

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 30 April 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Patricia Hannam, John Dunlop and Ian Creese

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 6

151/2023 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter and Cllr Robert Owens.

152/2023 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

None.

A parishioner wished to raise concern before the Open Forum because as he believed discussions were taking place where the Chairman failed to declare an interest in the A3121 proposals because his garden is adjacent to the A3121.

The Clerk considered this was not necessary but would seek clarification.

153/2023 CONFIRM CO-OPTION POLICY

RESOLVED to accept the Co-option Policy which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The policy will be available to view on the parish council website. **ACTION: Clerk**

154/2023 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- Bus service in Ermington – Cllr Thomas pointed out; the issue is for people to agree for bus to travel into Ermington. We need to investigate a local minibus system to get people from Ermington to Yealmpton to access the bus service.

- Public footpath gate entrance opposite Plantation House – Cllr Thomas will lend his support to Cllr Owens on the work he is doing with DCC.

- Potholes in Westlake and Luson and flooding in Westlake – please report potholes/flooding on the Devon County Council website - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> and Cllr Thomas will try to action. Cllr Creese pointed out that there will be ten million pounds available to DCC highways. Cllr Thomas was aware of the funds, along with Nick Colton DCC Highways. They will try to allocate money to Westlake's issues, but he is not confident. Cllr Hannam asked if there was any view from DCC to stop additional water on the highways. Cllr Thomas asked Cllr Hannam to place her question in an email which he will send to the appropriate person at Devon County Councillor.

At yesterday's meeting (29/04/2024) of the Full Council at County Hall, the Devon Devolution deal was agreed (see points A to F below).

The MOTION in the name of Councillor Hart was then put to the vote and declared CARRIED, as below.

(a) that all those who responded to the consultation be thanked, for the time they gave in considering the draft proposal and in preparing responses to it;

(b) that the analysis of the responses (Appendix A) on the draft proposal for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority, showing the variety, breadth and range of views expressed, have been fully considered;

(c) that the proposal (Appendix B) for the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DT CCA) for submission to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, be approved, having taken into consideration, and having due regard to the consultation responses and the Public Sector Equality Duty; 2 COUNCIL 29/04/24

154/2023

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

(d) that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be given delegated authority to consent to the making of the necessary Regulations to create the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority thereby implementing and giving effect to the proposal, subject to those Regulations reflecting the principles in the proposal document and this report;

(e) that, subject to the approval of the proposal and making of Regulations, the Council will give consideration to a draft Constitution for the DT CCA in September 2024; and

(f) that the establishment of the statutory Team Devon Joint Committee be supported to formalise the existing partnership, address shared priorities and have a voice in the work of the Combined County Authority and note that its proposed terms of reference will be considered by the Council in September 2024.

NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order 32(4) Councillors Bailey, Brazil, Connett, Cox, Leaver, Letch, Roome, Thomas and Wrigley asked for their abstention from voting on the Motion to be recorded in the minutes.

First tree and woodland strategy for Devon

Devon's first ever Tree and Woodland strategy has been adopted by the Devon Local Nature Partnership to enhance and protect trees and woodlands in the county.

The strategy which includes Plymouth and Torbay, sets out ambitions for our precious trees, hedges and woodlands from now until 2050.

It plans for the delivery of an additional 3000ha of woodland and trees in Devon by 2030, to help achieve an increase in the county's tree cover from 14% to 16.5% by 2050, meeting the UK's national target.

You can read more at www.devonlnp.org.uk/devon-tree-and-woodland-strategy/

Grants are available to local community groups

Grants are available to local community groups that run projects that help improve people's wellbeing, reduce hardship, provide a warm safe space to work or learn or socialise.

Groups with schemes that bring communities together, alleviate food poverty or tackle loneliness, isolation, and build self-esteem, for example are invited to apply. Or projects that have a clear and direct community benefit, such as improving the environment, or that use innovation to improve efficiency or proposals that seek to expand the reach of an existing scheme are also encouraged to apply.

More at www.devon.gov.uk/communities/growing-communities-fund

Our Leader, Councillor John Hart is stepping down

Our Leader of Devon County Council, Councillor John Hart, [has announced he is leaving the post after 15 years.](#) John became Leader of Devon's opposition Conservative Party in 2007 and won power of the County Council in the 2009 election. He has remained Leader since then.

The Devon Conservative Group will hold a ballot to decide the County Council's next Leader and John will remain in post until then.

155/2023

A3121 SPEED LIMIT (VARIATION OF DCC POLICY) – APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT ENGINEER TO LOOK AT THE OPTIONS AND GIVE AN INDICATION OF THE COST.

Cllr Thomas confirmed the correct approach is through Callidus, in the reduction of the speed on the A3121. Cllr Hannam wished to thank Cllr Thomas on behalf of the parish council for all the hard work he has done to reduce the speed from 40 mph to 30 mph on the A3121, at the bottom of the village.

Cllr Onley confirmed Cllr Owens had received a quote from Callidus and asked for approval from this meeting to proceed. Cllr Onley stated in light of the discussion regarding declaration of interests he would abstain from the discussion.

Cllrs Creese, Dunlop and Hannam supported accepting the quote and it was RESOLVED to give Cllr Owens approval to proceed.

156/2023 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- *Enforcement of hedge height "The Spires" Church Road - Hedge - Enforcement ref.* requirements of the 2012 planning permission for this development (application ref: 21/1425/12/F). Breach of the hedge maintenance (required by Condition 10).

Additional village car parking - Cllr Thomas pointed out the lease holders can not sub lease and SHDC can not formally progress the idea. RESOLVED the parish council would obtain a list of unit leaseholders from SHDC and write to the leaseholders asking if they would agree to their spaces being used by the community during evenings and weekends.

ACTION: Cllr Onley/Clerk

157/2023 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors

Parishioner – mentioned that there are parishioners whose properties border the A3121, will not be affected by the reduction of 30 mph from 40 mph on the A3121. Cllr Thomas has been to cabinet recently and it was agreed that the whole stretch could be included as long as there are clear indicators. The parishioner also felt the Cllr Onley should declare a personal interest as his property is adjacent to the A3121. RESOLVED the Clerk to clarify if Cllr Onley should state a personal interest as his property backs on the A3121 road. **ACTION Clerk**

Parishioner – wished to raise two points, three weeks ago they had blocked drains but there are no telephone numbers available for parish councillors. There is also a deep pothole in the highway opposite their home which is causing stones to damage his car/property. RESOLVED Cllr Creese will report the pothole to DCC. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

- Also, they asked why it was permissible that a parishioner could place cones outside their property causing vehicles to move onto the highway. Cllr Thomas passed the parishioner his telephone number and asked for the parishioner to contact him if they wish to progress their concern about the cones.

Parishioner – asked if the primary school netball area could be used for car parking.

- Why is 40 mph to 30 mph being considered on the A3121. Since we have had speed humps the speed has increased in the village.
- Footpaths – pre COVID nothing seems to be done on the maintenance of the footpaths. The parishioner is organising a HASH and one of the exit paths places walkers into the path of vehicles on the footpath from Clickland to Holbeton.

Cllr Onley pointed out, vehicles are being parked randomly around the village which can be viewed as traffic calming.

Parishioner – Parochial Church Council are currently committed to be net Zero by 2030. The oil boiler is being decommissioned and the plan is to install electric heating in the form of under pew heaters. A total of £19k has been received from match funding and generosity of congregation and local parishioner. The next phase is to fund raise for a 23 KW array of solar panels and at that stage the church would be grateful for a grant from the parish council. The church would also be grateful for a grant towards a handrail up the steps to the lynch gate which is a need raised by a local parishioner.

Parishioner – extremely concerned about the volume of traffic and speed through the village, especially going pass the primary school. Cllr Thomas pointed out that this was raised at the last meeting of the parish council who contacted the primary school. The primary school replied they had no money to provide a lollipop person. Cllr Dunlop declared an interest as his wife works for Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST). The parishioner wishes for something to be done before a child is seriously injured. Cllr Hannam considers this to be a safeguarding issue and when does this become an issue for the school? Cllr Thomas stated it is not a safeguarding issue for the school.

- The parishioner also pointed out there are no speed bumps on the entrance to the village from the A3121. Cllr Thomas pointed out that speed humps only get installed when S106 money is available. The parishioner asked if the council could assess the size of vehicles passing through the village and the speed of vehicles? Cllr Thomas pointed out that DCC is unable to run a highway on their budget, on what may happen. DCC can't stop people driving too fast and control the volume of traffic through the village. Cllr Onley asked if there is anything the parish council can do. Cllr Thomas stated that the parish council is doing what they are able to do by the Community Speed Watch.

158/2023 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 5 March 2024 (as previously circulated).

159/2023 PLANNING

Reference: 0441/24/FUL Proposal: Installation of ultra-rapid charging hubs & associated infrastructure at an existing car park

Site Address: Endsleigh Garden Centre, Endsleigh, Ivybridge, PL21 9JL

Recommendation: Support

Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

We will always assess any proposed planning application in terms of the contribution to climate change.

Steps we wish applicants to take include the following, although this is not an exhaustive list and we would also welcome other solutions:

Incorporating energy efficiency, high standards of insulation, and low carbon systems for heating, cooking and lighting, together with renewable energy generation including PV solar, wind turbines, and electric vehicle charging points.

The use of locally sourced low carbon building materials and the use of building locations and designs to minimise carbon use and include the recovery and reuse of water and building materials.

Ensuring adequate drainage to reduce the risk of flooding and the use of permeable surfacing materials to hard landscape areas. N.B. The use of traditional soakaways in areas of known flooding risk will not normally be supported.

Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

Reference: 0902/24/FUL Proposal: Agricultural building

Site Address: Heavilands Barn, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR

Recommendation: Support

Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

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Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

Reference: 1037/24/FUL Proposal: General purpose agricultural building

Site Address: Higher Ludbrook Farm, Ludbrook, PL21 0LL

Recommendation: No comment

Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

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Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

159/2023 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 1036/24/FUL Proposal: General purpose agricultural building

Site Address: Higher Ludbrook Farm, Ludbrook, PL21 0LL

Recommendation: No comment

Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

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Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

Reference: 1023/24/FUL Proposal: General purpose agricultural building

Site Address: Higher Ludbrook Farm, Ludbrook, PL21 0LL

Recommendation: No comment

Ermington Parish Council have declared a climate emergency and under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 we are obligated to encourage biodiversity and enhancements for nature. As such we welcome any action that can be taken to help the natural environment and wildlife in this time of climate crisis. Any new planning development offers an opportunity for parishioners to help the Parish Council with this requirement.

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Mitigating carbon use by actions to support wildlife, such as; planting berry and fruit-bearing trees, planting hedgerows instead of fencing, maintaining hedgehog highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

For information only:

Application Number: 0901/24/PDM

Location: Land at Sx 631 544 Ivybridge

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural building to form 2 No dwellinghouses (class C3) & for associated development (class Q (a+b))

Planning Decision:

0201/24/FUL Full Planning Application

Decision: Conditional Approval

Description: Change of use of agricultural building to equestrian, with associated sand school & signage (retrospective)(resubmission of 2063/23/FUL)

0491/24/PHH Prior Approval Householder

Decision: Prior Approval Required and Given

Description: Application to determine if prior approval is required for proposed single storey rear extension 4 metres high x 2 metres to eaves

160/2023 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

Bank balances:- Treasurers Account on 15 April 2024 = £63,223.26
Business Bank Account 11 March 2024 = £46,502.41

(ii) Receipt(s):- Bank Interest (Business Account) 11/03/2024 = £51.29

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – March 2024 salary and working at home allowance	£781.73	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website March 2024	£45.00	-	-
Reimbursement to Parish Clerk for the purchase of 2 nd class stamps (prior to increase of stamps on 2 April 2024)	£48.00	-	-
SHDC – Providing 2023/24 Payroll Service for Parish Clerk	£120.00	-	-
DALC & NALC – affiliation fee	£338.33	£44.33	£294.00

(iv) Grant Request(s) - Citizens Advice South Hams – RESOLVED to grant £200.

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

Financial Statement

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 March 2024: **£46,502.41**
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 April 2024: **£63,223.26**

Less: any unrepresented cheques £0.00

Total Funds = £109,725.67

Earmarked Reserves

Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington -£20,000

Total uncommitted Funds = £89,725.67

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

(vii) Cllr Hannam reported no issues on verification of bank reconciliations,

(viii) Bench halfway down on Town Hill requires repairing – would the parish council provide funds to purchase items to repair bench of between £60 - £70. A parishioner will provide their labour free of charge. Cllr Thomas has been informed by Nick Colton DCC Highways that the land it is not registered. RESOLVED to grant funds.

(ix) Internal Audit will take place on 3rd May at 10am.

161/23 REDECORATION OF THE INTERIOR OF THE READING ROOMS – Cllr Creese

Cllr Creese circulate three quotes:

Quote 1 - £3,650
Quote 2 - £3,720
Quote 3 - £3,610 – the company also went into detail about damp proofing the walls in both walls.

RESOLVED to ask the company who submitted Quote 3 to carry out the work. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

162/12 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CHURCH

Discussion ensued on information which had been circulated to parish councillors, prior to the meeting. The new advice will be considered when a grant is submitted.

163/23 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY - 6 JUNE 2024

Parish Council would welcome any thoughts from parishioners.

164/23 CLIMATE CRISIS ADAPTATION – Cllr Hannam

Cllr Hannam would like to attend an event on Monday 3 June 2024, organised by Bioregional Learning Centre. They are running a week event from 3 – 7 June 2024. Each day there will be different visits to sites in different areas e.g. rivers. The days will run from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm. There will be opportunities to consider how all of us can actively work towards local climate adaptation. This is in the practical work of flood preparation, food growing or nature restoration, but also in developing our vision of community and of ourselves as citizens. Also, looking at place-based climate adaptation through five key themes: Water, Food, Human Health, Natural Environment and Energy & Technology.

RESOLVED Cllr Hannam to attend on Monday 3 June 2024 – the food and farming event. **ACTION: Cllr Hannam**

165/23 REVIEW OF ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE POLICY

RESOLVED to remove the following paragraph from the policy:

- Area for Laying Floral Tributes – Floral tributes may be laid at the war memorial. This opportunity will be published accordingly at the time. Only cut flowers in compostable wrappings (with no plastic ribbons/ties or rubber bands) may be laid. The area shall be checked regularly during the week of mourning. These will remain in place until the day after the state funeral has taken place. The flowers will then be removed for composting.

166/23 2 MOORS WAY – CLLR HANNAM

RESOLVED to ask Cllr Owens to assess signage. **ACTION: Cllr Owens**

167/2023 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- (a) Ermington Parish Church Liaison = **Cllr Owens** – no report
- (b) Community Speed Watch (CSW) report = **Cllr Dunlop** – during a CSW on 25 April 2024 there were 114 accounts of speeding. RESOLVED Cllr Dunlop will write to Brent Knole in Somerset to ascertain how they achieved an automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) camera in their area. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**
- (c) Ermington Environmental Group, Climate Change and Biodiversity Plan, River Erme Catchment = **Cllr Hannam**. RESOLVED that Cllr Dunlop to discuss Hedgehog signs with Cllr Hannam. RESOLVED that Ermington Environment could have a link to their website page on Parish Council website. Various events are planned throughout the year. RESOLVED the Climate Change and Biodiversity Plan will not to be pursued.
- (d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese**. The speed camera is in the process of being relocated. Agreed not to purchase another speed camera.
- (e) Assessment of Parish footpaths = **Cllr Owens** - RESOLVED Cllr Owens can use the current P3 budget of £220.
- (f) Public Transport and activate travel options = **Cllr Dunlop** – nothing to report.

168/2023 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

- Email from Parishioner - Lorries through the village*
- Email from Parishioner – Parking (Fawns Close)*
- Email from Parishioner - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-68610164>*
- Email SHDC - Planning Application Consultation 0537/24/TCA Sunnyside, Chapel Street, Ermington PL21 9ND – Parish Tree Warden confirmed they agreed with the work*
- Email from Parishioner – An idea!!!*
- Email from Parishioner - 20240411-Automatic Number Plate Recognition Camera in Ermington*
- Email from Parishioner - Pub Quiz - Fundraising Event*
- DCC - Sign of the Owl Letter (240416)*
- Email SHDC - Decision Notification - 0537/24/TCA (Tree in a Conservation Area) - Sunnyside, Chapel Street, Ermington, PL21 9ND T1: lime tree - Fell & Remove due to roots growing under house - no objections*
- Email SHDC - Energy efficiency and helping people in the South Hams is top of the agenda for SDCE*
- Email SHDC - Application: 0781/24/TEX, Proposal: T1-T5: Ash - Fell due to Ash die back Location: New England Wood, Ivybridge, PL7 5BA, Applicant: Devon Wildlife Trust. GRANT EXEMPTION to carry out the operations, Proposed Works: T1-T5: Ash - Fell due to Ash die back*
- Email SHDC - Council offers financial help for war pensioners and vulnerable.*
- Email from parishioner – Formal Complaint*
- Email from SHDC - Re: Alleged Unauthorised use of building for stables, sand school & advertisement at Cleeve House Ivybridge Devon PL21 0LP. On the 21st March 2024 the Council granted planning permission for application number 0201/24/FUL as such there is no breach of planning regulation and I will now close the Enforcement File relating to this matter.*
- Email SHDC - Code of Conduct Complaint [[RP/487577]]*
- Email SHDC Planning Application Consultation 1389/24/TCA Ermington County Primary School, School Road Ermington PL21 9NH – sent to the parish Tree Warden for comments*
- Email from a parishioner – information in connection with their proposed planning application - small amendment to the plan already approved by EPC and SHDC*

Parishioner's have given a selection of glass drinking glasses to the parish council, which will be stored on the Reading Rooms. The parish council were very appreciative kind donation.

169/23 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2024 – CONFIRM SPEAKER

Cllr Hannam has confirmed Jane Nichols, CEO of Sustainable South Hams (Community Interest Company) has agreed to be the speaker for the Annual Parish meeting.

170/2023 TO CONFIRM DATE OF ANNUAL PARISH AND ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED the date of the Annual Parish meeting commencing at 7.30 pm, followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting, to be held on 21 May 2024, in the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 21 May 2024

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

To report highway issues - <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

SHDC website to report issues - <https://apps.southhams.gov.uk/webreportit>