

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in The Hub, Ermington Store and More on 3 March 2026 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Nicholas Toms (Chair), Margaret Grafton, Robert Owens, John Messham, Cliff Sumner, Shaun Williams and Andrew Savery

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 7

### 178/2025 TO RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from Cllrs Ian Creese, John Dunlop and Denis Onley.

### 179/2025 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Toms declared a personal interest in Planning Application 0402/26/OPA.

### 180/2025 TO CONSIDER THE EXPRESSION(S) OF INTEREST IN CO-OPTION TO PARISH

Following the notice of vacancy process, no election was called by electors. A notice for the co-option has been placed on parish noticeboards, EPC homepage website and Ermington Facebook page, closing date of 1 March 2026.

One application received from parishioner Shaun Williams, who gave a brief outline of why he had applied to be a parish councillor. RESOLVED by all Parish Councillors present to co-opt Mr Williams. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed, and Cllr Shaun Williams then took part in the meeting.

### 181/2025 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

#### March Report

February and March have marked a significant moment for Devon. After months of scrutiny, debate and difficult decisions, the County Council has now agreed its 2026–27 budget. This is our first full budget of the new administration, and it sets a clear direction: stabilising essential services, repairing what has been neglected, and investing in the foundations that keep Devon moving. As you'd expect from a budget of over £2 billion, it has taken a long time to get to this point.

#### £19 Million Extra for Devon's Roads

The headline for many residents will rightly be highways.

This year's budget includes an additional £15 million investment in Devon's roads, alongside a commitment to maintain £10 million per year in additional funding over the following five years. This is a major shift in approach. For too long, highways funding has been reactive and insufficient, leading to a cycle of patching rather than repairing.

The extra funding will allow us to move beyond emergency pothole filling and begin tackling structural deterioration in a more strategic way. That means more resurfacing, more preventative maintenance, and more drainage work to stop water destroying road foundations in the first place.

After one of the worst winters on record for storm damage, this investment is both timely and essential. While it will not fix every problem overnight, it represents a serious and sustained commitment to improving the condition of Devon's roads.

At the same time, an extra £4 million of revenue funding will allow us to fix the potholes that we have now, as well as addressing the regular issue of blocked culverts, grips and buddle holes in quicker order.

#### Protecting Frontline Services

Despite the continued unfairness of national funding arrangements, we have delivered a balanced budget that protects frontline services.

Adult social care remains the largest area of council spending, accounting for nearly half of the total budget. Demand continues to rise, particularly as Devon has one of the oldest populations in the country. This budget provides stability while work continues to modernise services in a way that protects dignity and independence.

Children's services and SEND provision also remain a priority. While financial pressures are significant, we are committed to improving outcomes and ensuring that vulnerable children receive the support they need.

There was also significant national news on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities funding. The Government has confirmed it will write off around 90 per cent of councils' historic High Needs deficits, including Devon's, which will equate to approximately £200 million. It is important to be clear that this deficit did not arise from local overspending. Councils have a statutory duty to support children with SEND, and when national funding failed to keep pace with rising demand, local authorities were required to meet those costs regardless. In effect, councils have been carrying debt on behalf of central government in order to protect children and families. This decision is therefore the Government repaying money that should have been properly funded in the first place. I welcome both the write off and the stated commitment to put SEND funding onto a sustainable national footing so that councils are not placed in this position again. Importantly, our budget is built around long-term sustainability, with a renewed focus on rebuilding reserves after years of erosion.

### **Libraries, Communities and Local Investment**

There is additional funding to strengthen library services and develop them as resilient community hubs, particularly in rural areas. Libraries are so important for our communities, they are warm spaces, digital access points, advice centres and meeting places. In the National Year of Reading, this investment sends an important signal about literacy and opportunity. As the consultation has only just closed, we will have to wait until later in the spring to hear what residents want the library services to look like in the future, however what is clear is that communities want these spaces protect. Message received, loud and clear. Locality budgets are set to continue and expand in the new financial year, with the allocation opening in April. Each councillor will now have £10,000 to allocate to community projects, up from £8k last year. These funds may be modest in the context of the overall council budget, but their impact at parish level can be transformational. From supporting defibrillators to funding youth activities or small infrastructure improvements, locality funding remains one of the most direct ways to strengthen community life.

### **LGR**

At the same time, we continue to face uncertainty around Local Government Reorganisation and future national funding reforms. Large rural counties like Devon are still disadvantaged by the current funding formula. We will continue pressing for a fairer settlement that reflects the real cost of delivering services across a geographically large and dispersed county. Two Labour-run councils up country have openly said that they will not be cooperating with the government on LGR. In the face of cancelled and then un-cancelled elections in Exeter and 29 other areas, it's looking more and more of a possibility that the government are about to U-turn on LGR.

### **Looking Ahead**

The coming months will be about delivery. Highways teams will move from winter emergency response into planned recovery and resurfacing programmes. Drainage work will be critical to ensuring that new road surfaces last. Parish councils can continue to support this work by reporting issues promptly and sharing reference numbers where follow-up is required. This budget does not solve every challenge facing Devon. The financial climate remains extremely difficult. But it does mark a turning point. It demonstrates that even in constrained circumstances, we can choose to invest in the essentials, protect communities, and begin repairing the foundations.

### **Feedback on Issues Raised by the PC and Residents for action by District Councillor:**

#### **A. Meeting Requested**

On 11 February, I emailed Chris Shears to request a meeting to arrange a meeting between him and EPC to discuss Rural England Prosperity Funding, which Ermington Parish Council are keen to pursue for projects in the village. In particular, the Parish Council wish to improve pedestrian safety by linking the footpath entrances for the South Hams Way, The Two Moors Way and Erme Valley Trail, to the village centre, hence reducing the need for people to walk along the A 3121 (or use their cars to get from one end of the village to the other because they are too scared to use the A3121). Chris Shears has replied and has offered Monday the 9th of March pm, or Friday the 13th of March, am or pm. He could also do another time later than that if needed.

- All you need to do is renew your subscription by card payment on [our website](#).

There are some significant changes to Business Rates from 1 April 2026 and the SHDC Business Rates Team is keen to raise awareness and help businesses apply for support, such as rate relief, which may be available.

The Business Rates Team will be offering a drop-in advice service at the Tourism Symposium taking place at Follaton House on Monday 2 March.

The Tourism Symposium isn't a public event, but as the team are keen to help all ratepayers, anyone can come and see them between 10am and 2:30pm. Officers will be on hand to signpost them to the right place.

There is also a dedicated mailbox set up for Revaluation and Business Rates enquiries [SW-Revaluation2026@swdevon.gov.uk](mailto:SW-Revaluation2026@swdevon.gov.uk) The team is happy to deal with the enquiry by email or give the business a call to discuss further. Please share with your local businesses.

## **2. Proposed New Aldi Store**

Aldi have submitted their appeal against the decision of SHDC planning department to refuse planning permission for the store in Ivybridge. This is expected to take 24 weeks to complete.

**182/2025 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)**

**3. Junior Park Run Planned for Filham Park**

Park Run is an inclusive and community-base initiative, inviting participation in many forms, whether that involves actually completing the event (which can be run, jogged or walked) or attending as a spectator and/or volunteer to help ensure the event can take place safely.

Junior parkrun is a free 2k event that takes place around the country every Sunday morning at 9am aimed at 4–14-year-olds.

Fundraising is underway so that a Junior Park Run can be run at Filham Park in Ivybridge as of May 2026. It is hoped that this will attract young runners from Ivybridge and the surrounding villages.

The local group are using the following Facebook page to generate interest and provide progress updates: <https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2F61585856470731%2F>

**4. Asset Refurbishment**

SHDC are in the process of carrying out a refurbishment project on many assets across the district. This includes resurfacing car parks and the refurbishment of public toilets, bins and benches.

[Click here to download an outline of the works being carried out](#)

**5. Citizens Advice Winter Newsletter**

The latest local Citizens Advice newsletter is linked here: <https://tinyurl.com/yaevrzhz>

**6. 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>

**183/2025 RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUNDING & A3121 SPEED REDUCTION PROJECT – Cllr Onley**

SHDC - Rural England Prosperity Funding – meeting arranged with Cllrs Owens and Onley - Friday 13th March 2026 at 10.30am with Head of Economy & Place.

Cllr Owens has sent an email to Cllr Dan Thomas in connection with foot-Cycle Way linking Ermington to Hollowcombe Cross.

Proposal to create a paved Foot/Cycle Way from Town Hill Ermington to the Hollowcombe Cross Bus Stop

1. Start: Junction of Town Hill and Totnes Road (A3121) on the South East side of Totnes Road.
2. Continue to the exit of Footpath FP12 to Totnes Road, opposite Plantation House.
3. Follow the hedge line (on Devon County Council land) to East Flete Lodge, crossing the driveway to Ermington Sewerage Works.
4. At East Flete Lodge create a boardwalk over the marsh area south east of East Flete Lodge.
5. Follow the hedge line (on Devon County Council land) to the bus stop at Hollowcombe Cross.

Cllr Thomas - the proposal cost will be £19,400 for the speed reduction to 30 mph compliant on the road from Plantation House to Town Hill. Information will be forwarded to the Parish Council in due course. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

The Parish Councillors thanked Cllr Dan Thomas for his hard work in achieving the result of reducing the speed limit.

**184/2025 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of February 2026 (as previously circulated).

**185/2025 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE LAND BELOW “THE SPIRES”**

Cllr Dewynter will arrange a meeting to clarify queries with SHDC representative Adrain Noon and Barratts. Cllr Dewynter asked for the questions to be sent to her before the meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Dewynter / All Councillors**

**186/2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION (LGR)**

Cllr Grafton and Owens attended the recent meeting. Information about the LGR has been placed on parish noticeboards and Ermington Facebook page. All parishioners will receive information from SHDC about the five proposals.

Parish Councils are not included as part of the consultees - <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/local-government/reorganisation-and-devolution>

**187/2025 FINANCE**

RESOLVED the following:

- (i) Bank balances: -  
Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access Account Bank Statement on 9 January 2026: £22,009.41  
Lloyds Bank Community Account Bank Statement on 13 February 2026: £9,835.57  
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account on 30 January 2026: £71,233.22

- (ii) Receipts: - £11.21 bank interest Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Assess – January 2026  
£55.58 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve – January 2026

(iii) To make the following payments: -

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – February 2026	£695.18	-	-
HMRC	£173.80	-	-
David Brett – maintenance of parish council website February 2026	£50.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk for purchase of lever arch file for the 2026/2027 accounts	£7.48	-	-
Source for Business – water bill for Reading Rooms 11 November 2025 to 10 February 2026 (DD)	£29.63	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk - Mythic Beasts Ltd. Registration of Ermington-pc.gov.uk for 1 year	£85.80	-	-

(iv) Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves: -

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Community Account 13 February 2026:	£9,835.57	
Lloyds Bank Comm Inst Access 9 January 2026:	£15,009.41	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 30 January 2026:	£71,233.22	
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£96,078.20</b>	
		Cheque
Less: any unrepresented payments:-	-£7.25	Lloyds Payment
	-£173.80	001747
	-£50.00	001748
	-£318.36	001750
	-£19.53	DD
	-£5,000.00	001752
<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£90,509.26</b>	
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	
<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£80,009.26</b>	

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

(vi) Financial Regulations requirement: *Every six months and at each financial year end, a member other than a cheque signatory shall be appointed to verify bank reconciliations (for all accounts) produced by the RFO. The member shall sign the original bank statements (or similar document) as evidence of verification. This activity shall on conclusion be reported, including any exceptions, to and noted by the Council*

RESOLVED Cllr Sumner to verify the bank statements and reconciliations. **ACTION: Cllr Sumner**

(vii) Grant request - Parish Council Community Safety Grant from Crimestoppers South West for £200.- RESOLVED not to give a grant.

**188 /2025 ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – NEW WEBSITE/EMAIL ADDRESSES ENDING IN EITHER .ORG.UK OR .GOV.UK THIS IS NOW A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT**

RESOLVED the Clerk will work with David Brett to move the current website to a new web address of [ermington-pc.co.gov.uk](http://ermington-pc.co.gov.uk), then to change all the email addresses for Parish Councillors and myself . RESOLVED a maximum spend of £800.

**189/2025 ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENT FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 2027 AND STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL**

RESOLVED not to make any amendments to documents.

**190/2025 FIRST PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Parishioner – number of parishioners gave the background to why parishioners would like a tribute to a parishioner who has recently passed away. A letter was passed to the Clerk which will be circulated to Parish Councillors. **ACTION: Clerk**

Discussion took place and the suggestion of crowd funding would be investigated by the parishioner. The Parish Council supports any ideas that parishioners wish to do, to remember the parishioner.

**191/2025 PLANNING**

Cllr Toms stood down as Chair and Cllr Grafton chaired the meeting – 20:37 hours

Standing order stood down – 20:35 hours.

The planning applicant gave the background to their planning application 0402/26/OPA.

Standing Orders reinstated – 20:40 hours.

Reference: 0402/26/OPA

Proposal: Outline application with all matters reserved for erection of agricultural workers dwelling

Site Address: Hunsdon Farm, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR

Recommendation: Support

Cllr Grafton stood down as Chair and Cllr Toms chaired the meeting at 20:41 hours.

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 plan will be placed on April 2026 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification.

Reference: 0271/26/HHO

Recommendation: Support

Proposal: Householder application to replace nine roof lights with like-for-like conservation style windows

Site Address: Burbilan, Chapel Street, Ermington, PL21 9ND

**TPO Decision**

3517/25/TPO Works to a TPO Tree Decision: Tree Works Allowed

Site Address: Bandvulc Remoulds Ltd, Gillard Way, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, Lee Mill, PL21 9LN

Description: 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

**192/2025 EPC STANDING ORDERS AGAINST NALC MODEL STANDING ORDERS 2025 – Cllrs Messham and Sumner**

Cllrs Messham and Sumner to arrange a meeting to draft the EPC Standing Orders. **ACTION: Cllrs Messham and Sumner**

**193/2025 FUTURE OF THE READING ROOMS AND CONDITION OF THE BUILDING**

Cllr Toms has asked for clarification from the three companies who have quoted to ensure the survey report based is based on visual inspection rather than a structural survey, e.g. the surveyor will view the roof from ground level and not probe the roof trusses and gable ends to check the structural integrity of the timbers as requested by Cllr Onley. Due to concerns from a previous meeting regarding the possibility of the ends of timbers such as the rafters, and internally the floor joists being rotten, and not having secure fixing to the walls. **ACTION: Cllr Toms**

**194/2025 ERMINGTON PARISH MAGAZINE - Cllr Messham**

A meeting to be arranged to try and put a magazine together within the next month. **ACTION: Cllrs Messham and Savery**

**195/2025 COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN – Cllr Grafton**

No additional information.

**196/2025 FOUR RIVERS DEMENTIA ALLIANCE – Cllr Grafton**

Cllr Grafton circulated information to Parish Councillors, see attached.

Cllr Grafton will liaise with a South Brent Councillor to ascertain what is required on signage and then liaise with DCC Highways Officer.

**197/2025 UPDATE OF ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB PROPOSAL FOR A BUILDING ON THE PLAYING FIELD, ERMINGTON**

No further update.

a) **Ermington Parish Church liaison** = Cllr Messham – nothing to report

b) **Community Speed Watch report** = Cllrs Owens and Messham –

We have had 3 Speedwatch sessions this month.

We have noticed over the last few years that we are observing fewer speeding vehicles, indicating that the sessions together with the new VAS signs is achieving slower moving traffic.

Friday 6 th February 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Town Hill travelling North

Traffic Volume: 125

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 2

Maximum speed: 26 mph

Thursday 12 th February 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Church Road travelling South West

Traffic Volume: 183

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 3

Maximum speed: 26 mph

Thursday 26 th February 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Town Hill travelling North East

Traffic Volume: 134

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 2

Maximum speed: 27 mph

c) **Road Warden Scheme, maintenance of the speed cameras and pothole team** = Cllrs Savery and Creese – the tarmac for potholing has been delivered.

d) **Assessment of Parish Footpaths** = Cllr Owens –

FP11 Incline section on Fawns Farm

Alan Mighall has estimated the cost of the project as £711 and the hire of a digger at £217 for one day, totalling £928.

The Ramblers Association has a number of volunteers who would level the camber on the steep part of the path by affixing retaining boards to the lower posts and levelling the path whilst leaving 50cm of slope to the upper post and to erect a 5m boardwalk over the flooded section of the path by the gates. I am contacting Jon Boyd, DCC P3 Officer, to enquire about P3 funding for the materials and hire of a digger.

#### Quotation for Ermington PC

##### FP11

Item	Size	Quantity	Price	Total Price
Wood for path edging	22x150x4800	24	£4.86 per metre	116.64
Support Posts for path edging	50x25x4800	2	£8.47	16.94
Anti-slip decking	150x32x3600	11	£35.78	393.62
Support Posts	100x100x3000	3	£12.60	37.8
Strings	47x100x3000	4	£14.44	57.76
Postfix		6	£8.32	49.92
Deck Screws	4.2x65	1	£17.47	17.47
Screws for path edging support	5x30	1	£9.31	9.31
Screws for path edging wood	4x40	1	£11.34	11.34
				<u>£710.80</u>

#### Hire period

First 24hrs	£216.62
Next 24hrs	£108.31
Weekend	£303.28
Week	£433.24

e) **Meet Your Councillor's Clinic (24 January 2026) actions** = Cllr Grafton – no further update

f) **Feedback from the Ermington Environmental Group** = Cllr Williams to be the Parish Councillor representative

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

A parishioner enquired why the Parish Council were not prepared to take on the responsibility of the Public Open Space, below The Spires. Cllr Toms stated the reasons why the Parish Council do not wish to take on the responsibility, had been discussed at many Parish Councils meetings. The Parish Council wish to be proactive in getting a solution on the maintenance of the land with SHDC and Barratts.

**200/2025 CIVILITY & RESPECT PLEDGE**

Cllr Owens enquired at the February 2026 Parish Council meeting if a Parish Councillor could sign the Civility and Respect Policy. The Clerk sought clarification, then emailed Cllr Owens, stating the Parish Council can demonstrate their organisational commitment by signing the Civility and Respect Pledge or Parish Councillors themselves can personally commit to upholding these values in their daily work and interaction, by signing the Councillor’s Statement of Assurance. Attached is Cllr Owens signed Councillors Statement of Assurance.

**201/2025 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

- Temporary Traffic Notice - LANE TO STRASHLEIGH FARM, Ermington (TTRO2667914)
- Community Conversations event with Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service
- Application to Name and Number New Street [[RP/566717]]
- Email from parishioner – thanking DCC for drain clearance from Flete Western to Luson Farm PL21 9JZ via Clickland PL21 9JY

**202/2025 DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held on [Tuesday 7 April 2026](#) in the [Reading Rooms, Ermington](#). at 7.30 pm.

**203/2025 SPEAKER FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – MAY 2026**

RESOLVED Cllr Grafton will seek a speaker.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair – Cllr Nicholas Toms)

Date: 7 April 2026

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

## ERMINGTON DEMENTIA FRIENDLY VILLAGE SIGNAGE AUDIT-FEBRUARY 2026.

### PRESENT:

Claire Puckey (Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm and Four Rivers Dementia Alliance).

CLlr Margaret Grafton (Ermington Parish Council).

This report contains guidance re: dementia friendly signage and photographs of the current signage audited on a walk around the key areas of the village with suggestions of dementia friendly improvements for consideration.

### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY DESIGN.

- Getting environmental design right is really important to people living with dementia because it can reduce potential stress, confusion and upset and helps to support their independence to continue being part of their local community and do the things they have always done.
- Environments that are accessible to people with dementia also tend to be easier and more pleasant for everyone else as well and small changes can make a big difference.

### DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SIGNAGE GUIDANCE.

Some general good practice guidelines for dementia friendly signage are as follows (This is from the Dementia Services Development Centre, Stirling University-A world leader in dementia friendly design):

- Signs need to be clear and in bold face with a good tonal contrast between text and background. This not only helps people with dementia but also those with any degree of sight loss.  
The lens of the eye naturally thickens with age and so, older people may experience colours as 'washed out' –**A yellow background with bold, black typeface is preferable.**
- Signs should have a combination of pictures and simple text where appropriate (no jargon or acronyms) because people with dementia will lose cognitive function in different ways (some will lose the ability to recognise words whilst others may not be able to recognise pictures).
- Signs should avoid the use of abstract images or overly stylised icons.
- There should be a tonal contrast between the sign and the surface it is mounted on (To help those with dementia recognise it as a sign).
- Signs should be mounted lower than at traditional eye level height (Optimal height is 1.2 metres from the ground as this allows for the downward gaze and the stooped posture that a lot of older people experience), wherever possible and well lit.
- The signs should be consistent around the village (if there are different types and designs of signs, this is likely to add to confusion and anxiety).
- Ideally, the signs should be made from non-reflective materials.
- If the signs are relating to doors, they should be fixed onto the doors they refer to and not on adjacent surfaces and it is also important that glass doors are clearly marked.

**ERMINGTON MILL.**



As shown above, there is currently no signage in place to indicate the Ermington Mill area on approach to the village from the Iybridge direction. As people may visit and buy items in the mill area, it would be helpful to have a sign on this side of the board.



This is the current signage for Ermington Mill (Visible on the other side of the board, for drivers/walkers coming through from the opposite direction). It is good that this is in place but if it could be changed to one in the yellow and black combination, that would be helpful.



This sign shown above for the Store and More is a good size sign but as suggested for the Ermington Mill sign, if it were possible to change this to the yellow and black colour combination, that would be helpful and easier to pick out for people living with dementia and/or those with a visual impairment.



To make the Ermington Workshops and River Park signs stand out more and be dementia friendly, the recommendation for the yellow and black colour combination also applies here.

### STORE AND MORE



On the side of the Store and More (Above), there are a lot of signs in one place which is not ideal as this can cause confusion to people living with dementia. If this collection of signs could be broken up a little e.g. the shop and café sign moved slightly lower and also changed to the yellow and black colour combination with a directional arrow pointing the way in, that would help.

Similarly, if the reverse side of the shop and café sign (in photo below) could be changed to the yellow and black colour combination with a directional arrow pointing the way in, that would be helpful.



The sign for shop parking above could be quite hard to spot for some people living with dementia due to it's small size and lack of colour contrast. If it could be made a little bigger and changed to the yellow and black colour combination, that would be helpful.

## ST PETER AND ST PAUL CHURCH



It may not be possible due to restrictions that are often placed on church buildings by the diocese, but if it were, the sign on the right side of the noticeboard could be made dementia friendly by changing it to the yellow and black colour combination.  
**JUNCTION SIGNPOST.**



Similar to the aforementioned signage on the side of the Store and More (Above), too many signs close together in one place can cause confusion to people living with dementia. So, if the shop and café sign on the right side of the post, could be moved slightly lower and also changed to the yellow and black colour combination, that would help.  
Also, on the left side of the post, it would be helpful to add a sign to other key parts of the village in that direction e.g. the pub and the toilets.

## TOILETS



It is good that you already have yellow and black signs in place but if directional arrows could be added to the ladies and gentlemen's signs that would be helpful and if the public conveniences sign could be changed to one just saying Toilets, that would also be helpful.

Currently, because of the plant growth, the signs are a little obscured.

At the time of the audit, the toilets were closed so it was not possible to look inside and see what signage may be needed there-If you wish to make the toilets dementia friendly, it would be very important to audit them at another time (This would ensure that you have the necessary clear signs in place to indicate how to flush the toilet, use the taps, how to lock and unlock the door and exit the toilets) etc.



It would be helpful if you could consider putting a sign somewhere at this end of the village (possibly on the lamppost) with a directional arrow showing the way to the toilets and store and more.



Similarly, if it were possible, you could consider placing a sign on the lamppost here with a directional arrow, showing the way to the pub, church etc.

**EXAMPLES OF DEMENTIA FRIENDLY VILLAGE SIGNAGE (SOUTH BRENT).**

To give you an idea of how this kind of signage can look in-situ, Four Rivers Dementia Alliance supported South Brent Parish Council with a signage audit and guidance. They have now installed dementia friendly signage around the village to indicate the way to key areas of it and this is shown in the next three photographs:



Lampost-mounted signage in the centre of the village pointing the way to the public toilets and churches.



Signage mounted on a lamppost showing the way to the community centre and library.



Signage on the charity shop wall indicating the way to the toilets.



# Civility & Respect


IN COLLABORATION WITH SLCC, NALC, OVW, COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS

## **Councillor's Statement of Assurance** **Ermington Parish Council**

I confirm that I have read the council's Code of Conduct, including the principles of public life, and understand my obligations and the behaviour expected of me whenever I am acting as a councillor.

Understanding my duties as a councillor, I will adopt the principles of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership. I will also:

- Behave respectfully towards others, including those I disagree with.
- Uphold the values identified in my council's Code of Conduct.
- Attend training required by the council as part of my role as a councillor.

Signed 

Name Robert Owens

Date 4th March 2026