

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 6

105/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas and Cllr Dunlop.

106/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Patricia Hannam – personal interest in planning application Reference: 3810/23/HHO

107/2023 VACANCIES FOR FIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS - TO CONSIDER AND IF AGREED, APPROVE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR CO-OPTION ONTO THE COUNCIL

Two parishioners have expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors and will be asked to submit personal statements detailing their relevant knowledge and skills and reasons for applying, and confirming their eligibility.

108/2023 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)*

- *Potholes in Westlake and Lusson 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

- *A Zoom meeting took place with Cllr Hart and Town/Parish Councils. Cllr Onley reported on variation on the speed policy DCC have agreed to lower the speed limit which will need to be funded by the parish council at the November cabinet meeting. If speed limit is reduced it means that traffic approaching the village will reduce their speed and it is hoped the DCC will attend to the speed limit. The parish council is very appreciative of Cllr Dan Thomas help in reducing the speed in the village.*

DCC have confirmed there is no money for the original schemes to improve Penquit Lane, Bunkers Hill and Town Hill junctions to the A3121. The schemes that appeared on our original programme of works were all examined and unfortunately the only scheme left that are planned to deliver is the "bend improvement works" at Sign of the Owl Cross.

Cllr Hart has promised to send a report agreed at DCC December Cabinet Mtg on how Parishes can implement Highways improvements, for us to consider.

Lack of a bus service in the village was discussed and for a review of the service which will be added to the list for Cllr Thomas. ACTION: Clerk

109/2023 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER

- Enforcement of hedge height "The Spires" Church Road - Hedge - Enforcement ref. 028091

The enforcement office visited in November week to see if any works had been done to the frontage hedgerow now that the bird nesting season is finished and noted that nothing had changed. The hedgerow that is not being maintained is to the front of No's 1 to 7 Gransmore Walk. An inspection of the Land Registry reveals that each of these properties are responsible for the area to the front of each address.

The officer shall therefore be writing to the landowners of these 7 properties to advise them of the requirements of the 2012 planning permission for this development (application ref: 21/1425/12/F) and their evident ongoing individual breach of the hedge maintenance (required by Condition 10).

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

1. Christmas waste and recycling

Residents can check their collection dates on the SHDC website. The guide on the website should help residents know what to do when disposing of the trickier items they might have this Christmas.

2. 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

8. Citizens Advice Winter Newsletter

The winter edition of the CAB Newsletter includes important information on keeping on top of energy bills, getting help with gambling addictions and information about a campaign on behalf of private sector tenants in the district. The newsletter can be found on their website. CAB are also urgently looking for volunteer receptionists for our Totnes office at Follaton House.

110/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Cllr Owen – suggested the parish council should respond to the Peninsular Transport Consultation. RESOLVED Cllr Owen will produce a document and circulate for approval to send to Peninsula Transport at the January 2024 meeting.
ACTION: Cllr Owen

A parishioner pointed out that 38 years ago, it was pointed out by SHDC that 200 yards of their roadside hedge required cutting and if this was not carried out SHDC would carry out the work and send them an invoice. Why can't the same process be used for those at The Spires. RESOLVED Cllr Alison Dewynter will liaise with SHDC. **ACTION: Alison Dewynter**

A parishioner suggested a one-way system could work through the village to help with congestion and improve air quality. Cllr Onley pointed out the parish council will deal with reducing speed on the A3121, which could then lead to other traffic systems ideas being dealt with. Cllr Onley did point out that an air quality check has been done and there were no issues.

Parishioner – SHDC are purchasing an area from Sherford for millions to form a key freeport tax site. Will business units be built and how is SHDC going to fund the creation of the business units. Cllr Alison Dewynter pointed out that the purchase is all part of a company which includes Plymouth City Council, Dartmoor National Park, Princess Yachts etc. There is a commitment for five years and there are concerns.

110/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors (continued)

A parishioner asked if the DCC Highways report to DCC Cabinet on how Parishes can implement Highways improvements, included details of responsibility for the costs for the work and would be circulated? Cllr Onley is awaiting the report and it will be placed on the parish council website (or a link to the relevant DCC page) when received. The parishioner asked if there had been any speed monitoring from the Crooked Spire to the first speed bumps heading towards Ivybridge? Cllr Owen stated, currently there was no suitable place to carry out any speed recording. The parishioner asked if the speed camera could be placed on the pole near the Ermington Store and More. Cllr Onley pointed out that the cameras are being moved around the different areas where speeding has been identified by CSW, and the site suggested will be considered.

Cllr Hannam asked Cllr Alison Dewynter if there is any schemes being devised to be able to cycle to Ivybridge safely? Cllr Alison Dewynter has been looking at various ideas and is now trying to obtain funding. There is a small section between Ermington and Ivybridge to link the cycle path which needs to be thought through.

Cllr Onley – thanked Cllr Alison Dewynter for her support with a local planning application.

111/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 8 November 2023 (as previously circulated).

112/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 3467/23/FUL

Proposal: Application for the erection of a substation, electric vehicle charge points and associated electrical infrastructure

Site Address: Countrymans Choice Farm Shop, Endsleigh, Ivybridge, PL21 9JL

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.

Reference: 3846/23/HHO

Proposal: Householder application to create a link extension between garage and house and add windows to existing openings in garage elevation

Site Address: Teal Barn, Burraton, PL21 9JZ

Recommendation: Support

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112/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 3810/23/HHO

Proposal: Householder application for garden room to replace existing conservatory

Site Address: 1 Parsonage Cottages, Town Hill, Ermington, PL21 9LX

Recommendation: Support – the design is more in keeping with the area and better insulated than the current building.

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Reference: 3835/23/PDM

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to 2 dwellinghouses (Class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b))

Site Address: East Worthele Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JU

Recommendation: Support

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The following planning application was discussed but had not been placed on the December 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 16 January 2024 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: READVERTISEMENT (amended plans) Erection of Solar Photovoltaics system and additional security fencing.

Recommendation: Support

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113/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Treasurers Account on 14 November 2023 = £69,616.69
Business Bank Account 9 November 2023 = £46,299.24

(ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/10/2023 = £42.53
Bank Interest (Business Account) 09/11/2023 = £51.06

(iii) Payments – RESOLVED to make the following payments

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – November 2023 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – November 2023 maintenance charge for parish council website	£45.00	-	-
SLCC annual membership	£94.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s):- South Hams Community Action – RESOLVED Clerk to ascertain if parishioners use the services.

ACTION: Clerk

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 October 2023:		£46,248.18
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 November 2023:		£69,616.69
November bank interest		£51.06
Less: any unpresented cheques	001634	-£1,000.00
	001636	-£45.00
	001641	-£600.00
Total Funds =		£114,270.93
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington		-£20,000
Total uncommitted Funds =		£92,676.99

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

Cllr Hannam pointed out that a substantial amount of parish council money will be required for DCC proposed highway alterations on A3121.

114/23 CONFIRM REDUCTION OF PRECEPT FOR 2024/2025 BY 6.7% AS DISCUSSED AT NOVEMBER 2023 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED to reduce the precept by 6.7% to £16,234.

The Band D parish rate will be: £41.37
This is a decrease of in comparison to 2023/24: (£2.90)

115/2023 REVIEW OF PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED not to make any amendments.

116/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

(a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens** – the handrail is being installed and is being funded by a private donation. The heating system has failed and will cost £5,000 to repair. Electric heaters are being installed under the pews which will be linked to the solar panels in the graveyard. Carol service will take place tomorrow evening.

(b) Community Speed Watch (CSW) report = Cllr Owen confirmed weekly speed watches are taking place. A bin man was abusive and this incident has been reported to SHDC. The speed watch will recommence in the new year. Police have carried out one speed watch on Town Hill.

116/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)

(c) Ermington Environmental Group, Erme Climate and Biodiversity Plan = **Cllr Hannam** – the group are working on its plan and have consulted with Sustainable South Hams and they clarified the group cannot do everything, but to concentrate on the river and nature e.g. community garden and educational projects. The AGM is on 10 January 2024 in the Hub. Various talks are being planned for 2024.

(d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllr Creese circulated the recent speed camera data which is available to view on the website. Discussion ensued on other sites in the village to place the speed cameras, and the possibility of purchasing an additional speed camera. The speed camera near the village shop is owned by DCC and is not working, the one by the War Memorial shared with other parishes, and the remaining two owned by the parish council, which we can move around the parish. RESOLVED Cllr Creese will liaise with Nick Colton DCC Highways to organise for the camera to be repaired. **ACTION: Cllr Creese.**

RESOLVED Cllr Creese will review suitable sites for the speed cameras. **ACTION: Cllr Creese.**

Cllr Creese has carried out a survey of the grit bins in the parish, a few of the bins require to be topped up and there is a split grit bin near Russets, Westlake. The grit bin near "The Spires" needs to be replaced. Cllr Creese has spoken to Nick Colton DCC Highways, who may be able to obtain a free replacement as it is a new development.

Cllr Onley pointed out the streetlamps and road/footpath signs along the A3121 between Cherry Knoll and Plantation House are obscured by the trees growing out of the hedge RESOLVED Cllr Creese will liaise with Nick Colton DCC Highways to cut the hedges on the southern boundary of the A3121. **ACTION: Cllr Creese.**

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

117/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Email from a parishioner – re. Ermington Fireworks – November 2023 minutes were sent to the parishioner
SHDC - Appeal Start Notification - Land West of Park Hill Cottages, Chapel Street, Ermington

Email from parishioner - Christmas fair, toilet request!

Email SHDC - Re: 3161/23/FUL – Linhay Barn, Budlake, Ermington, PL21 9NG, planning application will be considered by the Council's Development Management Committee at its meeting on 13 December 2023. This will be the third application when the meeting starts at 10:00am. Please can you advise whether anyone from the parish will speak on this application - sent to Cllr Onley (Chair of EPC)

Email SHDC - Christmas waste and recycling collection dates in the South Hams

Peninsula Transport seeks your views – consultation on regional transport strategy launched

DALC - proposed changes to subscription fees in 2024/25 – no comments.

118/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the Reading Rooms, on 16 January 2024.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 16 January 2024

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>