

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Ermington Reading Rooms 1 July 2025 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Nicholas Toms (Chairman), Andrew Savery, John Messham, Robert Owens
Margaret Grafton, Ian Creese, Michael Knowles and Denis Onley

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 7

038/2025 ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas, Police Representative and Cllrs John Dunlop, Cliff Sumner.

039/2025 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Onley declared a personal interest in planning application 1482/25/HHO

Cllr Toms declared a personal interest in planning reference 1215/25/FUL

040/2025 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

We have ended the last financial year in balance – but tough choices lie ahead

We have ended the 2024/25 financial year without going over budget, but only by relying on temporary savings and one-off government funding.

A report presented to cabinet today showed that we managed to stay within its £637.5 million budget and 'balance the books' despite growing demand for services like social care and support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We had been expecting to overspend by nearly £4 million in November but managed to avoid this through a mix of short-term measures, including delaying some projects, not filling vacant jobs, and using a one-off grant from government.

The report also showed that £40 million in planned savings were delivered across council services, though this fell short of the £50 million target.

Councillor James Buczkowski, Cabinet Member for Finance, said:

"This isn't a moment to celebrate, but it is a moment to be honest. Officers have worked incredibly hard to help balance the books, and that deserves recognition.

"But let's be clear: this balanced position was only achieved by using temporary fixes. "It's not a sign that everything is fine. We've inherited a fragile financial position, depleted cash balances and a special educational needs deficit now over £169 million.

"The public deserves honesty. We are facing some of the most difficult financial conditions in decades, and we cannot keep doing things the old way. Our new administration is committed to rebuilding trust and making services more sustainable, by working differently, being open about the challenges, and focusing on what really matters to people."

He added that the Council must now plan ahead carefully and work closely with partners to find better, more sustainable ways to support Devon's communities.

Council to trial pothole repair blitz as part of £83 million road maintenance programme

Our highways teams will carry out a repair blitz on potholes in a few trial areas of the county following a decision by Councillors today (Wednesday 25 June).

While approving an £83 million programme of capital funded highway maintenance schemes, our Cabinet heard from Councillor Dan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways, who stated that the condition of Devon's roads is not up to scratch because the county is "grossly under resourced by central government".

Councillors backed proposals to trial areas where all potholes would be filled, rather than just dealing with safety defects. Although the exact details are still to be agreed, this pilot would be used to establish the budget implications of changing maintenance procedures.

Councillors also agreed that a task group from the Audit Committee should be formed to review the previous Cabinet's decision from last November on the future delivery model for highway maintenance.

The Cabinet at the time resolved that a procurement process should get underway for a Term Maintenance Contract to deliver core highway work such as safety defect repairs, gully emptying and winter service, supported with smaller “Framework Contracts” for additional patching, surfacing, drainage and other improvements.

It was also agreed to examine the costs of accelerating the remarking of white lines across the county.

Councillor Dan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways, said:

“We’re being very honest that the state of the roads is not as we would want; that’s our starting point. The one message that I would like the public to hear today is that every single member of the Highways Department, from the director to the neighbourhood highways officers that we deal with on a daily basis, are all acutely aware that we are not able to do the things the public wants us to do as quickly as we would like. It is simply because we are grossly under resourced by central government and I think we have to make that very clear from the start of this Council.

“We have a repair backlog of around £390 million, and to keep us in a steady state it costs around £102 million a year. We don’t have that, so whatever we do under the current funding formula, we’re not going to solve the problem – we have to be clear about that. We’re not alone in this, but that’s little consolation to residents in Devon.

“We’re asking for a trial in a few areas to fill all potholes, not just safety defects, when visiting a site. By asking to trial this change it’s a very different notion from where we were before and we want to establish what the cost implications are and how effective that would be on the lower category roads.”

The capital funded highway maintenance programme for 2025/26 sets out our plans to maintain our highways assets and road network, which at 8,000 miles in length, is the largest highway network in the country.

The independent National Highway and Transport (NHT) Network’s latest 2024 survey results has shown that by adopting more efficient practices, we saved over £2.6 million in the 2023/24 financial year.

Upgrading streetlights to energy efficient LEDs since 2016 has also led to an annual financial saving of £6 million at today’s prices, as well as annual carbon savings of 10,900 tonnes Co2e (carbon equivalent), compared to usage in 2016, which is the equivalent to an 80% saving. A current 12-month trial of overnight dimming across the county offers potential to provide even more savings.

Innovative new materials are being adopted for use. A new road repair material called Elastomac, which is partly made from recycled materials, is being used on our roads following successful trials on small to medium size patches. It reduces waste and carbon emissions while also being quicker to cure than traditional pothole repair materials, which reduces traffic disruption.

Road markings are being carried out using Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) which is applied cold, so it is safer to use than the previous thermoplastic product that has been the historic standard. It is more reflective, so improves road safety, and a three-year trial in Cheshire found a 62% reduction in collisions, while the longer lifespan of the product means fewer return visits are needed to repaint the lines, leading to a 50% reduction in network disruption and at least 10% cost saving over a 10-year period.

Around £56 million of this year’s highway maintenance capital budget will be invested in road maintenance and surface treatments, with the remainder being allocated to bridges and structures, streetlighting, traffic signals, public rights of way and other highways assets.

To ensure principal roads across the county are retained in a condition where less than 4% require immediate attention, £8.7 million has been allocated for preventative treatments and resurfacing.

This includes resurfacing on:

A379/A3015 – Rydon Lane (from Pines Hill to Countess Wear) in Exeter
 A3015 – Frog Street, Exeter
 A381 – Totnes to Littlehempston
 A3052 – Hangmanstone to Southleigh junction
 A3052 – Half Way Inn to Goosemoor, Aylesbeare
 A385 – Coronation Road Roundabout, Totnes
 A390 – Callington Road, Tavistock
 A390 – Ford Street roundabout, Tavistock
 A39 – Alexandra Road, Barnstaple
 A361 – Mullaocott Cross, West Down
 A373 – Hembury Hill to Colliton Cross, Broadhembury
 A375 – Two Bridges Road, Sidmouth
 A377 – New Bridge, Bishops Tawton
 A377 – Bugford Cross, Morchard Bishop
 A386 – Bassets Cross, Hatherleigh
 A386 – Dartmoor Inn, Lydford
 A386 – Fox and Hounds Pub, Bridestowe
 A386 – New Road, Bideford
 A396 – Exeter Road, Tiverton
 A396 – The Walronds, Tiverton
 A396 – Exeter Inn roundabout to Riversmeet Cottage, Bampton
 A399 – Watermouth Road, Ilfracombe

Extensive patching, drainage improvements and resurfacing schemes on B-roads and C-class roads are set to receive £14.5 million.

A further £3.5 million is being allocated to patching and small resurfacing schemes on highly trafficked main routes that link communities or connect to economic hubs.

Preventative maintenance treatments such as surface dressing, micro asphalt and footway “slurry sealing” are used to preserve and extend the life of highway surfaces that are already in a reasonable condition. This work will receive an investment of £11.2 million.

Our fleet of Dragon Patchers provides another option for patch repairs – with £1.6 million earmarked to support their work, while £12.9 million will be used to deliver a programme of large safety defect patching repairs.

An investment of £9.5 million will support the maintenance of bridges and structures, including the replacement of Martinhoe bridge and repairs to Pinhoe Railway and Crediton Leat Bridges. The reinstatement of Coleridge Footbridge in Ottery St Mary, which was closed due to damage sustained by a fallen tree, is also due to be completed subject to approval by the Environment Agency.

Drainage remains a key focus for us, in order to tackle a key cause of deterioration of local roads. This is due to receive £2.95 million.

To support active travel, public rights of way and cycle networks across the county will be maintained with £1.2 million, with an additional £750,000 for the Renewal of Access Trails infrastructure.

New cabinet vows to improve the outcomes of our most vulnerable children through new 10-year plan

A new long-term plan to improve the outcomes of Devon’s most vulnerable young people by overhauling how they are supported and cared for has been approved by our cabinet.

In a bold move away from the council’s previous preference to commission, rather than directly deliver, residential places for children in its care, councillors today (Wednesday 25 June) agreed to an ambitious multi-million investment programme to establish 12 new children’s homes; 20 specialist foster places; and up to four new therapeutic schools, over the next 10 years.

‘Growing Futures: Homes for children and young people in care in Devon’ aims to provide new homes, support, residential therapeutic care, education and treatment for children with complex psychological, emotional and behavioural needs.

Our plan will be delivered through a strategic partnership worth up to £156 million and aims to address deficiencies in current care arrangements.

We are required to provide suitable homes for children in care; but nationally an over-reliance on for-profit providers has contributed to rising costs and poor value for money.

In Devon for instance costs have almost doubled in five years amid rising demand.

There has been a 29 per cent increase in Devon children in residential homes since 2020 and many of those are not in the county.

The new strategy will aim to reduce costs and improve long-term outcomes for children through more stable, local, and therapeutic housing and education options.

040/2025

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

Councillor Richard Jefferies, our Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care said:

"It's not fair that so many children are living far away from their support networks, their friends and family; they want to be looked after by people who are nurturing and friendly, and they want to be close to activities and their school and they want to be able to make friends.

"The way things are now this is difficult to achieve, and it can result in many having several homes, relationship breakdowns and disruptions.

"Children in care are more likely to have poorer outcomes than their peers with a more settled homelife, they are more at risk of being excluded, and more likely to have a criminal record.

"We have been failing many of our children for too long and this needs to change; this plan aims to improve outcomes for all children in care."

041/2025

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

1. Help Shape the Future of Local Government

Please encourage as many people as possible to complete this survey, which will help shape the new structure of local government in Devon when the county moves to a unitary authority:

www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

2. Digital Switchover

All UK landlines are changing from analogue to digital and the old network will be switched off at the end of January 2027.

More information including what support is available for vulnerable customers at these links:

<https://rsnonline.org.uk/images/uploads/digital-landline-switchover/a-guide-to-digital-voice-bts-new-home-phone-service.pdf>

<https://www.bt.com/help/landline/what-is-digital-voice-and-how-can-i-get-it->

3. Bitesize event on modern slavery

The South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership is pleased to be able to host a FREE bitesize event to raise awareness about modern slavery.

They are aware there have been incidents within the community safety partnership area recently, so are keen to raise awareness of modern slavery, how to spot the signs and how to report to help keep communities safer.

Messages for residents:

This free online event will look into modern slavery

The online webinar takes place on Tuesday 8 July at 3.30 p.m.

This bitesize session will be delivered by Detective Inspector Dan Parkinson from Devon and Cornwall Police. Dan in his role as the deputy modern slavery lead will be explaining what modern slavery is, the reality of modern slavery in our area and provide some examples of investigations and prosecutions. Dan will then go on to help us know what signs to look out for and how to report.

To sign up please go to [Modern Slavery - closer than you think](#) ([Modern Slavery - Closer than you think Tickets, Tue 8 Jul 2025 at 15:30 | Eventbrite](#)) and please forward this email to anyone you think may be interested in attending and help spread the word.



4. Protect UK's summer campaign begins

Protect UK have launched their summer campaign encouraging the public to trust their instincts and report anything that doesn't feel right to security or the police at major events this summer.

[Find out more on the Protect UK website - https://www.protectuk.police.uk/digital-toolkits/summer-campaign-digital-toolkit](https://www.protectuk.police.uk/digital-toolkits/summer-campaign-digital-toolkit)

042/2025

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

- Report from Cllr Grafton on the LGR meeting on 16 June 2025 at Yealmpton:

Chair was Councillor Endicott Chair of Yealmpton PC

Present were- Councillors Thomas, Abbott & Carson, 11 of 13 parishes were present

Absent were Ugborough & Holberton

In November the Government is expecting 1 proposal to be put forward. Devon and County are speaking with the same voice. Plymouth did not inform other councils what they were doing.

13 parishes will have 10 ward members; Plymouth will have 60.

Councillor Thomas stated Devon is not in favour of Plymouth.

Plymouth need us more than we need them.

Councillor Abbott said Plymouth was made a unitary Council in 1998. Millions in debt. They want our parishes as an economic boost. He Stated Plympton and Plymstock were once rural parishes. Where will we be in 50 years. Will that be our legacy? Open debate followed with parishes contributing.

Wembury

We have attended a Plymouth meeting.

Governments want to do away with 2 tiers. Plymouth are suggesting CLTs. Area boards responsible for roads etc. They are suggesting creating layers with no power.

Wembury have spoken to Tudor Evans no clear understanding how Parish councils work didn't know rural services grant no longer exists.

They have created some word clouds to make it easier to understand Government proposals and LGR proposals. These are basically summaries of all proposals.

Wembury have also done a survey for their parishioners which they have agreed to circulate amongst the parishes. Councillors can then decide if they want to use it for their own parishes or amend and add to it. Suggest we all take a look wemburyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Noss

We are concerned along with others here we will not be listened too. We will become insignificant.

Yealmpton

We need to stay intact for historical and financial reasons.

Parishes are reasonably open to listening, but some have not decided or consulted as yet. In the room the general concensus seems to be against a Plymouth take over.

Ivybridge

We are concerned about the powers of Parish councils. Plymouth don't seem to understand how they work. Plymouth will not say if they will strengthen Parish Councils whereas South Hams and Devon have both said they would.

Plymouth proposals have been hard-hitting and aggressively delivered. Perhaps they feel if people hear it enough it will become a self-fulfilling prophecy and we will all just lay down and let Plymouth stomp all over our beautiful South Hams.

Devon will be launching their own programme of consultation. Holding district meetings with Parish Council and parishioners with a Residence survey online.

Parish Councils have asked Devon to put out something publicly to cater for everyone so people are aware there will be alternatives to what Plymouth is offering.

July DCC putting out own survey.

All parishes agreed to meet again in the middle of August when hopefully all parishes will have discussed LGR and we can move forward together.

Consultation of parishioners for LGR - Parishioners are encouraged to complete the survey - www.southhams.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation

Cllr Toms and thirty parishioners attended the recent meeting in The Hub at Ermington Store and More on 26 June 2025, which was hosted by Plymouth City Council to discuss the LGR.

043/2025 FIRST PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Cllr Onley suggested the Clerk writes to Cllr Dan Thomas, asking if the parish could be pilot for blitzing repairs to potholes and if the speed reduction on the A13121 could be progressed in his capacity as Cabinet Member for Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

Parishioner pointed out that the speed of traffic passing the school is still excessive and a child is going to be killed. A sign is required to indicate to traffic there is a school, also a flashing light. **RESOLVED** Cllr Savery will speak to Cllr Dan Thomas and DCC Highways in connection with erecting signs. **ACTION: Cllr Savery** **RESOLVED** Cllr Toms will liaise with Ermington primary school. **ACTION: Cllr Toms**

Two parishioners introduced themselves as the new owners of Fawns Farm and explained their plans for the future of the farm.. Cllr Owens asked if work could be done on part of a footpath through their land that would make it flat and safer to walk on. Also, would it be possible to erect a non-wire fence? He also pointed out that their dogs react to other parishioners dogs when they walk along the footpath, which was intimidating. The parishioners have received emails in connection with their dogs behaviour, but pointed out they are not aggressive.

Cllr Toms suggested the footpath route could be assessed to look at ways to mitigate the interaction with their dogs with those walking on the footpath.

Cllr Owens asked if the footpath could continue along the river. Parishioners would be prepared to divert the footpath but it would cost £3,000 which they are not prepared to finance.

The parishioners have liaised with the SHDC footpath warden as they would like to place wood bark / chippings areas along the footpath.

RESOLVED Cllr Owens will liaise with the parishioners. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

A parishioner wished to thank everyone for their help and The Crooked Spire, with the Ermington Fair which was well supported.

044/2025 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 3 JUNE 2025 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL ON 25 JUNE 2025

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council meeting minutes of 3 June 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 25 June 2025 (as previously circulated to parish councillors).

045/2025 PLANNING

Cllr Toms withdrew from the meeting

Reference: 1215/25/FUL

Proposal: READVERTISEMENT (amended description) Construction of four new light industrial and commercial units (Use Class E (g)) and associated access, parking and landscaping

Site Address: Land to the rear of the Roastery and The Gun Room, Endsleigh, Ivybridge

Recommendation: Support

Cllr Toms rejoined the meeting

Reference: 1482/25/HHO Recommendation: Support

Proposal: Householder application for creation of self-contained annex accommodation as extension to existing property

Site Address: 5 Erme Park, Ermington, PL21 9LY

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 2 September 2025 Parish Council Meeting agenda, for ratification.

Reference: 1590/25/HHO Recommendation: Support

Proposal: Householder application for proposed alterations to external walls to include external insulation, extension, permeable driveway, raised deck & new double garage with storage above

Site Address: Budlake, Ermington, PL21 9NG

Planning Decision

0978/25/ARM Approval Of Reserved Matters

Decision: Conditional Approval

Description: Application for approval of all matters reserved following, outline approval reference 2344/24/OPA for a permanent agricultural worker's dwelling

Site Address: West Hill Top Farm, Westlake, PL21 9GU

1148/25/FUL Full Planning Application

Decision: Conditional Approval

Description: READVERTISEMENT (amended description) Change of use from Class C1 (Hotel) to Class C3 (Dwellinghouse)

Site Address: Plantation House, Totnes Road, Ermington, PL21 9NS

046/2025 FINANCE

RESOLVED the following payments:

Bank balances: - Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access Account Bank Statement on 9 May 2025: **£21,912.09**
 Lloyds Bank Community Account Bank Statement on 13 June 2025: **£7,149.89**
 NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account on 30 May 2025: **£70,748.36**

(ii) Receipts: - £15.00 bank interest Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Assess
 £63.91 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – June 2025 salary	£695.18	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£173.80	-	-
David Brett – maintenance of parish council website June 2025	£50.00	-	-
eDF – Reading Rooms 1 May – 31 May 2025	£20.99	£1.00	£19.99
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance – 1 May – 31 May 2025	£19.53	£0.93	£18.60
Reimbursement to Clerk payment to Hostgator – renewal of domain – ermingtonparish.com	£22.06	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Savery – brackets for signs warning HGV not to go through Westlake	£56.82	-	-
OTM – road signs to warn drivers narrow road and sharp bends through Westlake	£324.00	£54.00	£270.00

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Community Account as at 13 June 2025:	£7,149.89	
Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access 9 May 2025:	£21,912.09	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 30 May 2025:	£70,748.36	
Total Funds	£99,810.34	
		Cheque
Less: any unrepresented payments:-	-£237.60	001691
Total Funds =	£99,572.74	
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs that may be required to the Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£500	
A3121 - speed reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph etc.	-£10,000	
Total uncommitted Funds =	£89,072.74	

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

(vi) Grant Request(s) – None

047/2025 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LAND AT “THE SPIRES”

Standing Orders Stood Down – 2055 hours

Parishioner explained the reason for wishing the land to remain natural and to work with the primary school on its management. Also, the management could be carried out by various organisations. They had received a quote for approximately £50,000 to carry out the necessary work.

Cllr Toms pointed out the £73,000 maintenance is for perpetuity. The land also includes the footpath to the bridge alongside the river, which will include major insurance issues. A decision cannot be made until the parishioner's group has put forward a solid plan and costs.

Parishioner pointed out that there is a S106 document which is available, which states what BDW is required to do with the land.

Cllr Toms was trying to find out if there is a Deed of Variation of the S106. RESOLVED Cllr Onley will draft a letter to be sent to South Hams District Council to ascertain the current situation of the open space below The Spires. **ACTION: Cllr Onley**

Standing Orders Reinstated – 2120 hours

048/2025 PARISH POTHOLE REPAIR TEAM

Cllr Savery reported that equipment has been purchased to carry out pothole repairs and a risk assessment has been prepared.

Cllr Savery is waiting for information on Chapter 8 training.

RESOLVED that any additional equipment required to carry out the work by the team, could be purchased to a maximum of £150.

049/2025 ROAD SIGNS – Cllr Grafton

Road signs are being designed to inform individuals passing through the village that it is a speed watch zone.

050/2025 SIGNAGE AND ROAD MARKINGS / SUFFOLK SPEED MANAGEMENT

To be discussed when there is a police representative present.

051/2025 ELANCITY UK – warranty extension (speed signs)

RESOLVED not to pay for the warranty.

052/2025 ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE – Cllr Messham

Discussion took place and it was RESOLVED that an article asking for anyone who would be prepared to produce the Ermington Magazine to be placed on Ermington Facebook. **ACTION: Cllr Savery**

The Parish Councillors thanked the departing editor of the Ermington Magazine for his hard work over many years.

RESOLVED that Cllr Messham will contact the previous editor to ascertain who of the current committee who produce the magazine will continue. **ACTION: Cllr Messham**

053/2025 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = Cllrs Owens and Messham - *Sunday Cream Teas in August; 2.30pm to 4.30pm, Barn Dance Friday 3 rd October at 7.00pm, Harvest Celebration Sunday 5 th August*

b) Community Speed Watch report = Cllr Owens and Messham
*Thursday 15 th May 3.00pm to 4.00p
A3121 travelling up East
Traffic Volume: 116
Vehicles exceeding 46 mph: 0*

*Thursday 22 nd May 4.00pm to 5.00pm
Church Road travelling North East
Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 16
Maximum speed: 29 mph*

*Friday 6 th June.5.00pm to 6.00pm
Town Hill travelling up North
Traffic Volume: 111
Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 7 (7%)
Maximum speed: 30 mph*

c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllrs Savery and Creese – *attached is a copy of the report*
RESOLVED the maximum spend of £180.00 gross to purchase cement and a pole to relocate the speed camera to Town Hill.

d) Assessment of Parish Footpaths = Cllr Owens –

FP11 through Fawns Farm.

The Owners of Fawns Farm have completed fencing FP11 through the field, having followed the definitive line of the footpath. But this has created a Health and Safety risk to footpath users due to the path sloping sideways by as much as 45 degrees. The user is in danger slipping and sustaining an ankle injury or by falling into the barbed wire fence.

Paul Mcfaddon has advised:

The owners are entitled to fence the path so long as they have retained a reasonable width. This path doesn't have a defined width and although we would advise 2 metres in such circumstances, this is not a legal requirement. They've followed DCC advice of siting the barbed wire on the field side of the posts. I think it would be a challenge to argue successfully (in court) that they've created a danger, as they've followed the general guidance. It could also be argued that had members of the public stuck to the legal line over the years, which technically they should have, then a level path within this corridor would have developed, as have elsewhere.

053/2025 **REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (Continued)**

As for DCC's responsibility, the lie of the land is what it is, so technically any changes here would come under 'improvements' rather than 'maintenance'. In other words, a power, rather than a duty. However, the Highway Authority also has a duty to ensure the safety of the public using the 'Public Highway'.

The pragmatic approach would be to seek their approval for works to alleviate the issues – possibly both the provision of plain wire and some levelling of the worst sections.

There has also been correspondence concerning, dogs belonging to the owners of Fawns Farm running uncontrolled where the path passes through the Farm.

Ros Davies has advised: To contact the Police once more and mentioning the matter is exacerbated by the presence of walker's dogs rather than just lone walkers.

In addition to the Police I would also raise the matter with the local dog warden from South Hams District Council – a link to their website is as follows:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/dogs> at the bottom of the page there is a 'contact us' section and I would send an email giving the location or forwarding the information you have sent to me. Hopefully they will be able to advise you on action to be taken or indeed will be able to visit and discuss the matter with the owner of the dogs in question.

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*

054/2025 **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)**

Parishioner – on a Wednesday evening, motorbikes are speeding on the A3121 below Erme Park. RESOLVED the speed watch group will monitor the situation and liaise with their police contact. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

Parishioner asked who is responsible for the war memorial? Cllr Grafton stated that the parish council is responsible. RESOLVED Cllr Savery will tidy up the area. **ACTION: Cllr Savery**

Parishioner wished to raise the following points: -

The hedge at the bottom of Town Hill needs cutting back. **ACTION: Clerk to contact DCC Highways**

A safety cone is required to indicate to motorists there is a footpath entrance/exit opposite Plantation House. **ACTION: Cllr Owens to liaise with SHDC Footpath Warden, if there could be a sign or the hedge growth trimmed back**

Highways around Penquit area require assessing as they are in a bad state of repair.

055/2025 **REVIEW STANDING ORDERS AND VEXATIOUS COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Cllr Messham to audit the current document with the revised NALC document.

056/2025 **CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

National Highways: A38 Ivybridge to Marsh Mills – westbound resurfacing works

SHDC - Have your say on the future of Devon

SHDC - South Hams Local Government Reorganisation - An Update Invite to South Hams District Caring Alliance

POSTER / QR Code to share for Survey on Alcohol & Drug Services in Devon - For Members of the Public

SHDC - Council installing solar panels at three of its leisure centres

CPRE Planning reforms – presentation

DCC - Temporary Traffic Notice - KINGSBRIDGE ROAD, A3121, TOTNES ROAD, Ermington, Ugborough (TTRO2563759)

Parish Councils - Community Governance – Tuesday 8 July 2025 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm Beeson Suite, Watermark, Ivybridge

Parishioner - Planning Application 1431/25/OPA at Cadleigh

Email from parishioner – water leak Hunsdon Road

Email from SHDC - Appeal Notification 0970/25/PDM Land known as The Orchard, Westlake

Sustainable South Hams - Calling community groups and parish/town councillors! Help shape a South Hams-wide Rally for Nature

Email from Rebecca Smith MP - seeking views of constituents towards the Plymouth City Council proposal of taking in your 13 parishes.

Email from applicant in connection with planning application -1215/25/FUL

056/2025 DECISION ON HOLDING AN AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING.

RESOLVED if there is a need to hold a parish council meeting to make a provisional date of 26 August 2025.

057/2025 TO CONFIRM THE DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT PARISH MEETING

It was RESOLVED that the date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on [Tuesday 2 September 2025](#) at [The Hub, Ermington Store and More](#) at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Nick Toms

.....

(Ermington Parish Council Chairman)

Date: 2 September 2025

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