

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Hub, Ermington Store and More on 3 June 2025 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Nicholas Toms (Chairman), Cliff Sumner, Andrew Savery,  
John Dunlop, John Messham, and Margaret Grafton

Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas  
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 11

### 021/2025 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter, Cllrs Ian Creese, Michael Knowles, Robert Owens and Denis Onley.

### 022/2025 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

None.

### 023/2025 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

Cllr Thomas has asked DCC Highwayss why the A3121 proposal at Ermington, which has been agreed, has not been implemented. Hopefully we will see changes.

### 024/2025 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

No report was received.

### 025/2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION – CLLR OWENS

No report received.

### 026/2025 FIRST PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

A parishioner on behalf of Ermington Village Fund, he wished to thank the parish council for their grant.

A parishioner raised concern about the planning approval of the incinerator based at the Ermington industrial estate. This has been passed even though the parish council have objected to it. The parishioner is concerned about hygiene etc. Cllr Toms pointed out that the parish council had written and a parish councillor was present when the planning application was discussed. The owners are now waiting for a license to be granted, to carry out the incineration of the animals. The parish council is disappointed that the many items raised were not considered by SHDC. The parishioner pointed out that his daughter is gathering signatures to submit to SHDC against the operation of the incinerator.

A parishioner was extremely disappointed that SHDC did not listen to parishioners or the parish council.

Cllr Dunlop is going to ask the SHDC District Councillor, what is the point of the parish council responding to a planning application when the SHDC does not take on board their concerns and that of the parishioners.

Cllr Toms thought that there would be an open day in the future.

A parishioner raised concerns about the volume of traffic through Westlake which is increasing. The emergency services and in particular ambulances using the road can find it difficult passing through, due to some drivers not being able to reverse and lack of passing bays which put lives at risk. Could the route be made into a no through road?

Cllr Savery suggested placing a "do not follow sat nav" on the roads leading to Westlake. To get a no through road permission from DCC would take a long time. Cllr Toms has spoken to a local landowner to place signs on their land, which has been agreed.

RESOLVED Cllrs Toms and Savery will obtain signage. Two signs at Hollowcombe roundabout and two at the road that passes the entrance to Endsleigh Garden Centre at a maximum cost of £400.00. **ACTION: Cllrs Toms and Savery**

Cllr Toms asked Cllr Thomas, why the Cornwood road in Ivybridge having traffic calming? RESOLVED Cllr Thomas will ascertain the reason fro DCC Highways. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Parishioner – could google be informed?

**026/2025 FIRST PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (continued)**

A parishioner asked why we cannot have a police presence checking the speed of vehicles in the village. The Parishioner pointed out that the speed bump at the school is too low. Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED to invite the police to a parish meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Parishioners who were present wished to express their appreciation of the work carried out by the Community Speed Watch in the village.

A parishioner was concerned about the safety of employees walking from Ermewood House to the bus stop and pedestrians who walk from the village past Plantation House as it is not safe. Cllr Thomas pointed out it is not possible to get a pavement on that road but will work with the parish council to reduce the speed of the road.

**027/2025 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 1 APRIL AND EXTRAORDINARY MEETING MINUTES OF 14 APRIL 2025**

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council Meeting minutes of 6 May 2025 (as previously circulated to parish councillors).

**028/2025 PLANNING**

**Stadning Orders Susended at 8.10 pm**

The applicant explained the background to the planning application on a brown field site.

Cllr Toms asked if the widening of entrance has been agreed. The applicant has consulted with DCC Highways.

Cllr Dunlop asked what is the definition of affording housing? The applicant stated it is 80% of market value, which is assessed by three independent agents and there will be a covenant on the property.

**Standing order Reinstated at 8.20 pm**

Reference: 1431/25/OPA

Site Address: Land At Sx 615 563, Cadleigh Manor, Cadleigh

Proposal: Outline planning permission for the provision of 5 serviced self- build/custom build plots with all matters reserved except access & layout

Recommendation: Support

**Planning Decision**

Planning Application: 2850/24/FUL

Decision: Conditional Approval

Site Address: Land At Sx 631 544, Ivybridge

Description: Erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling

0280/25/VAR Variation or Removal of Condition

Decision: Refusal

Site Address: Penquit House Farm, Penquit, PL21 0LU

Description: Application for removal of condition E (occupancy) of planning consent WB/668/73

**029/2025 FINANCE**

RESOLVED the following payments:

(i) Bank balances: -

Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access Account Bank Statement on 9 April 2025: **£21,897.09**

Lloyds Bank Community Account Bank Statement on 15 May 2025: **£8,682.40**

NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account on 30 April 2025: **£70,684.45**

(ii) Receipts: - £17.98 bank interest Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Assess

£70.81 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – May 2025 salary	£695.18	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£173.80	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website May 2025	£50.00	-	-
Source for Business – Reading Rooms 13 February – 20 May 2025 (estimated)	£137.44	-	-
Brandon Hire Station – 01/05/2025 – 31/05/2025 portable toilet playing field	£237.00	£39.60	£198.00

**029/2025 FINANCE (continued)**

(iv) To approve the Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves:

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Community Account as at 15 May 2025:	<b>£8,682.40</b>	
Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access 9 April 2025:	<b>£21,897.09</b>	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 30 April 2025:	<b>£70,684.45</b>	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£101,263.94</b>	
Less: any unrepresented payments:-	<b>-£104.90</b>	001682
	<b>-£162.00</b>	001684
	<b>-£114.00</b>	001685
	<b>-£194.00</b>	001686
	<b>-£5.75</b>	PAY
<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£100,683.29</b>	
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Repairs that may be required to the Reading Rooms, Ermington	<b>-£500</b>	
A3121 - speed reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph etc.	<b>-£10,000</b>	
<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£90,183.29</b>	

(v) To review spending and income to date, against budget 2025/2026 – no issued raised

(vi) Grant Request(s) – None

(vii) Zurich Insurance Renewal – Cllr Toms to obtain quotes from other insurance companies. **ACTION: Cllr Toms**

**030/2025 ELANCITY UK – warranty extension (speed signs)**

RESOLVED to review the situation when more information has been received from ANPR Suffolk Roadside Partnership.

**031/2025 BDW – PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LAND AT “THE SPIRES”**

To date no information has been received from the Parish Council insurance company on the insurance costs for the land.

The biggest cost would be if trees came down over the river. Parishioner has spoken to a company (ParkLife) who will assess the trees on 10 June 2025.

**032/2025 REVIEW RISK ASSESSMENT OF READING ROOMS AND HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY**

No issues raised.

**033/2025 PARISH POTHOLE REPAIR TEAM**

Cllr Ian Creese - Chapter 8 trained - Parish Council's aim to repair potholes on minor roads in the parish.

The following is required for approval:

Safety gloves x6 total cost £17.94  
 Hi-vis jackets x4 total cost 21.36  
 Steel toe cap boots x3 total cost £179.97  
 Safety goggles x6 total cost £23.94  
 Delta plus ear defenders x4 total cost £59.96  
 Safety helmets x3 total cost £20.67  
 Stiff broom x2. Total cost. £29.98  
 Devon shovel x2 total cost £39.98  
 Builders buckets x6 total cost £8.94  
 Hyundai HYCP9070 whacker plate complete with wheel kit and pavement plate £449.99  
 Fuel can x1 total cost £32.99  
 Black Jack bitumen sealer paint 5 ltr x2 total cost £65.98  
 Various paint brushes x5 total cost £30.00

Total including vat £981.70

RESOLVED for Cllr Savery to purchase the items detailed above. **ACTION: Cllr Savery**

034/2025

**REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:**

- a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = Cllrs Owens and Messham – *no report*
- b) Community Speed Watch report = Cllr Owens and Messham – *see attached report from Cllr Ian Creese*
- c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllrs Savery and Creese
- d) Assessment of Parish Footpaths = Cllr Owens – *no report*
- e) Meet Your Councillor's Clinic (25 January 2025) actions = Cllr Sumner – *no report*
- f) Feedback from the Ermington Environmental Group = Cllrs Dunlop and Savery - *no report*
- g) Ermington Primary School liaison = Cllr Toms – *no report*

035/2025

**ACTION ARISING FROM INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT** - The Practitioners Guide assertion 10, digital and data compliance, states under email management, that every authority must have a generic email address hosted on an authority owned domain such as .gov.uk or .org.uk. This makes the emails more secure. It is advisable that councillors do not use their personal email addresses for council business. Gmail is not a secure email server and is not recommended for parish councils. Your data is at risk, and I would like to see generic email addresses adopted by all councillors.

The Parish Clerk had circulated information to Parish Councillors from Mythic Beasts - new registration £71.50, renewal currently £15/year

RESOLVED – to wait until the external auditor's report is received.

036/2025

**Second Public Forum** – Questions and Comments from members of the public to Parish Councillors with reference to Parish Council business INCLUDED IN THIS AGENDA ONLY – specifically around allocated areas of responsibility and finance (**a period of not more than 15 minutes**)

A parishioner had various questions for the parish council, which they wish to have considered before the parish council takes on the responsibility of the open space below "The Spires", which they will email to the parish councillors. Cllr Toms had been informed, if the community owns the area, grants could be obtained to manage the area.

037/2025

**CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

Email from SHDC - New E-bike scheme coming to Totnes

Email - Some Thoughts

Email - Appeal against the approval change of use application unit 8a Ermington workshops

Email - Footpath from Fawns Farm to junction with Ermington Wood corner – RESOLVED the Clerk to contact Ros Davies at Devon County Council, raising the concerns from those who walk the path. **ACTION: Clerk**

Email - School buses – **County Councillor Dan Thomas has dealt with the concerns raised**

Email from SHDC - New Leader elected at South Hams District Council

Email – Dangerous Trees at Higher Keaton – **dealt with by the Clerk**

SHDC - Council secures prosecution for illegal tree felling

Meeting to discuss Local Government Reorganisation - Yealmpton Community Centre as a venue. The Community Room is free on 16th June at 7.30pm

Plymouth City Council - Local Government Reorganisation

SHDC - Longmarsh Boardwalk open as part of Saltmarsh Project

DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - STIBB LANE END TO CADLEIGH CROSS & STIBB LANE TO FARDELL, Ermington (TTRO2563772)

DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - LEY CROSS TO WHIPPLES CROSS, Ermington (TTRO2563597)

Brixton Parish Council - River Yealm Water Quality Group Website – RESOLVED not to deal with the request

037/2025

**TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIMES OF THE JULY 2025 PARISH MEETING**

It was RESOLVED that the date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1 July 2025** at the **Reading Rooms** at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.24 pm.

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(Ermington Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 1 July 2025

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

**[Draft] Community Road Warden Report.**

From ian\_creese@hotmail.com  
Draft saved Thu 29/05/2025 19:07  
To Ermington Parish Council <ermingtonparishclerk@gmail.com>

Hi Teresa,

Here is the report from the Community Road Warden for the Parish Council Meeting.

Following on from resiting one of our speed camera to outside the Village Shop. You will see that the data shows that it has been effective in lowering the speed of vehicles both entering and leaving the village.

The average incoming speed is 17.54mph and leaving the village is 18.64mph.

The break in the display was due to the internal batteries going flat until I was able to instal the solar panel to recharge them. Thanks go to Cll Andrew Savery for being available to pull on the rope at the right time! It will be interesting to see if the initial impact of the speed camera will continue.

As far as the offer by Elancity for two more cameras the question would be where do they need to go? My own opinion would be back along the A3121 when the eventual 30mph speed limit is implemented.

I would also ask the Council to support the list of equipment furnished by Cll. Andrew Savery to enable the Ermington Pot Hole Patrol to improve the minor roads around the village, and be seen to be doing that. This will help to show what the Parish Council is doing for Ermington.

Sorry that I am unable to be with you for the meeting.

Ian Creese.

