

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Hub at Ermington Store and More, Ermington on 2 December 2025 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Nicholas Toms (Chair), Margaret Grafton, Robert Owens, John Messham, Andrew Savery, Ian Creese, Cliff Sumner and Denis Onley

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 8

132/2025 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from and Cllrs Dunlop and Knowles.

Standing Orders stood down at 1933 hours

Cllr Onley declared a personal interest.

A representative from the Samba band gave a detailed presentation which included the history, current members of the band and the various events they have attended. Their equipment has been stored in a shed at the back of Ermington Church which needs to be replaced but may take time as it needs to have approval from the Diocese which will take a long time.

Therefore, would it be possible as a temporary solution, to store their equipment, in the Upper Reading Room. Any damage to the building or items of the band stored in the room would be covered by the band insurance.

Proposed by Cllr Toms and Seconded by Cllr Messham to allow storage of the Samba Band equipment in the Upper Reading Room.

Except for Cllr Owens, all Parish Councillors present voted in favour and an agreement will be drawn up with the Samba Band.

Cllr Owens explained that he had abstained, as he had resigned as Church Warden and Member of the Parochial Church Council and requested his name be taken off the Church Electoral Roll. He will complete the Notification of changes to Parish/Town Council Member interests to be sent to SHDC by the Clerk. He recognises there will continue to be a history of interests arising from his role as Church Warden and so he will not be voting on Ermington Church items for the next 6 months. He will also relinquish his responsibility for Ermington Parish Church Liaison and leave this to Cllr Messham.

Standing Orders reinstated at 1941 hours.

133/2025 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

- Cllr Onley declared a personal interest in planning application - Reference: 2969/25/HHO.

- Councillor Breach of Code of Conduct: to note (as also noted in September 2025 meeting) the decision of the Monitoring Officer in relation to a finding of a breach of Code of Conduct by a Parish Council Member, and to formally recognise sanctions recommended by SHDC Monitoring Officer and vote to implement the Monitoring Officers recommendations of all Parish Councillors to receive training on Code of Conduct and Register of Interests by Devon Association of Local Council's on Tuesday 6 January 2026, 6.30 pm at Ermington Reading Rooms.

Proposed by Cllr Messham and Seconded by Cllr Owens - Standing Order Paragraph 10 agree to:
i Accept the sanction of the Code of Conduct training on 6th January 2026 for all Parish Councillors
ii Take no further action

Proposed by Cllr Toms and Seconded by Cllr Messham, all Parish Councillors present voted in favour.

134/2025 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

Cllr Thomas will continue to liaise with parishioners to try and deal with the flooding at Westlake.

Feedback on Issues Raised by the PC and Residents for action by District Councillor:**A. Alarm at Ermington Mill**

Contracts are in place with third party contractors to pick up on an activation and to then attend site to check for a fire or reset the panel in respect of a fault. We have not identified why we have had a sudden flurry of call outs although there is a suspicion that this may be down to deliberate activation of the alarm. Steps are being taken to minimise this possibility.

B. Removal of benches outside the Crooked Spire

A noise complaint was received by SHDC Environmental Health a couple of years ago about noise outside the Crooked Spire Pub, which Environmental Health (EH) reviewed from a licensing perspective. It transpired that The Crooked Spire did not have a license to sell 'open containers' (i.e. drinks glasses) to drink outside and so EH advised that the pub needed to apply for a variation of condition of their license to permit drinks glasses to be taken outside the pub. The pub has applied for this license but in the meantime, to deter people from taking drinks outside, they removed the benches. SHDC EH did not advise or require removal of the benches - the pub chose to remove the benches themselves, to discourage patrons taking drinks outside

News from South Hams DC of note to PC and residents:**1. The Future of Local Government**

This continues to dominate the agenda.

SHDCs "Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better" proposal for LGR in Devon was debated and agreed upon in the last Full Council Meeting. It has therefore been submitted to government for their consideration. A decision is expected in the summer.

2. South Hams Christmas Events

Local Christmas events can be found at the link below.

SHDC are offering free car parking in selected car parks on key dates in December. Information on this is also available at the link.

www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events

3. Placemaking – Visitor Economy Update

Tourism data runs one year behind. There are the links to the 2024 reports:

- [South Hams Report 2024](#)
- [The year in context](#)

The data shows that visitor numbers were down for South Hams in 2024 although the region did perform better with domestic visitors than the national picture.

4. Citizens Advice Autumn Newsletter

The latest local Citizens Advice newsletter is linked here:

southhamscab.org.uk/autumn-newsletter/

5. Report Dog Fouling

Residents are encouraged to 'bag and bin' their dog waste responsibly because if left, it poses a serious health risk.

Any concerns about dog fouling should be reported via the SHDC website:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/environment-and-nuisance/dogs/dog-fouling>

6. NHS App

Residents are encouraged to download the NHS App, which can be used to order repeat prescription and nominate a pharmacy for collection, book GP appointments, and locate nearby NHS services.

The Future of Local Government This continues to dominate the agenda. Various models have been proposed. SHDC still supports the so called 4-5-1 model.

The burglar alarm at Ermington Mill is being addressed.

The benches outside The Crooked Spire have been removed. Cllr Savery has applied for a minor variation which has been granted, and the benches will be replaced.

Rural Prosperity Fund was applied for, but SHDC was not successful, but will send information on where the money was spent.

136/2025 A3121 PROJECT

Cllr Thomas has spoken to DCC Highways in connection with the plan and costings which are currently being drawn up, which he will circulate once he has received the information. The main area will be the reduction of the speed to 30 mph at the bottom of Town Hill and 40 mph speed limit south west of Planation House.

137/2025 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LAND BELOW "THE SPIRES"

Cllr Toms is still waiting for information from SHDC and Barratts. Cllr Dewynter is trying to determine how Barratts will transfer the land and is liaising with Adrain Noon at SHDC.

A parishioner wished to thank Cllr Dewynter and Toms for their continuing work.

138/2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)

South Hams District Council has agreed to support a business case for reshaped and reimagined local services in the county and submitted the plan to the Government.

East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, Torridge and West Devon district councils have jointly developed Reimagining Devon: Believe in Better, a business case for local government reorganisation in the county.

The proposal is the districts' answer to the UK Government's plan to simplify the structure of local services in England.

All seven councils have considered the document before the submission deadline on Friday 28 November. South Hams District Council agreed to support the plan, meaning all seven districts have now agreed to the proposal.

139/2025 FINANCE

RESOLVED the following:

(i) Bank balances: - Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access Account Bank Statement on 9 October 2025: £21,976.16
Lloyds Bank Community Account Bank Statement on 15 October 2025: £7,334.63
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account on 31 October 2025: £71,064.77

(ii) Receipts: - £10.83 bank interest Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Assess
£61.18 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

(iii) To make the following payments: -

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – November 2025 salary	£695.18	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£173.80	-	-
David Brett – maintenance of parish council website November 2025	£50.00	-	-
eDF – electricity supply to Reading Rooms	£31.24	£1.64	£32.88
Reimbursement to Cllr Savery – purchase of signpost to mount speed camera	£92.56	£15.43	£77.13
Reimbursement to Cllr Savery – postfix etc to mount speed camera	£67.83	-	-
Reimbursement to Cllr Savery – sundries to install speed camera	£18.72	-	-

RESOLVED to make the additional payment to the Parish Clerk during November 2025:

Meeting at DALC at Cheriton Bishop – 88 miles (45 pence per gallon)
Additional 5.5 hours work dealing with Code of Conduct

139/2025 FINANCE (continued)

(iv) Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves: -

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Community Account 13 November 2025:	£7,334.63	
Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access 9 October 2025:	£21,976.16	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 31 October 2025:	£71,064.77	
Total Funds	£100,375.56	
		Cheque
Less: any unrepresented payments:-	-£8.75	Lloyds Payment
	-£173.80	001726
	-£50.00	001727
	-£248.40	001731
Total Funds =	£99,894.61	
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 =	£89,394.61	

(v) Parish Councillors reviewed spending and income to date, against budget 2025/2026 – no issues were raised.

(vi) Confirm Precept for 2026/2027 – Cllr Toms reminded those present, the Precept is set by the Parish Council who are volunteers, but work on behalf of the parish. The Precept is used to pay for work in the parish and parishioners can raise queries on the work and costs at any time.

Proposed by Cllr Owens and seconded by Cllr Onley an increase of 7%.

Cllrs Owens and Onley voted in favour and against Cllr Sumner, Savery, Creese, Grafton and Messham.

Cllr Grafton proposed and seconded by Cllr Messham an increase of 25%.

Cllr Sumner, Savery, Creese, Grafton and Messham voted in favour and Cllrs Owens and Onley voted against

RESOLVED Parish Councillors voted in favour of the 25% increase in the Precept.

(vii) Grant Request – Citizens Advice (information from Citizens Advice emailed to parish councillors prior to meeting).

Proposed By Cllr Grafton and Seconded by Cllr Messham to grant £300. RESOLVED by all Parish Councils present to grant £250.00

140/2025 FIRST PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Cllr Onley enquired if there was a possibility of using the Locality Fund for repainting the highway markings within Ermington. Cllr Thomas pointed out he has a £8,000 Locality Fund and would not be able to justify spending more money in Ermington as his fund is divided between 12 parishes.

Two parishioners asked if the parish council could help, as their property wall at the top of Bunkers Hill is getting damaged. Cllr Grafton will liaise with the parishioners to discuss ideas e.g. cameras, signs. Cllr Toms suggested that the parishioners contact the NFU at Plympton to ask them to put in their newsletter for farmers to take care when passing the property.

A parishioner asked why the parish council did not co-opt an applicant with no cost to parishioners, then hold an election for thousands a year ago. Then the applicant was elected following the election.

The parish council were then able to immediately elect 3 parishioners on to the council, when they could not do this before and for 1 who didn't fulfil the parish council's requirements for co-opting. Cllr Onley gave a brief explanation, then the Clerk pointed out the Co-option Policy which details the procedure is available on the Parish Council website.

141/2025 PLANNING

Reference: 2969/25/HHO Site Address: 5 Erme Park, Ermington, PL21 9LY
Proposal: Householder application for side & rear extensions including replacement garage & provision of ancillary accommodation
Recommendation: Support. The building footprint appears to touch the boundary of the neighbouring boundary which is of concern and would like the Planning Officer to look at any possible issues this may cause.

Reference: 3235/25/HHO Site Address: East Burraton, Burraton, PL21 9LA
Proposal: Householder application for front extension, partial 1st floor extension, exterior finish changes, patio changes, fenestration amendments & internal alterations
Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 3008/25/FUL Site Address: Penquit House Farm, Penquit, PL21 0LU
Proposal: Earth banked slurry lagoon
Recommendation: No comment. Planning applicant to conform to Environment Agency specifications.

Planning Decisions

2890/25/PAA Prior Approval Application Site Address: 11 Erme Park, Ermington, PL21 9LY
Description: Application for prior approval of proposed addition of additional storey to dwellinghouse
Decision: Prior Approval Required and Given

1215/25/FUL Full Planning Application Site Address: Land to the rear of the Roastery & Gun Room, Endsleigh, Ivybridge
Description: READVERTISEMENT (amended description) Construction of four new light industrial and commercial units (Use Class E (g)) and associated access, parking and landscaping
Decision: Conditional Approval

142/2025 EPC STANDING ORDERS AGAINST NALC MODEL STANDING ORDERS 2025 – Cllr Messham

Cllr Messham is arranging a meeting with Cllr Sumner to revise the document, which will be completed by the February 2026 Parish Council meeting.

143/2025 REVIEW PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Clerk

RESOLVED to agree the minor amendment made to the document by the Clerk.

144/2025 FUTURE OF THE READING ROOMS AND CONDITION OF THE BUILDING

External far side fascia board needs repairing. RESOLVED to obtain quotes for the repair.

145/2025 ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE = Cllr Messham

Cllr Messham may have a team of four to produce the Ermington Parish Magazine and wished to thank Cllr Savery for his help. It is hoped to get a magazine published in the new year.

146/2025 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN – Cllr Grafton

Cllr Grafton report was circulated prior to the meeting. It is hoped that a meeting will now take place to involve various organisations with the parish e.g. primary school. RESOLVED Cllr Grafton will continue to liaise with her contact.

Present were representatives of Sustainable South Hams, 2 members from Ermington Environmental, representatives from Ermington Cricket Club and Ermington Village Fund, PTA member from Ermington School and Ermington Parish Council. All present introduced themselves and expressed what they liked about living in Ermington. Sustainable South Hams is a community interest company and nonprofit. They are Sponsored by South Hams Council to look at climate and nature action. To share knowledge and ideas, to do assemblies in schools to reach the next generation. They also want to understand what stops communities acting. They have a small amount of funding and Cllr Grafton would like to work with them to create a vision and come up with a plan.

The aim of the project is to support communities to become better connected and more collaborative, so they can take more effective action for climate and nature. To work with our school to support the next generation. To have a shared community vision, learn together about climate change, carbon reduction and nature recovery, create a shared community vision, produce an Environmental Emergency Plan and Parish Plan.

RESOLVED Cllr Grafton to be the parish contact.

147/2025 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of October and November 2025 (as previously circulated).

148/2025 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = Cllr Messham – no report.

b) Community Speed Watch report = Cllr Owens and Messham

Speedwatch – November

Since last month’s Speedwatch conference, I have been in contact with the Speed Enforcement Officer for our area. He has confirmed that Devon & Cornwall do enforce 20mph Zones as we have in Ermington. (Seemingly there is a legal difference between a 20mph Zone and a 20mph Limit). However, he needs to evaluate the need to enforce 20mph in Ermington. I am hoping that the data we have on the Town Hill Speed Detection Sign on Town Hill will convince him.

Thursday 6 November 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Town Hill travelling up North

Traffic Volume: 120

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 4

Maximum speed: 28 mph

c) Road Warden Scheme, maintenance of the speed cameras and pothole team = Cllrs Savery and Creese

A new speed camera is now in place at Town Hill.

d) Assessment of Parish Footpaths = Cllr Owens will investigate if the gate from the field near the church can be widened.

e) Meet Your Councillor’s Clinic (25 January 2025) actions = Cllr Sumner – no report

f) Feedback from the Ermington Environmental Group = Cllr Dunlop – no report

g) Ermington Primary School liaison = Cllr Toms – no report

149/2025 SECOND PUBLIC FORUM

No questions from the public.

150/2025 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Devon Highway -Temporary Traffic Notice - ROAD FROM SUNNY PARK TO MARJERY CROSS, HUNSDON, Ermington (TTRO2666333)

Devon Highway - Temporary Traffic Notice - ROAD FROM SUNNY PARK TO MARJERY CROSS, HUNSDON, Ermington (TTRO2666333)

Email from Parishioner - Alarm mill workshops

Email request from the Samba Band to store items in the Reading Rooms

SHDC - District council supports proposal for reimagined local government in Devon

SHDC - South Hams District Council Sows Seeds for New Urban Wildlife Meadows in Ivybridge

Code of Conduct - Simon JR Mansell Head of Governance, Elections and Democratic Services Data Protection Officer | Cornwall Council

SHDC - Reference: 3517/25/TP, Proposal: T1: Ash tree - Reduce eastern crown spread back to perimeter fence line from 4m to 1m and reduce crown height of remaining crown to 7m above ground level, due to tree encroaching on to data centre and disrupting data signal from servers. Site Address: Bandvulc Remoulds Ltd Gillard Way Lee Mill Industrial Estate. *Clerk has forwarded the information sent to the Parish Tree Warden for comments.*

151/2025 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on [Tuesday 3 February 2026](#) in [Ermington Reading Rooms](#) at 7.30 pm.

Nicholas Toms

.....

(Ermington Parish Council Chair – Cllr Nicholas Toms)

Date: 3 February 2026

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