's speed, but speeding still happens. Why is speeding in Ermington not recognised by the local police as antisocial behaviour. One of the things that Paul Madge is trying to get new recruits to carry out speed monitoring in Ermington and enforcing travel regulations.

The parishioner referred to Devon County Council (DCC) Safer Devon document available on the DCC website. He was appalled when it was reported by a DCC officer stated, it would take a death to get something done and hoped it would not be their child.

The main questions are:

- what does the community do if not being heard
- does the community want to be heard
- does it want to stand up and be heard and who is listening.

Tim stated that the neighbourhood beat manager is Charlotte Matthews and suggested it would be effective if a special development unit could practice in the parish and he would email the relevant personnel.

Cllr Onley would like assistance with dealing with speeding on the Woodlands Road Ivybridge to Beech Road and Lee Mill Industrial, Hunsdon Road and A3121. The parish council has been trying to address the issue of speeding for many years but is finding it difficult to get assistance.

**072/2023 ERMINGTON CSW/DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE REPORT - speeding traffic through village
(continued)**

Cllr Hannam enquired where the money from fines goes. Tim was not sure, but Cllr Owen pointed out it goes to central government.

Parishioners are very concerned for the safety of their foster children when they walk them to the primary school from their home along the section near Plantation House. When they walk the children Devon County Council do not seem to worry about it. The three principles to consider are enforcement, engineering and education, which are important. The data recorded by the speed camera located at the bottom of Town Hill which they saw, recorded two hundred and sixty vehicles and 31 mph was recorded, they stressed most of the vehicles were turning up Town Hill. This is concerning, as it is recording speeds that are acceptable. If the speed camera could be moved, it would record a different result.

Cllr Creese pointed out the speed cameras cannot be moved as a pole and no vegetation in the area is required.

Cllr Onley spoke about the recent site meeting and was hopefully the Devon County Council are taking the situation seriously.

A parishioner was concerned that the work carried out by Cllr Thomas, will be undermined by the recent recordings of the vehicles.

Cllr Onley asked Tim if there were issues on the highway and was there any link with the Devon County Council Highway. Tim responded there was no link, but trainee police could monitor situations. Tim pointed out that social media is used to inform other road users of police presence in an area.

A parishioner noted in the recent parish magazine there was an article about a parishioner having a near miss. The parishioner fears going out as there is an issue with the speed of vehicles down Bunker Hill where they live. The speed bump near the primary school does not have any effect on reducing vehicle speed. In addition, the noise of some motorbikes is deafening and today a bike rider did a wheelie from Town Hill to Bunkers Hill.

A parishioner has seen a huge HGV lorry driving along the road from Ivybridge to Ermington. Cllr Onley pointed out that hauliers can be reported to the police. Please take down registration etc. and report.

A parishioner pointed out that if you are standing on A3121 the speed of some vehicles could suck parishioners in. Chicanes could be introduced in the village to reduce speed.

Cllr Hannam thanked Tim for attending and stated that the speed camera is useful, and the interpretation of data can be used to show that 30 mph is achievable on the A3121.

Tim was disappointed Ermington felt let down but will email contact details for the parish council to PCSO Charlotte Mathers.

**073/2023 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 Luson and flooding in Westlake*

The decision to close the mobile library service has been sent back to this month's Cabinet by a Scrutiny Committee. Cabinet will be asked to reconsider the decision, particularly in the light of its previous failure to consider the cost of leasing vehicles as an alternative to purchasing new ones as the existing fleet declines. Mobile Libraries are an important part of the fabric of our rural communities and once lost, we won't see their return.

On specific parish related business, I have spoken to Chris Brook, Director of Assets at SHDC, and reiterated our understanding vis a vis Sunday traffic enforcement (or lack of) at the units.

073/2023 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)

The cabinet agenda for October has come out, but Ermington A3121 is not there, so I assume it will go to November's meeting.

I have had initial discussions with the Cabinet Member for Transport at Plymouth City Council around the 3 Bus Service and the possibility of an Ermington connection. He is meeting the bus companies and will start the conversation with them. He agrees that it would be mutually beneficial for Ermington to be better served, which is positive news.

074/2023 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER

- Clarification requested from SHDC - why is an Enforcement Officer visiting Ermington Industrial Estate on a Sunday – *Cllr Dewynter understood that the area is being patrolled by an SHDC Enforcement Officer during the week and the cricket club etc should be able to park in the area on a Sunday.*

A. Affordable housing

I have been asked a question about affordable housing in this ward. I apologise, but I will not be able to answer this until the next meeting but have approached SHDC's lead member for housing, Cllr Denise O'Callaghan for information.

B. Traffic Around Ermington Primary School

I requested that the area around Ermington Primary School be patrolled at drop off and / or pick up times during the first two weeks of September. I received the following report from parking enforcement:

Thank you for contacting us regarding parking enforcement. An officer patrolled this location on 14th September and found it to be all clear.

C. Clearing of Footpaths on Playing Fields

I have been approached by Ermington Environmental Group about the footpaths on Ermington Playing Fields, which are overgrown. They have asked me to ascertain who is responsible for each path and to ensure that they are cleared. The earliest I can meet is 19 October, but I hope to tour the site with their representative. I will then clarify ownership and ensure that SHDC are requested to clear the paths they are responsible for.

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

1. Corporate Strategy

The executive committee of SHDC has agreed to moving to the formal consultation phase for developing the new Corporate Strategy. The online consultation portal is now live and can be found at: ourcorporatestategy.commonplace.is/

2. Recycling Container Roll out

The Waste team are working hard preparing for the upcoming service change to roll out the Devn Aligned Service kerbside recycling system across the South Hams district. The date the new system will go live is yet to be confirmed but from last week, containers were being delivered to households who do not yet have them so that they will be ready when the new system does start. More details to follow.

3. St Ann's Chapel

Eight properties being built at St Ann's Chapel are being handed over to the council by the developer at the end of the month to be used for social housing. The properties will be managed by the council's letting company, SeaMoor Lettings. To be confirmed is the date of a drop-in meeting to be held so that SHDC can talk to the community about the homes and advise when they will be advertised.

4. Improving Follaton Arboretum

The long term project to make lasting improvements to Follaton Arboretum in Totnes is close to completion. A video highlighting what work has been done can be found here: [watch it here on our YouTube channel.](#)

5. Seamoor Lotto

The Council operates a community lottery which raises funds for local good causes. The Seamoor Lotto raises about £27000 a year for 115 good causes. So, if there are local community schemes that are looking to generate a regular month income source, advise them to check [Seamoor Lotto](#).

6. 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

7. Funding to save community spaces

Applications for the latest window are open until 11.59am on 11 October 2023. More information [here](#).

075/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Cllr Hannam asked if a cycling route to Ivybridge could be developed? Cllr Dewynter replied that several meetings have taken place, but the Bittaford to Ivybridge cycling route has taken priority. If a duplicate route could be identified, it may be possible to designate one of the routes as a priority for cyclists, but this requires a lot of work. It seems at this moment in time that drivers are prioritised over cyclists.

Cllr Onley asked that due consideration be given to the parish council's view(s) on planning applications be taken seriously, as it excludes democracy views. Cllr Dewynter asked that the parish council inform her on points.

076/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Resolved to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 5 September 2023 (as previously circulated).

077/2023 ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB

Ermington Cricket Club proposed a detailed business plan and costings for the provision of a Field Sports Clubhouse and new management arrangement for Ermington playing field which had been circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting. The plan etc can be viewed on the Ermington Parish Council website.

Standing orders stood down at 2036 hours

A parishioner circulated an updated proposed plan, which contained more details to parish councillors and parishioners present.

The proposal is now for a building backing onto the hedge dividing the public open space from Ermington Park, and not adjacent to the existing Cricket Club store as previously presented.

The Ermington Cricket Club and Ermington Playing Field Improvement Committee (EPIC), which is composed of both Ermington and Modbury cricket clubs representatives and a person from Ermington, are asking for a £60,000 grant and £700 ongoing per annum from the precept to manage and maintain the playing field and building through setting up an CIO and obtaining a lease from SHDC.

Cllr Onley advised that the parish council had already said it would not commit to a transfer of the ownership of the park or paying ongoing costs when the plans were previously discussed, as residents already pay for the Park maintenance through their Council Tax payments to SHDC. It was also pointed out there is already the Ermington Hub and Reading Rooms which are under used and could be utilised for activities such as table tennis which is included in the cricket club plan as a means of raising funds to finance the running costs of the new building, but there appears to be little demand for.

077/2023 ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB (continued)

A parishioner pointed out it could be used by the community and the cricket club would be developed to encourage youth to play, with regular coaching sessions in addition to the matches, as other villages such as Cornwood and Dartington are able to benefit from.

Cllr Hannam asked for clarification on how income would be generated to secure the maintenance of the building for the future and do any women play ?

Parishioner pointed out, currently the playing field is maintained along with Modbury Cricket Club and it is hoped that rent from new additional sport clubs and activities based in the new building would be used.

Cllr Onley asked how many players in the Ermington Team are from Ermington parish? Parishioner stated normally about 50% of the players in the Ermington Team are from Ermington parish and some used to live in the parish and have continued to play since moving away.

Cllr Owen asked if Modbury Parish Council would be providing capital or revenue funding towards the plan? Parishioner stated this was not known and advised that the tractor used to cut the playing field grass prior to matches is owned by Modbury Cricket Club.

Cllr Onley pointed out that the request is a lot of capital money and considerable ongoing commitment for few parishioners who participate in playing cricket at the Ermington playing field which is not a dedicated cricket ground as is the case in Cornwood and Dartington but a multipurpose playing field and Park for all. Parishioners complain that they cannot park their cars when matches are being played, other Park users such as dog walkers and families having picnics do not wish to use the Park when matches are being played, also the planned toilet would not be accessible to parishioners at other times unless the building was opened by the EPIC. It seems both Cricket Clubs want to use the Park more frequently and this would turn it into a cricket ground which the community do not support, and they would be better advised to work together to seek a field to develop into a cricket ground on the outskirts of Modbury Town or Ermington Village.

Cllr Dunlop wished to support these comments.

Cllr Owens pointed out that the parish council is not entirely against a building, but the financing and management arrangements need to be acceptable to the Parish Council and broader community.

Standing orders reinstated at 2100 hours

Cllr Onley – asked the parish councillors if they supported the proposal presented, none did so and therefore stated it is not supported by the Parish Council and any future proposals would need to address the issues raised by the Councillors for the request to be given further consideration.

078/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 2930/23/LBC

Site Address: Barn Park, Penquit, Ivybridge, PL21 0LU

Proposal: Listed Building Consent for removal and replacement of existing stained timber double glazed windows

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.

078/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 3161/23/FUL

Site Address: Budlake, Ermington, PL21 9NG

Proposal: Construction of a new replacement dwelling to replace proposed barn conversion under 2767/17/FUL

Recommendation: Support

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The following planning application was discussed but had not been placed on the Agenda. This meant that any decision could not be final. Deferral to the next meeting would mean that the decision would be outside the statutory time limit for response. The rules allowed the Clerk as the Proper Officer to respond under delegated authority in line with discussions at this meeting. The plans would be placed on 8 November 2023 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Reference: 2620/23/FUL Site Address: Bandvulc Remoulds Ltd, Gillard Way, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9LN

Proposal: Erection of Solar Photovoltaics system and additional security fencing

Recommendation: Support

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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 Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2035/23/FUL Ermington DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER: 2212/23/ARC Ermington DECISION: Split decision

APPLICATION NUMBER: 3286/22/FUL Ermington DECISION: Conditional Approval

079/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Treasurers Account on 13 September 2023 = £71,703.02
Business Bank Account 9 August 2023 = £46,162.52

(ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/08/2023 = £34.12

079/2023 FINANCE (continued)

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – September 2023 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – September 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – Grant to support publication of the parish magazine. RESOLVED to grant £1,000. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

Financial Statement

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 August 2023:		£46,162.52
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 September 2023:		£71,703.02
Less: any un-presented cheques	001626	-£252.00
Plus: any un-banked cash/cheques		£0.00
Total Funds =		£117,613.54
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£97,361.54

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

(viii) Cllr Owen verified the bank statements and reconciliations, no issues raised.

(ix) RESOLVED to transfer £54,000 to NatWest rather than The Cambridge Building Society. **ACTION: Clerk**

080/2023 EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2022/23 AND NOTICE OF CONCLUSION OF AUDIT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority: The smaller authority should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests

Notice of conclusion and further information can be viewed on Ermington Parish Council website.

081/2023 DISCUSS AND DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2024/2025

RESOLVED that Cllrs Onley, Dunlop and Clerk will meet and draft a budget to be presented at the next parish council meeting for approval. **ACTION: Cllrs Onley, Dunlop and Clerk**

082/2023 CONSIDER PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025

Cllr Dunlop suggested that the precept for 2024/2025 is reduced by 5%. Further discussion took place, it was RESOLVED to discuss at the next meeting, after the budget for 2024/2025 has been confirmed.

083/2023 REVIEW GDPR POLICIES:

Data Protection Impact Assessment
Information and Data Protection Policy
Privacy Notice For staff, Councillors and Role Holders
Public Privacy Policy

RESOLVED not to make any amendments.

084/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

(a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens – a barn dance is being held in the church on 13 October. The remembrance service is in the process of being organised.**

(b) Ermington Environmental Group, Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan = **Cllr Hannam was not able to attend the recent meeting, but a Parish Councillor did attend. The firework evening in the village was discussed, no decision was made to either support or object to the display.**

(c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese circulated the speed camera data for the period 6 September to 3 October 2023. Tarmac has arrived for potholing. The pothole on Town Hill just below the telegraph pole needs repair.**

(d) Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Owen – no update.**

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

085/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

Email from parishioner - Electricity box Corner of cricket pitch unlocked – Actioned by Cllr Onley.
Email from Secretary of Ermington Village Fund re. Firework night grant – email sent to Secretary of Ermington Village Fund by Clerk, requesting the group completes a parish council grant form which had not been received prior to the meeting.
DALC AGM and Conference – RESOLVED to pay half the Clerk's cost to attend the event with Holbeton Parish Council.

086/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on [Wednesday 8 November 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm.

Meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 8 November 2023

Agenda and minutes can be viewed on the Ermington Parish website
<http://www.ermingtonparish.com/parish-council>

To report highway issues - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>
SHDC website to report issues - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>