

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 3 September 2024 at 7.30 pm

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

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

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 16

### **039/2024 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

### **040/2024 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA**

None.

**Code Of Conduct Complaint Assessment Decision Notice: Case Reference – RP/501340.** The parishioner set out that Cllr Onley has never declared an interest in a planned A3121 traffic calming scheme and it is said by the Complainant that an interest exists because the Subject Member's property abuts this road. **Conclusion** - No further action should be taken, as the Subject Councillor was not required to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary interest.

### **041/2024 VACANCIES FOR FIVE PARISH COUNCILLORS**

No completed applications received, using the form attached to the Co-option Policy -  
<https://www.ermingtonparish.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Co-Option-Policy-EPC.pdf>

### **042/2024 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

- The recently received Callidus report will be taken to Devon County Council. DCC will be asked to support in principle what is contained within the report.
- DCC meeting on Thursday 5 September 2024, in connection with the Devon and Torbay Devolution deal, will in all probability need to be renegotiated.
- Angela Raynor, Deputy PM and Minister for Local Government, has written to Council leaders to tell them that the consultation process can begin again with new offers on the table but with an expectation that Councils will work widely (geographically) with other Authorities in their area. As such, it is possible that any Combined Authority will need to look further afield than merely Torbay. There is a County Council meeting to discuss this on Thursday, so more next month.

### **043/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

- Enforcement of hedge height "The Spires" Church Road – RESOLVED Cllr Dewynter will liaise with enforcement
- Parishioner - Alarm mill workshops – RESOLVED Cllr Dewynter will speak to her contact at SHDC.
- The Mill vacant workshop leases, to review car parking provision – RESOLVED Cllr Dewynter will speak to her contact at SHDC

**News from South Hams DC of note to Ermington PC:****1. Funding sources for cricket clubs**

Cricket clubs can apply for between £1,000 and £10,000 for:

*Creating welcoming environments* – open to affiliated cricket clubs registered for All Stars or Dynamos, or actively involved with women's and girls' cricket and/or disability cricket.

*Enhanced facilities and playing opportunities for women's and girls' cricket and/or disability cricket* – open to affiliated cricket clubs actively engaged in competitive female only cricket

*Tackling climate change* – open to any affiliated cricket clubs

Clubs can apply for funding to improve access to good quality, safe playing facilities for targeted groups. The priority groups are: Women's and girls' cricket; cricket in diverse communities; Disability cricket; and low socio-economic groups

For investment in three main areas:

- improving the quality of squares and outfield (for grass pitches rated 'unsuitable' or 'basic' to improve to at least 'good')
- creating sustainable management of sites (through irrigation and machinery improvements)
- installing hybrid pitches to increase playing capacity

Applications will be accepted from cricket clubs and other organisations affiliated to the ECB via their local CCB or CF. You will need to arrange for a County Pitch Adviser to conduct a site visit to assess the current Performance Quality Standard of the pitch: only organisations that receive ratings of 'unsuitable' or 'basic' will be able to apply for GPIF funding.

Grant amounts will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Focus of fund/fund aims:

Funding for ECB affiliated cricket clubs

Application deadline:

Refer to the website for details

Fund description:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/club-support/club-funding>

**2. Citizen's Advice South Hams are appealing for new board members**

If you or anyone you know might be interested in applying to become a board member, please email [recruitment@southhamscab.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@southhamscab.org.uk) for more information.

**3. Grants for charities and organisations that help to make transport accessible for disabled people**

Motability provides grants to charities to support the transport needs of people with disabilities. There are six different grant schemes with grants up to £4m.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/motability-grants-to-charities-organisations/>

**4. Funding opportunity to support drop-in hubs that offer mental health support to young people aged 11-25**

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/prudence-trust-early-support-hubs/>

**5. Grants for projects that improve understanding of dementia**

Alzheimer's Research UK is offering grants up to £5,000 for innovative projects that engage and empower the public by improving understanding of dementia and sharing the benefits of dementia research.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/fundingnews/fund/alzheimers-research-uk-inspire-fund/>

**043/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)**

**6. Hidden homelessness survey**

Citizens Advice is conducting a major research project with the University of Plymouth into the issue of hidden homelessness in the South Hams, Plymouth and SE Cornwall.

They want to hear from people who are sofa surfing, living in overcrowded accommodation, living with someone where the relationship has broken down but neither side can afford to move out or adult children living with parents where this is causing a problem such as straining relationships, financial issues or unsuitable living arrangements.

The survey will help inform the research to be published later this year and shared with local and national policymakers, other charities and interested community organisations.

[Anyone can visit this website to find out more and take part.](#)

**7. Help shape adult education in the district**

The SHDC communications team are working with Learn Devon to better understand how local residents can engage with adult education.

Learn Devon is Devon County Council's adult education provider and delivers courses and qualifications across Devon, both online and in-person.

To help ensure that relevant courses and opportunities are available, please complete their short survey and encourage others to take part.

**044/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM - Questions and Comments from Members of the Public to Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors**

Parishioner – reported on the parish Community Speed Watch Group. Police from Ivybridge were asked to attend a speed watch but no police representative was available giving various reasons. Members of the group have received various forms of abuse from drivers speeding and not speeding. Currently the group are unable to find out who owns the land on Town Hill by the blue bench. If adverse possession can be done, then the land where the blue bench is located at Town Hall will be carried out.

Cllr Dewynter was asked by Cllr Hannam what the parish council could do to help with the cycling route from Ivybridge to Ermington. Cllr Dewynter explained the Ivybridge to Bittaford is currently the prioritised route.

Parishioner pointed out that in May 2024 agenda item 11.4 Ermington Environmental Grant, Cllr Onley declared an interest but had not previously in discussions in November 2023. Cllr Onley confirmed he had no interest when the previous discussions occurred. Parishioner asked are there any other Parish Councillor who have an interest? There was no mention of Cllr Onley standing down as Chair when the grant was being discussed, when you should have. Cllr Onley suggested the parishioner should contact the SHDC monitoring officer.

A parishioner representing Ermington Environmental spoke about the group and how it was and is set up.

Discussion ensued between parishioners, and Cllr Onley asked for order and the parishioner to sit down, parishioner refused and continued to address those present. The parishioner stated there were parishioners who had no confidence in the parish council.

**8.08 pm the parish council meeting was suspended due to a lack of order and heated exchanges of words.**

**8.30 pm the meeting recommenced – two parishioners present but then they left the meeting**

Cllr Hannam was disappointed that the police were not attending speed watches in the village. **RESOLVED** Cllr Dunlop will write to the local MP Rebecca Smith, to meet with the parish council. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

**045/2024 UPDATE ON THE SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC ISSUES AND LINE PAINTING A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON HIGHWAY NEAR SHOP IN ERMINGTON VILLAGE**

Cllr Dunlop asked if a virtual pavement could be placed through the village. Cllr Thomas stated that the DCC Current officer is not pursuing virtual pavements, but he will enquire. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

**046/2024**

**PROVISION OF AN IMPROVED BUS SERVICE FOR ERMINGTON**

South Hams Community Action – would the parish council be willing to support their work to undertake a survey in your parish to assess the needs of your residents for all forms of transport – both community and public transport. The findings will then be mapped against the existing provision. This will enable us to find evidence needed and then to work on identified gaps.

RESOLVED Cllr Dewynter will assess if there is funding available in her budget of £300.00 which could be used to assist with the project **ACTION: Cllr Dewynter**

**047/2024**

**RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 2 JULY 2024  
(AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 2 July 2024.

**048/2024**

**PLANNING**

**Planning Applications**

Devon County Council Planning Application at Strashleigh Hams Inert Processing and Recycling Facility, On Slip To A38 West-bound, Lee Mill, Plymouth PL21 9JP

Variation of conditions 3 (hours of operation) and 12 (external lighting) attached to permission DCC/3465/2012 (21/2810/12/CM) for inert recycling and treatment facility and material storage, to allow use of crushers and screens to pre-treat waste and produce secondary aggregates in conjunction with architectural recycling and concrete batching at Strashleigh Hams Inert Processing and Recycling Facility, On Slip To A38 Westbound, Lee Mill, Plymouth PL21 9JP 259996, 55292. The Waste Planning Authority has received a planning application for the above proposed development. The application was received on 17/07/24 and the target date for determination is the 16/10/24.

RESOLVED to place the planning application on the October 2024 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

The plans will be placed on 1 October 2024 Parish Council Meeting agenda for ratification:

Reference: 2389/24/FUL Proposal: Change of use from current C1 (hotel and restaurant) to C3 (residential)

Site Address: Plantation House Totnes Road Ermington PL21 9NS

Recommendation: 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.

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.

**Planning Decision**

Application Number: 2277/24/PDM Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural barn to 1no dwellinghouse (Class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b))

Location: Field At Sx615556 Ivybridge PL21 9JP

Decision: Prior Approval Required and Refused

*For information only:*

Reference: 2207/24/FUL Proposal: Erection of Roofed FYM Store and Roofed Loafing Yard

Site Address: Haye Farm, Ludbrook, PL21 0LL

**048/2024 PLANNING (continued)**

To note the following planning applications:

Reference: 2150/24/FUL Proposal: Erection of agricultural building  
 Site Address: Heavilands Barn, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR

Reference: 2344/24/OPA

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

Proposal: Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for provision of a permanent agricultural worker's dwelling

2377/24/HHO Householder Application

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

Description: Householder application for demolition of garages & replace with timber framed garages

**Planning Decisions**

1661/24/FUL Full Planning Application Decision: Conditional Approval

1979/24/ARC Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions Decision: Discharge of Conditions – Split Decision

**049/2024 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Lloyds Bank Business Bank Account 9 July 2024 = £26,697.20  
 Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account on 15 August 2024 = £16,367.38  
 NatWest Bank = £70,000.00

(ii) Receipt(s): - Bank Interest (Business Account) = £43.91 (09/07/2024)

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – July 2024 salary and back pay	£940.34	-	-
Parish Clerk – August 2024 salary	£417.30	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£417.30	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website July 2024	£45.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website August 2024	£45.00	-	-
Westcountry Woodland And Tree Mgt Ltd – footpath 10 (Square to Ermington Church) parish consultancy work RESOLVED to pay at the August 2024 parish council meeting.	£100.00	£16.67	£83.33
Reimbursement to Clerk – HostGator \$27.81 (£21.47 plus £0.64 sterling transaction fee) Hatchling plan which supports hosting for one domain name – ermingtonparish.com	£22.11	-	-
Reimbursement to Clerk – HostGator \$143.88 (£112.44 sterling plus £3.09 sterling transaction fee) Hatchling plan which supports hosting for one domain name	£115.53	-	-
PKF Littlejohn LLP review of Annual Governance & Accountability Return for year ended 31 March 2024	£252.00	£42.00	£210.00
Modbury Parish Council – Cllr Creese attendance at a strimmer's training	£100.00	-	-
eDF – Devon Air Ambulance Lights = 20 April 2024 – 22 July 2024	£59.48	£2.83	£56.65
Westcountry Woodland & Tree Mgt – re Footpath 10 (Square to Ermington Church) - error not paid double entry	£100.00	£16.67	£83.33
Source for Business (1 June – 1 August 2024) water service at the Reading Rooms	£38.52	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – None

**049/2024 FINANCE (continued)**

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

<b>Financial Statement</b>	
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 July 2024:	<b>£26,697.20</b>
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 July 2024:	<b>£16,367.38</b>
NatWest Bank Account	<b>£70,000.00</b>
Less: any unrepresented cheques:-	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£113,064.58</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>	
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	<b>-£20,000</b>
<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£93,064.58</b>

(vi) Parish Councillors reviewed spend and income to date, against budget 2024/2025 - no issues raised

(vii) Remembrance Day – RESOLVED to purchase the 2024 parish poppy wreath. **ACTION: Clerk**

(viii) To note the conclusion of the external auditor report 2023/24 – no action identified

(ix) RESOLVED to pay the Reading Rooms water bills by direct debit

**050/2024 RESOLVE TO AGREE THE INTERNAL AUDITOR 2024/2025**

RESOLVED to ask Mrs. Clapham to be the internal auditor of EPC account for 2024/2025. **ACTION: Clerk**

**051/2024 REVIEW FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AGAINST THE NALC MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

RESOLVED to place the revised and agreed Financial Regulations on the website. **ACTION: Clerk**

**052/2024 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS REQUIREMENT**

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

**053/2024 REVIEW THE MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND CO-OPTION POLICY**

Code of Conduct – no amendments.

Co-Option Policy – to amend sentence “Please note that it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by telephone and e-mail will be public information”. To read “Please note that it is a condition of a Councillor that a means of contact by e-mail will be public information”. RESOLVED to replace the revised policy on the website. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED to reassess the policy at October EPC meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to place the review of policy on October 2024 agenda**

**054/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = **Cllr Owens** – tidying of the churchyard has recently taken place. A Barn Dance will take place on 3 October 2024 in the church. On 14 September Devon Historic Churches Trust visit, to Harbetonford, Halwell and Morleigh Churches.

b) Community Speed Watch report = **Cllr Dunlop** - body worn camera is now in use.

c) Ermington Environmental Group Climate Change and Biodiversity and support for Climate and Nature - Symposium 11th Oct = **Cllr Hannam** - various talks are planned. One member of the EE group has contacted a farmer who will do a talk. Cllr Hannam is unable to attend the meeting on 11 October but will report on the meeting.

d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese** – the speed camera on Town Hill has been moved up the pole, to improve vision.

**054/2024      REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)**

- e)      Assessment of Parish Footpaths and update on repairs to FP10 (Honeys Field to the Parish Church) = **Cllr Owens** – FP10 repairs is scheduled for week commencing 18 November 2024 – cost of £4,388.11 (excludes VAT)
- f)      Public Transport and active travel options = **Cllr Dunlop**
- g)      Ermington Primary School liaison contact = **Cllr Owens** has introduced himself to the new Head Teacher

**55/2024      CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

South Hams Community Action – Membership: membership provides essential support for sustaining South Hams Community Action services in the community. It enables us to provide information, support and advice as well as deliver projects, workshops, networking events and support volunteering across South Hams.

Annual membership £60 p.a (which equates to just £5 a month) entitles the parish council to:

1. Fortnightly funding updates, including information on the latest funding opportunities.
2. Reduced cost or free training sessions—new training coming soon includes quarterly volunteer induction training sessions.
3. Advance notice and access to events including forthcoming 'meet the funder' online sessions.
4. Policy templates.
5. Free one-to-one support including governance and organisational development, etc.
6. Signposting and advice for when you need to undertake DBS checks.
7. Opportunity to undertake free Quality Mark certification.
8. Free hire of our digital projector and screen and display boards (subject to availability)

RESOLVED not to pay an annual membership fee. Clerk to inform SHCA. **ACTION: Clerk**

DCC - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Newsletter - Summer 2024  
Parishioner - Alarm mill workshops  
DCC - (South) Urgent Closure Temporary Traffic Notice - KEATON BRIDGE TO IVYBRIDGE ROAD, Ermington (TTRO2458722) DG100-CGPATD243874803  
Letter from Rebecca Smith MP to Chair  
Emails from a parishioner – speeding in the village  
NatWest credit interest rate on bank account is reducing

**056/2024      TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE**

RESOLVED the date of the next Parish meeting commencing at 7.30 pm, will be held on 1 October 2024, in the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.

*Denis Onley*

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 1 October 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>