

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 8 November 2023 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), John Dunlop, Patricia Hannam, Ian Creese
Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 9

087/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter and Councillor Robert Owens.

088/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Dunlop declared a personal interest in agenda item 10. Finance (iv) - Ermington School Fundraising Association – funding towards replacing adventure playground.

089/2023 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.

090/2023 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- *Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House*

- *Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake – Cllr Creese pointed out that during the recent storm his car was severely damaged and asked if DCC would compensate for the repairs. Cllr Thomas would seek clarification.*

ACTION: Cllr Thomas

Cllr Thomas was thanked by a parishioner for £200 to the PCC towards the church hand rail.

Cllr Thomas thanked Cllr Creese for the information he had submitted, in connection with flood reliance.

The Devon County Council link is:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/report-flooding-to-property/>

The Devon County Council webpage for their funding scheme for property owners, is :

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/flood-resilience/property-flood-resilience-funding-scheme/>

Residents in flood areas should be advised to prepare stock of sand bags and encourage people to regularly check local drains, add 'flood gates' and cover any airbricks or other gaps that might allow water in and report flooding incidents.

A3121 Speed limit (variation of DCC policy) – below is an extract from the minutes of the DCC Cabinet Meeting Wednesday 8th November 2023 10.30 am - <https://democracy.devon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=4710&x=1>

South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee - Site Visit A3121 Ermington (request for reduction in Speed Limit)

The South Hams Highways and Traffic Orders Committee at its meeting on 3 February 2023 considered the matter of the A3121 in Ermington (request for reduction in speed limit to 30mph), as had been requested by Councillor Thomas under Standing Order 23 (minute 29 refers). The Committee had RESOLVED 'That Cabinet be requested to consider a departure from policy, to revoke the existing 40mph Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on the A3121 in Ermington, thus lowering the majority of the stretch to 30mph by virtue of an existing system of street lighting, with the remaining stretch (currently TRO 40mph) requiring a new 30mph TRO'.

090/2023 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)

The Cabinet considered this matter at its meeting on 8 March 2023 and **RESOLVED** that the matter be deferred pending a site visit with the Cabinet Member for Highway Management to meet the Local Member and officers including the Police and Road Safety Team.

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management at the Cabinet meeting on the 10 May 2023 reported on the site visit held on 20 April 2023.

The Cabinet subsequently **RESOLVED** that the matter be deferred, and officers be asked to develop proposals or consider alternative solutions for the route to address the concerns raised (10 May (Minute *327 refers)).

Following on from the report to Cabinet on 10 May 2023, and South Hams HATOC expressing a desire for another in-person site meeting, officers have continued dialogue with the local Member and community and a further site visit held.

The Cabinet Member for Highway Management to report on the site visit held on 25 August 2023.

Recommendation

That Cabinet agrees a departure from Policy in principle, subject to the Director for Climate Change, Environment and Transport agreeing engineering measures to encourage compliance with any new speed limit. Any engineering measures would need to be funded by the community.

Decision: **RESOLVED** that a departure from Policy, in principle, be agreed, subject to the Director for Climate Change, Environment and Transport agreeing engineering measures to encourage compliance with any new speed limit. Any engineering measures would need to be funded by the community.

Minutes:(Councillors Biederman, Brazil, Dewhirst. Thomas and Whitton attended in accordance with Standing Order 25(2) and spoke to this item).

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The Cabinet Member thanked all those who attended the site meeting. Councillor Thomas and the Parish Clerk had shared the concerns of the community and explained that residents wished to feel safe whilst using this route on foot, with the importance of a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph (from the existing 40mph limit) being reiterated.

A number of engineering options had been discussed including options to improve pedestrian facilities off carriageway, along with changes to the carriageway layout that would provide motorists with visual cues to reduce their speed in line with any reduced speed limit. The Cabinet noted that the Local Highway Officer would work with the community on such measures.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Hughes, **SECONDED** by Councillor McInnes, and **RESOLVED** that a departure from Policy, in principle, be agreed, subject to the Director for Climate Change, Environment and Transport agreeing engineering measures to encourage compliance with any new speed limit. Any engineering measures would need to be funded by the community.

Feedback on Issues Raised by the Parishioner Council or parishioners for action by me as District Councillor:

A.Affordable housing

As detailed by Cllr O'Callaghan in her briefing in September, the council is directly investing in the following:

1. 11 new temporary homes in Sherford (using funding from the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund). Initially these are for use by Ukranian and Afghan refugees but when they are not needed for that purpose, they can be used to ease SHDCs wider temporary housing need.
2. 8 affordable rent homes in St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury (prioritised for those with a local connection to the Bigbury area).

Therefore, none of the newly acquired homes the council can provide are in our ward of Ermington and Ugborough.

As well as these homes, other affordable housing comes through the developer led model. Currently 30% of new developments are supposed to be affordable according to the Joint Local Plan, although private housing developers often claim that this is not 'viable' and manage to get the number of affordable houses reduced. Planning permission for developments in Ermington and Ugborough will have been given under the previous administration.

Community led schemes tend to give a much higher proportion of affordable homes to benefit the community. The new administration is keen to support community-led-housing and wish to work with Community Land Trusts and similar groups to gain more genuinely affordable homes. Ermington does not have a Community Land Trust but could consider setting one up.

More information here:

<https://www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk/about-clts/what-is-a-community-land-trust-clt/#:~:text=Community%20land%20trusts%20%E2%80%93%20or%20CLTs.energy%20schemes%20and%20conservation%20landscapes.>

If people are in housing need, they can contact the SHDC housing department and add themselves to the Devon Home Choice list. However, there is long wait on this list, unless the situation is deemed urgent, and limited choice of where people will be housed. There are currently 845 households on the register in housing need with a further 680 who wish to be considered for social housing but are adequately housed at present.

Housing needs are bound with those in band A being the most urgent because they are currently living in the most unsuitable homes. Those in the lower bands will be in less urgent need and could wait months or years.

B.Clearing of Footpaths on Playing Fields

Ermington Environmental Group would like to have the grass that is encroaching across the footpaths around Ermington Playing Fields, cut back to the edges of the path. These paths are on three sides of the park. The group would also like the fourth side of the park to have a path so that a circuit can be made that is accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs. I sent this request to the relevant officer at SHDC on 19 Oct 23. The reference is ENQ/70228. I am currently chasing their reply.

News from South Hams DC that is relevant to Ermington PC and residents:**1. SHDC Place and Economy Team update**

Along with my report, I have attached the SHDC Place and Economy Team update, which shows activities being undertaken by the team. I would like to draw your attention to the section on Rural England Prosperity Fund grants as it is possible that local groups might wish to apply for one of these.

- The 4 grants available are:
 - Decarbonisation Grants
 - Clean Diversification Grants
 - Agri-Tech Adoption Grants
 - Community Resilience Grants
- Details are available through the Council's website, along with guidance documents, policy documents and the online application forms at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/budgets-and-finance/budgets-and-spending/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0>

2. Recycling and Waste Container Roll out

The Waste Team believe that they have completed delivery of new recycling containers to all homes currently on blue and clear sack collections. Collections of the sacks will continue for the meantime (new service should be rolled out on 20 Nov 23) but the team have requested that residents who are missing a full set of containers or food caddies, contact the waste team or order containers on-line here: <https://waste.southhams.gov.uk/containerorder>

3. Corporate Strategy (which lays out the aims and ambitions of SHDC)

The corporate strategy consultation has been extended until 30 November 2023 : ourcorporatestategy.commonplace.is/

2. Council Tax Reduction Consultation

Residents can have their say on the proposed changes to the SHDC Council Tax Reduction Scheme (which reduces council tax for low-income households) for 2024/25 at this link:

counciltaxreductionsouthhams.commonplace.is

The consultation is open until 28 Nov 23.

3. Control of Dogs

Everyone in the district can have their say on the control of dogs within the South Hams, including where they are allowed to go, where they need to be on a lead, beach access and restriction and penalties for fouling.

The consultation is open until 14 November online at:

shdc-dogcontrol.commonplace.is

4. The Ivybridge Economic Plan Consultation is now live.

The consultation would like views from people who live or work in or locally to Ivybridge. The plan will determine the future of Ivybridge and where investment will be targeted. Please could the link be circulated widely and as many people as possible encouraged to complete the survey?

<https://myivybridge.commonplace.is/>

The following events are also being held and support would be much appreciated:

Focus Group Workshops			
The Bridge	6pm-8.30pm	22nd November/10th January	BOOKED
The Watermark-Upstairs	6pm-8.30pm	15th November/6th December	BOOKED
Stalls			
The Watermark -Foyer/Library-	10am-4pm	29th November/24th January	BOOKED
Glanville Mill Car park Thursday Market	10.00am-4.00pm	9th November/ 18th January	BOOKED
Ivybridge Christmas Festival	4pm-8pm	24th November	BOOKED
Fusion Christmas Gift Fair Market		9th of December	TBC

7. Electoral Registration Canvassing

During November SHDC canvassers will visit all properties who are required but have not yet returned, a canvass form relating to electoral registration. This is a statutory process that needs to be completed in advance of publishing a new electoral register on 1 Dec 23.

8. 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

Update from the Place and Economy Service

UKSPF(UK Shared Prosperity Fund)/IUK (Innovate UK) & REPF (Rural England Prosperity Fund) highlights:

Marine Projects

- Vessel repowering projects (Salcombe Water Taxi and Lower Dart Ferry) are on schedule– final two days of power requirement testing due to take place in mid-November to ensure we capture a range of tidal conditions. Data will be made available by University of Exeter researchers by December.
- External consultant (Shane Vallance, Moor Economic Ltd) now contracted to carry out a South Hams district-wide marine economic study. Inception meeting took place on 9th October. Waterfront site visits and scoping planned to take place by December, with final report due at end of February 2024.
- Carbon footprint study for Salcombe Harbour – work ongoing to draft appropriate privacy notices and look into option of an opt-out facility ahead of commissioning a full carbon footprint study.
- End-of-life boat recycling pilot – positive discussions at initial meeting on 10th October, which brought together all partners: Creekside Boatyard, Dartmouth; South Devon College; environmental consultancy Blue Parameters; and SHDC. A site visit to Creekside Boatyard is due to take place over next couple of weeks to confirm project timetable and scope.
- The Electric Seaway (TES) project (IUK) – quarterly claim and progress report for July-Sept 23 submitted to DHLUC. Report to Quarterly Monitoring Officer meeting on 12th Oct in Christchurch, was received positively – happy with project's progress. Our focus continues to be on confirming licence agreement with Duchy of Cornwall and lead partner Aqua superPower. Partners will be presenting to the UK Harbour Masters' Association at a webinar on 31 Oct.

Agri projects

- Minimal outputs reported to date, but project late in starting. Update meeting on 18th Oct, no major concerns raised, further quarterly review meeting scheduled on 24th Oct. Now able to refer participants in Agri-Tech scheme to REPF grant scheme for support with investment in new tech trialled on farms to date. They are working with BIP to deliver tailored business support, with specialist agri business support also available. 2 agri engagement events due to take place this FY.

Wider business and community support projects

- Libraries Unlimited (decarbonisation plans), some concerns over customer journey and whether participants (and council) receiving value for money based on current methodology. Following discussions with the delivery partner, a revised programme has been agreed which we believe will pull the project back on track
- Apricot Centre exceeding output targets so far
- A further contract has now been awarded to the Apricot Centre to deliver a food and drink distribution project. This will see farmers and food and drink producers linked in with local market places, hospitality businesses, and customers, reducing food miles, and creating a sustainable network for food and drink distribution.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Fortnightly meetings arranged with DCC M&E team for updates and to discuss any issues.
- First quarterly reports submitted to M&E team by partners, which they seem happy with
- First quarterly reporting meeting with all partners + members on 31st October

Rural England Prosperity Fund grants

- Further to the UKSPF programme, the Government awarded a further £838,000 of capital funding to SHDC through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This fund has a more narrow scope than the UKSPF programme, needing to align with our UKSPF activities, and having a strong focus on decarbonisation, clean growth and business diversification and community activities. The investment plan was submitted in November 2022, and the funding was approved in April 2023.
- The 4 grants available are:
 - Decarbonisation Grants
 - Clean Diversification Grants
 - Agri-Tech Adoption Grants
 - Community Resilience Grants
- Details of these schemes are available through the Council's website, along with guidance documents, policy documents and the online application forms at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/budgets-and-finance/budgets-and-spending/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0>
- Further to these grants, part of the funding (approximately £300,000) has also been allocated for the delivery of active and inclusive travel infrastructure. However, the programme is flexible, and funding can be allocated to projects where demand is high, and reduced from projects where demand is low.
- Promotional activities are being coordinated to raise awareness of the programme to our businesses and communities. This information will be shared with members. With the grants having gone live in the last few weeks, specific communications activities are being developed to drive traffic to the Council's website. 2 email addresses have also been set up to help funnel grant enquiries to the Place and Economy team. Members are welcome to share these addresses with organisations that are interested in the grants:
 - businessgrants@swdevon.gov.uk
 - communitygrants@swdevon.gov.uk

Freeport

- Solar lighting manufacturer with interest in Langage site, met with Chris Shears in late September on site. Strong local corporate social responsibility (CSR) ethos. Now in discussions with land agent for Langage.
- Boat-building business with temporary premises at Langage potentially interested in waterside location for final fit-out – liaising with Chris Brook + potentially Assets Team for anything suitable before exploring other commercially available sites.
- Major EV battery recycling company looking likely to locate expanded processing plant at Tees Freeport, due to more suitable boat access + volume of hazardous chemicals needed to complete their processing. Discussions ongoing to retain R&D presence in Devon, ideally at or near to current Tavistock facility.

Strategic Business Visits

- First visits in the diary:
 - 12pm, 6th December, How Now Dairy near Ugborough
- Hoping to confirm 24th January at South Brent Community Centre ASAP
- Requested 2 dates per month for next 12-18 months with SLT so as to have a programme of these visits in the diary.

S106 allocations and expenditure for open space, sport and recreation 16th September 2023 – 13th October 2023:

South Hams

Funds allocated

Group	Project	Amount	Date reserve request approved
Halwell & Moreleigh Parish Council	New picnic bench at Moreleigh Recreation Ground	£640	Pauline Henstock – 22/09/2023 Chris Shears – 27/09/2023

Funds spent

Group	Project	Amount	Date paid
Parklife CIC	Enhancements to SHDC owned Hangar Marsh open space, Salcombe	£700	27/09/2023
Ivybridge Town Council	Improvements to Filham Park, Ivybridge	£7,837.64	04/10/2023

Broadband support:

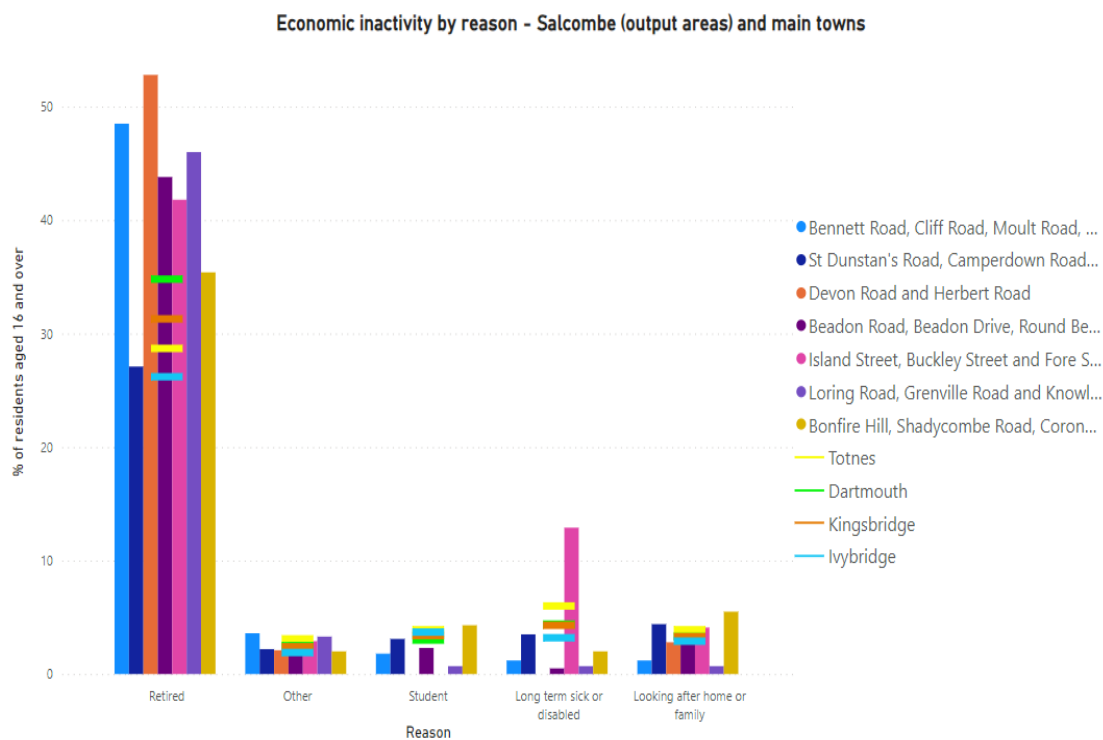
- Nothing to report in South Hams

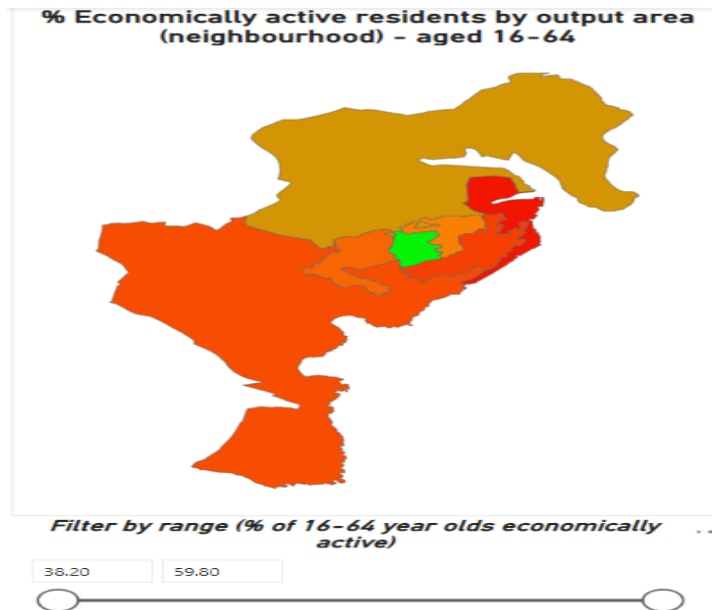
Community Economic Plans (CEP)

- Young people’s steering group recruited. Presented the CEP project to the 6th form assembly at Ivybridge Community College and recruited students to take part in the student steering group. Student steering group to meet fortnightly on a Thursday morning to create young peoples survey and marketing campaign.
- Mylvybridge Consultation platform in final stages. Steering group, Place and Economy and Comms team provided feedback on business survey. Steering group to provide feedback on resident’s survey and comment map next week.
- Economic profile now interactive on Mylvybridge through Microsoft PowerBI.
- Ivybridge Community Economic Plan logo finalised and approved by steering group and SHDC staff. Other marketing materials are being finalised.
- Delivery timeline for Salcombe finalised and waiting for approval from Town Council. Estimated launch date March 2024.
- Engagement started with Dartmouth Chamber of Commerce working group.
- Meetings with Kingsbridge Town Council provided further engagement with the project and a keenness to start the CEP asap.
- Huq SHDC dashboard ready for utilising once staff have received training.

Data Analysis

- Ivybridge power bi presentation further developed and added to Common Place web page.
- Salcombe power bi presentation in progress (example of charts below – economic inactivity by reason and economic activity %)
- Training to commence with HUQ (footfall software)





Visitor Economy - Health of Town Centres

- MyPlace town marketing campaign activities – planning for Christmas campaign is in progress with Communications team, to include web page, social media and advertising. Meetings with town and parish councils in SH to be organised for mid-October.
- Visitor Economy – supporting the Local Visitor Economy Plan project, which is being managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership, including attendance at recent workshop in Paignton. Update to be circulated to members/SLT shortly.

Other Work the Team is Leading

- Work started on settlement hierarchy mapping task for annual monitoring report (for DM team)
- Help being provided to prepare a list of retail completions and commitments at 2023 monitoring point (for DM team)
- Reports have been completed for Executive regarding the UKSPF programme.
- Contracts have been approved for the food and drink distribution UKSPF project and land management consultancy project.
- Contract soon to be approved for the construction skills UKSPF project
- Meeting with Dartington Trust to identify opportunities for assistance.

092/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

A parishioner – traffic issues are continuing to be a dangerous problem in the village. The speed vehicles are travelling, and fumes can be smelt as you walk through the village. Cllr Onley replied that work is being carried out by the Parish Council. He also pointed out some householder's hedges are a problem, as vegetation is over the highway which obscures drivers' visibility. The parish Council can campaign but is not able to force parishioners to cut hedges and we can only ask for parishioners to be considerate. In addition, the parish council are not able to enforce highway ideas as Devon County Council are the enforcing authority.

A parishioner pointed out that traffic is a significant issue, and there are no pavements within the area from the village to the Ermington Store and More.

092/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors (continued)

A parishioner asked if a grant of £708.00 could be granted to the Ermington Village Fund for shortfall in the firework display at Ermington. The event went well, and 300 parishioners were present. The cost of the display was £2,250. Details had been passed to the parish councillors by the parishioner.

A parishioner asked the parish council to pick up the deficit, in the same way as last year for the village firework display.

A parishioner asked if there could be a sign at Hollowcombe roundabout stating the road to Westlake is a single road and another sign stating the direction to Ivybridge. Due to the installation of the roundabout, traffic is using the single road to Westlake as a shortcut to Ivybridge. The parishioner also pointed out the number of horse riders using the lanes around Westlake has increased.

Cllr Hannam pointed out that the parish council have contacted SHDC in connection with the number of equestrian planning applications being approved and the reduction of farmland.

A parishioner pointed out that flooding at Westlake has significantly increased, there is now a stream running off Tod Moore and culverts in the area are blocked. Cllr Thomas wish to encourage parishioners to record flooding which will result in Flood Resilience Team assessing the area -

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/floodriskmanagement/document/summer-2023-newsletter/>

To report flooding of the highway and blocked drains contact Devon County Council's Highway Customer Service Centre on **0345 155 1004** or visit the [Roads and Transport webpage](#). Office hours are Monday to Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturdays 9am – 1pm. For emergencies outside of these hours call **01392 383329**

For any flooding on major trunk roads (the M5, A30, A38, A35 and A303) contact the Highways Agency on **0300 123 5000** (24 hour service)

For enquiries about flood warnings contact the Environment Agency's Floodline on **0345 988 1188** (24 hour service)

For general enquiries about Main River or flooding from the sea contact the Environment Agency on **03708 506 506**

For all other flooding enquiries contact the Devon County Council Flood Risk Management Team on **0345 155 1015** or email floodrisk@devon.gov.uk.

Preparing for a flood - Please refer to Devon County Council and Environment Agency web pages for advice on what to do before, during and after a flood. In the first instance of flooding and sandbag requests contact your local District or Parish Council to be directed to any local sandbag supplies that may be available.

A parishioner – asked if the bus service to and from Ermington could be improved. Cllr Thomas pointed out that he had informed the parishioner he was working on the reduction of speed on the A3121 as a priority, but once this was dealt with he would then concentrate on the bus service.

A parishioner – when the road improvements were carried out at Kittaford and Hollowcombe there was a plan to make the junctions e.g., at Town Hill and Bunkers Hill would be made safer but this has not been done. Cllr Thomas stated the money earmarked for the improvements to the junctions may have been used on the work at Kittaford and Hollowcombe.

Cllr Onley asked for an update on the works to the junctions from the designated officer for the Safer Roads Fund works - **Action - Clerk**

093/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 3 October 2023 (as previously circulated).

The Parochial Church Council asked if the parish council would support the following project:

The Parochial Church Council has decided that the church should become a net-zero carbon organisation by 2030, the same year as Exeter Diocese. We intend to do this by the installation of solar panels at the top of the churchyard. These will supply electricity to the church for lighting and heating. It is our intention to make any excess electricity available to parish households by way of an Energy Local Club at a reduced cost to that currently charged by the main providers.

I understand that this project would contribute to your obligations required by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act. Therefore, we would very much like the support of the Parish Council for the project.

The two parts of the project that we think will be of greatest interest to the Parish Council will be the solar array at the top of the churchyard and what we plan to do with the electricity generated that is in excess of the church's requirements.

We plan for a 20kWh PV system. This would be achieved from 56 solar panels mounted in two arrays on the slope at the top of the churchyard. This is an area of ground that is too steep for graves. The dimensions of each array would be approximately: length 25 meters, depth 2.5 meters and height of 2.8 metres when the array is set at the maximum winter angle of 60 degrees. The arrays would be noticeable from the field between the church and the village square. However, we have already planted trees that when mature will reduce their visual impact and can plant more. I believe this part of the churchyard is not easily visible from the rest of the village.

The electricity generated would be carried via an armoured cable through the churchyard to inverters and a battery within the church. It would supply the required lighting and localised pew-heating.

We have purposely planned for a system that will generate more power than the church requires. The reason for doing this is we wish to help the village towards achieving carbon net-zero. We plan to do this by forming an Energy Local Club.

For those who do not know, an ELC is a Cooperative made up of a local group of households who form the Club and make use of the local clean renewable energy generated in this case by the Church. Those in the Club will benefit from cheaper electricity than that supplied by a national supplier. The amount of excess electricity likely to be available from the church will provide a supply to around 10 to 15 households within the parish. This may seem a small number to benefit from the scheme, but the scheme would be open to expansion in the future if further Generators become available.

[To obtain the necessary funds for the project we will be hoping to seek grants from a number of providers as well as financial help from the church's supporters.]

To take the project forward will require planning permission from both South Hams District Council and the Diocese of Exeter. To help achieve these we ask for the support of the Parish Council, which is why we are here this evening. By support I mean the Parish Council is happy with the project and will support our application for planning permission from South Hams District Council.

The panels will go situated at the back of the churchyard and on a slope which is too steep to use for burials.

The PCC would be very happy to try and answer any questions.

A plan was then circulated to the parish councillors and parishioners present.

Cllr Onley stated that the parish council could not preempt a planning application, and the main issue is likely to be the churchyard is in the Conservation Area & the church Grade 1 Listed, therefore, suggested to have a Pre-Planning Consultation Meeting with SHDC Planning Officers, asap and certainly prior to spending further more substantial sums of money on a Planning Application.

Cllr Hannam stated in principle is a good idea, but what level of consultation will there be with parishioners, and could this happen before the planning application is submitted?

PCC pointed out that it was decided to inform the parish council first then we will consult parishioners.

094/2023 PRESENTATION TO ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL BY ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH - ERMINGTON'S PROPOSED FUTURE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY (continued)

Cllr Dunlop asked if a DEO could be obtained prior to the planning application being submitted? The member of the PCC pointed out consultation has taken place with the installation company, and it could be feasible.

Cllr Creese – if the installation is not obtrusive, I do not see this as a problem.

Cllr Onley – asked if the PCC have a view on future intentions when the churchyard is closed for burials, as the location of a solar array within the site may prevent handover of the churchyard maintenance to the Parish Council or District Council, and require a complex and expensive legal separation of the site from the churchyard, or a memorandum of understanding or other legal document regarding respective responsibilities, if transfer is possible.

Cllr Onley – in principle we support the church for net-zero carbon by 2030 and Energy Local Club, but the parish council will need to consider the planning application when it is submitted. He suggested that a preplanning application meeting with SHDC is advisable as a first step.

095/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 3161/23/FUL

Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (amended address) Construction of a new replacement dwelling to replace proposed barn conversion under 2767/17/FUL

Site Address: Linhay Barn, Budlake, Ermington, PL21 9NG

Cllr Onley pointed out there were currently two objections, relating mainly to whether previous permissions were still current, which SHDC would need to decide on, and over twenty supporting comments of the new proposals, which could be seen on the SHDC planning portal, and were discussed.

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.

The following planning application was ratified: 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

Planning Decisions

APPLICATION NUMBER : 1520/23/FUL Ermington DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER : 1521/23/LBC Ermington DECISION: Conditional Approval

APPLICATION NUMBER : 3449/23/ARC Ermington DECISION: Discharge of condition Approved

096/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Treasurers Account on 13 October 2023 = £70,615.29
Business Bank Account 11 September 2023 = £46,205.65

(ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 11/09/2023 = £43.13

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – October 2023 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – October 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-
DALC = Clerks attendance at DALC AGM on 27.09.2023	£54.00	£9.00	£45.00
Reimbursement to Clerk – purchase of Microsoft 365 Personal (1 year subscription)	£59.99	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk for the purchase of parish council poppy wreath	£20.00	-	-
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance Lights, playing field = 25 July – 20 October 2023 (88 days)	£55.88	£2.66	£53.22

(iv) Grant Request(s):-

Ermington Village Fund – firework evening November 2023 – Cllr Hannam asked: whether a budget plan had been made for the event and, given the cost of tickets were the same as in 2022, how many tickets needed to be sold to break even? How did this compare to previous years? Also was it possible to know how many tickets were sold to parishioners and how many to people from outside the Parish? Concern was also raised about the environmental impact of glow sticks as they are not environmentally friendly. Why no response from previous correspondence from the parish council in connection with the use of silent fireworks.

Cllr Hannam also sought clarification regarding how much income was generated from ticket sales and how many people (including children) attended the event.

Cllr Dunlop – enquired how many quotes were received for the fireworks and why aren't silent fireworks used.

Cllr Creese – felt the event was well attended and considers the grant request reasonably.

Standing Orders were suspended: 8.15 pm

Representatives of Ermington Village Fund request a grant of £708 to cover the loss made by the recent Firework night event. The Ermington Village Fund (EVF) did not have fireworks during COVID, last year was the first year for a grant request. Due to cost of living crisis, the entrance fee was kept the same. Ivybridge fireworks were held on the same night, which may have had an impact on the attendance. The fireworks were not noisier, as the same firework company was used. Silent fireworks were investigated, but the cost of them is significantly more.

Cllr Onley asked: According to the Bank Balance presented Ermington Village Fund have £5,580.48 in their Bank Account. Taking account of the shortfall still leaves the Village Fund with considerable funds, and no financial plan of why additional grant money is needed was presented.

Parishioner: The plan in the Grant form is the list of future events to Easter Egg Hunt and Summer Fair.

Standing Orders reinstated at 8.25 pm

Cllr Onley: Any Grant request should be accompanied by a budget which explains how the money would be spent and presented in good time before the event in question.

Also, no information was provided about fundraising from the catering provided on the night. Having run this event for so many years we would expect some financial figures to be available, even if only a comparison of the best and worst attendance and profit and loss figures from previous years.

096/2023 FINANCE (continued)

Cllr Hannam asked whether 300 people bought tickets or whether this was the attendance figure including children & 'free' places, and why the value of the tickets sold presented did not match the stated 300 ticket sales, at either £4 or £4.50?

Cllr Dunlop: The event is a chargeable event and despite the representations that the entry fees were frozen, by the very nature of having a fee, this may be excluding parishioners who may be unable to afford the entry fees.

Cllr Onley: The request does not address our requests to reconsider using 'silent fireworks' which people can enjoy without excessive noise when it comes to people with health conditions such as PTSD and children with autism and anxiety, the elderly and also domestic and wild animals in the surrounding areas, and we have regularly mentioned the RSPCA recommendation that display noise should not exceed 90db, as opposed to the normal fireworks currently used some of which are followed with a very loud bang and can be up to 120db after ignition. Also, to address the request we also made in 2019 to change to using only plastic free and metal free fireworks.

Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED not to give a grant. EVF were asked that prior to further events, to liaise with the parish council in a timely manner, to provide information required by the Parish Council before the event and address the issues previously raised by them.

Ivybridge & District, Ring & Ride – RESOLVED not to give a grant.

Ermington School Fundraising Association – funding towards replacing the adventure playground. RESOLVED not to give a grant. **ACTION: Clerk to email the primary school to say we are encouraged by their comments that they want to involve the school more in the life of the village and enquire of the Multi Academy Trust what use the community has of the facility.**

Grant Application for Ermington Environmental - £600 (Public Liability Insurance & hire of 3 x Hub and necessary resources e.g., flip chart and movable display boards – RESOLVED to grant £600. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 September 2023:		£46,205.65
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 October 2023:		£70,615.29
Less: any unrepresented cheques	001634	-£1,000.00
Total Funds =		£115,820.94
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£94,820.94

(vi) Parish Councillors reviewed spend and income to date, against budget 2023/2024 – no issues raised.

097/2023 AGREE INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2023/2024

RESOLVED to ask P Clapham. **ACTION: Clerk**

098/2023 AGREE BUDGET FOR 2024/2025

RESOLVED to agree the budget for 2024/2025.

099/2023 DISCUSS PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025

Discussion took place, at it was suggested to reduce the precept by 6.7% but to RESOLVE at December 2023 meeting.

100/2023 REVIEW OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:

Grant Awarding Policy and Procedure
Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme
Training Policy
Complaints Policy

RESOLVED not to make any amendments.

101/2023 CLEANING OF READING ROOMS

RESOLVED to organise cleaning of Reading Rooms monthly. **ACTION: Clerk**

102/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

(a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens – no update.**

(b) Community Speed Watch (CSW) report - National Road Safety Week 19th - 25th November 2023 = **Cllr Dunlop – parishioner has circulated figures from speedwatch over the last couple of months to parish councillors. Permission has been given by Plantation House for CSW to use the grass space at the front of the property adjacent to the highway. RESOLVED to grant CSW £50.00 (inc VAT) maximum to buy resources. Invoices to be passed to the Clerk.**

(c) Ermington Environmental Group, Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan = **Cllr Hannam – a talk is planned for next week. The plan is being worked on. The group are looking at nature which includes looking at evasive species and trials and the other area is engery and conservation. Cllr Onley asked if a walk to school plan could be looked at and outdoor school curriculum activities using the local environmental assets, such as the River Erme and Public Open Space to enhance the curriculum. Also to look at local groups and what their impact is on the environment.**

(d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese circulated the speed camera data for the period which is available to view on the website.**

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

(f) Footpath from Higher Keaton to Fernham = **Cllr Owens – no update, RESOLVED to remove from agenda.**

103/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Email from parishioner - Traffic issues

Email from Brixton Parish Council Clerk - Article from River Yealm Water Quality Working Group = information placed on website and noticeboards

Email from parishioner – requesting a grant application form for the Village Fund to complete re. support for fireworks

Email from Brixton Parish Clerk - River Yealm Water Quality Working Group article for the parish magazine

Email from Devon Wildlife Trust - New England Wood temporary closure

Email from Cllr Dewynter - Op Scorpion county lines

Email SHDC - Planning Inspectorate APP/K1 128/W/23/3325992: Land West of Park Hill Cottages, PL21 9NF - We have checked the documents submitted and confirm that the appeal is valid. If we later find out that this is not the case, we will write to you again.

We are now waiting for a suitable Planning Inspector to become available. Once we are able to appoint an Inspector you will be allocated a named case officer who will write to you starting the appeal and setting out details of the timetable and procedure (the 'start letter'). They will also confirm when the Inspector's site visit/hearing will take place.

Email Devon County Council - Temporary Traffic Notice - IVYBRIDGE ROAD, Ermington (TTRO2453474)

SHDC - Electoral Registration Canvassing/Door Knocking

SHDC - Register of Interests

Email from parishioner - National Road Safety Week 19th - 25th November 2023 - Your Support Please

DCC - Introduction to Community Sponsorship, Autumn 2023

Email from parishioner re: planning application 3161/23/FUL: Objection to construction of a new replacement dwelling to replace proposed barn conversion under 2767/17/FUL

104/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, at a date to be confirmed in [December 2023](#) starting at [7.30](#) pm and will be available on the homepage of the parish council website.

Meeting closed at 10.10 pm.

Denis Onley

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(*Ermington Parish Council Chair*)

Date: 18 December 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>