

# ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 1 October 2024 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, John Dunlop and Ian Creese  
Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas  
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

**Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s):** 9

### **057/2024 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter.

Cllr Onley reported that Cllr Hannam has resigned and wished to thank her on behalf of the parish council for all her assistance during her time as a parish councillor.

### **058/2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Public attendance and participation – Cllr Onley**

Parish Councils are small local authorities that represents the first level of local government. As it is the authority closest to the community, parish councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas, and for this reason they are a vital part of any community.

Parish councils make all kinds of decisions on behalf of the people on issues that affect the local community, most commonly planning matters, crime prevention, improving open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

A Parish Council is elected by the electorate of the area, Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who give their time and service freely to assist the local community.

Meetings of the Parish Council are not public meetings, but members of the public have a statutory right to attend meetings of the council as observers. They have no legal right to speak unless the Parish Council Chair authorises them to do so. However, as part of its community engagement, Parish Council's may agenda time for public participation when members of the public are invited to speak.

It is not a good use of time for members of the public to complain about past events, or principal or other authority issues such as overgrown hedges, streetlights, pot-holes and so forth during public participation. The best contact is the Parish Clerk about such issues. Participation is best used for issues where a decision will or could be made by the council, or for comments on items already on the agenda.

Members of the public cannot be involved in the decision-making of the Council. The Council cannot make any instant decisions at the behest of members of the public on items that are not included in the agenda. As a matter of best practice, the public forum will be kept separate from the councillors deliberations.

If matters raised are not on the agenda for the meeting these can be added to the agenda for a future meeting at the discretion of the Council.

Members of the public are welcome to stay for the Council meeting after the public session as observers but will not be able to join in the discussion unless invited to do so by the Chair.

Members of the public may be excluded by a resolution of the meeting for specific items which need to be discussed in confidence (e.g. staffing matters, & financial contracts).

Written statements should be received by the Parish Clerk at least 7 days prior to the meeting, so that they can be included in the Agenda.

The Public Open Forum is an opportunity for members of the public to:

- (a) make representations,
- (b) answer questions, or
- (c) give information relating to the business to be transacted.

**058/2024 PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - Public attendance and participation – Cllr Onley (continued)**

Any question, comment or statement must be addressed to the Chair of the meeting and not to the audience or individual Councillor's. The Chair has the right to say that any question, comment or statement is inappropriate and will not be accepted.

A question raised by a member of the public during a public speaking session shall not require an immediate response. Neither Councillors nor the Parish Clerk should be put under pressure to respond to questions or comments made during public participation. Members of the public do not have a right to force items onto the council agenda nor to insist on how matters are resolved or recorded in the minutes. If the issue is on the agenda, then it may be discussed under the appropriate item.

A brief record of topics raised at public participation will be included in the minutes of that meeting. But libellous, offensive and discriminatory comments will not be minuted.

All persons present must act respectfully towards every other person present and will not act in a manner which demeans, insults, threatens or intimidates others present. All statements, questions and responses, challenges to statements, complaints or criticisms must be made politely.

All statements, questions and responses must be related to the facts of the matter and not be personal in nature. There should be no reference to personal views of any person.

Please note that offensive or threatening behaviour will not be tolerated. If a member of the public interrupts the proceedings of any meeting the Council reserves the right to curtail the contribution of that person and exclude a disorderly person.

**059/2024 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA**

Cllr Owens declared an interest in agenda item 16 (a)

**060/2024 PARISH COUNCILLORS = FIVE CO-OPTION VACANCIES and ONE CASUAL VACANCY**

Five Co-Option Vacancies - No completed applications received since the last meeting using the form attached to the Co-option Policy - <https://www.ermingtonparish.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Co-Option-Policy-EPC.pdf>. The notice is displayed on website and noticeboards

One Casual Vacancy – notice is displayed on website and noticeboards

**061/2024 REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

- A3121 Speed Restriction (40 mph to 30 mph) update from DCC Highways

**062/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS**

- A. *The path around Ermington Recreation Ground, which has narrowed because of over-growth of turf.***  
Localities have approached a group called Parklife SW CIC to see if they might consider reinstatement of the path over the winter. There will be a cost, which I hope we can meet from parish funds plus the District Councillors Climate Change fund. More information to come once localities hear back from Parklife SW.
- B. *The Alarm at Ermington Mill***  
I looked into this and was told that the old system was powered down in mid-August so the alarm reported to me at the last meeting cannot have been from Ermington Mill. The new alarm has been ordered and paid for and is awaiting an installation date.
- C. *The Spires hedge.***  
I have had no reply from enforcement about the hedge but recall that the PC approached me earlier in the year to find out from SHDC whether it was ok for someone to lay the hedge. The answer was yes. I am assuming this didn't happen. SHDC have written to all residents with responsibility for the hedge, asking for them to cut it. The Parish Council can do the same.

**062/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)**

**D. Ermington Mill Industrial Estate Parking.**

All I can repeat is what I fed back to the Parish Council in May 24, as I have approached the officer again and this still stands:

*I have spoken to the senior officer at SHDC in charge of parking at Ermington Mill. The units are leased with parking and hence the car park can't currently be used for public parking. Without the parking, units would not lease and hence no spaces are going to be made available by SHDC for general public parking. Because of previous abuse of the parking spaces, which has led to one leaseholder resigning their lease, the parking places are now allocated to specific units and parking permits are required. If the parish council would like to speak to leaseholders independently and if those leaseholders agree to their parking spaces being used by other specified people during set hours, SHDC can print permits for specific vehicles for specific parking places for specific times (for example Sundays).*

**News from South Hams DC of note to Ermington PC:**

**1. Survey for local dads and male carers**

The 'Let's Talk' team from [South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership](#) is developing sessions specifically for dads and male carers.

'Let's Talk' provides online support and advice to parents of young people aged from 7 to 18 years. It is now looking to provide specialist support for dads and male carers in the coming months.

To help design the best support, dads and male carers can take part in an online survey to help understand their views and how they can best provide support and advice.

Please encourage your residents to take part in their [online survey](#).

**2. Home energy efficiency upgrades**

As part of work to improve the energy efficiency of homes and fight climate change, SHDC are working with partners South Dartmoor Community Energy to help future-proof some of the most poorly performing energy rated properties in the South Hams. Residents could save on their energy use and bills with a free energy efficiency upgrade to their property if they:

- Own their home
- Have heating that isn't main's gas
- Have an energy EPC rating of D, E, F, G
- Have a total household income of less than £36,000 per year

Please encourage your eligible residents to find out more and apply at [southhams.gov.uk/hug2](https://southhams.gov.uk/hug2)



**063/2024 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**

**064/2024 SPEEDING - CHURCH STREET FROM THE COMMUNITY SHOP DOWN TO THE CORNER OF SCHOOL ROAD**

To be discussed at the next meeting.

**065/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM**

Items raised by parishioners:

Report back from the survey for the speeding on the A3121 – Cllr Onley replied, the parish councillors are waiting for DCC Highways to agree to the plan and the costs.

Agenda item 2 is this information from a body – Cllr Onley guidance.

Casual Vacancy – Cllr Onley due to a Parish Councillors resignation.

**065/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM (continued)**

Church Clock is a parish asset, could the parish councillor take on its maintenance.

Police meeting at the Hub, could the next meeting be more widely communicated.

Play area and path need repairing in the play park, also the road hedge needs to be trimmed. Cllr Onley - overgrown hedges needs to be reported on the Devon County Council website.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/> Cllr Onley - the path issued has been reported to Cllr Dewynter.

**066/2024 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 3 SEPTEMBER 2024 (AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)**

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 3 September 2024.

**067/2024 ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB PAVILION PROPOSAL**

A request from the Ermington Cricket Club to be placed on the December 2024 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

**068/2024 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.

*Recommendation: No comment*

Reference: 2727/24/FUL Proposal: Erection of general-purpose agricultural building

Site Address: Land at SX 621 536, Westlake

*Recommendation: No comment*

Reference: 2821/24/FUL Proposal: A new single storey building containing woodwork workshop, home office & two bedrooms

Site Address: Copperhayes Hunsdon Ivybridge PL21 9JR

*Recommendation: No comment*

**RESOLVED to ratify the following planning application recommendation:** 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.

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 hedgerow highways, installing bat and bird boxes.

**068/2024 PLANNING (continued)**

**Planning Information:**

Alleged Unauthorised Works Not in Accordance with 0968/22/PDM

Location: Heavilands Barn, Hunsdon, Ivybridge, PL21 9JR

The EN will stay in place until such time as the works to comply with the planning permission have been carried out. The case will be left open for ongoing monitoring, to make sure that the planning permission is complied with and to make sure the barn is not used for any purpose other than agriculture.

**Planning Decision**

2377/24/HHO Householder Application Decision: Conditional Approval

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

**For information only:**

Application Number: 3095/24/PDM

Proposal: Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed change of use of agricultural barn to 1 No dwellinghouse (Class C3) & for associated development (Class Q (a+b)) Location: Field at SX 615 556 Ivybridge

**069/2024 FINANCE**

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:- Lloyds Bank Business Bank Account 9 August 2024 = £26,723.60  
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account on 13 September 2024 = £15,505.44  
NatWest Bank = £70,061.18

(ii) Receipt(s) :- Bank Interest (Lloyds Bank Business Account) = £26.40 (09/08/2024)  
Bank Interest (NatWest Bank Account) = £61.18 (August 2024)  
VAT Refund = £985.49

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – September 2024 salary	£417.30	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£417.30		
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website September 2024	£45.00	-	-
Interior painting of Reading Rooms	£3,610.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – Grant application received from Ermington Village Fund for 1st November 2024 fireworks - RESOLVED Cllr Dunlop to discuss with Ermington Village Fund potential for the event to be more inclusive for those on low income. **ACTION: Cllr Dunlop**

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

<b>Financial Statement</b>		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 August 2024:	<b>£26,723.60</b>	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 September 2024:	<b>£15,505.44</b>	
NatWest Bank Account	<b>£70,061.18</b>	
Less: any unrepresented cheques:-	-£417.30	001566
	-£252.00	001568
	-£3,610.00	001572
<b>Total Funds =</b>	<b>£108,010.92</b>	
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	<b>-£20,000</b>	
<b>Total uncommitted Funds =</b>	<b>£88,010.92</b>	

**069/2024 FINANCE (continued)**

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

(vii) Cllr Owens verified the bank statements and reconciliations

(viii) Discuss and draft Budget for 2025 / 2026 – RESOLVED to be placed on November 2024 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

**071/2024 REASSESS CO-OPTION POLICY**

RESOLVED to replace the current Co-Option Policy with the draft version that was circulated prior to the meeting.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**072/2024 REVIEW GDPR POLICIES:**

Data Protection Impact Assessment  
Information & Data Protection Policy  
Privacy Notice For staff, Councillors and Role Holders  
Public Privacy Policy

RESOLVED to make no amendments to policies.

**073/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = **Cllr Owens** Work has started on installing the under pew heating in the Church. This has been funded through donations and matched funding from the Diocese. Barn Dance is on Friday 4 th October. It has been a sellout. Sunday 6 October 11.00am Harvest Festival service supporting the work of the Farm Community Network. There is a Bring and Share lunch after the service

b) Community Speed Watch report = RESOLVED that Cllr Owens will now give the report, which is as follows:

**Speedwatch - September**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Town Hill travelling up North

Traffic Volume: 138

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 11 (8%)

Maximum speed: 30 mph

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Church Road travelling South West

Traffic Volume: 166

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 1 (1%)

Maximum speed: 26 mph

Thursday 26<sup>TH</sup> September 4.00pm to 5.00pm

Bunkers Hill travelling up North West

Traffic Volume: 41

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 4 (10%)

Maximum speed: 30 mph

Speedwatch now has the use of a Body Worn Video (BWV) which provides reassurance that video evidence would be available of abusive or offensive members of the public

Speedwatch operators attended a Police Meet and Greet session at the Hub on Wednesday 25 September 2024.

Cllr Owens has been in contact with Cllr Jon May, Ugborough Parish Council who is setting up a Speedwatch group to monitor the Ivybridge to Wrangaton road.

Cllr Owens will be attending a Speedwatch conference at West Point, Exeter on Thursday 10 October 2024.

**073/2024      REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)**

- c)      Ermington Environmental Group Climate Change & Biodiversity and support for Climate and Nature = **Cllr Dunlop** will be attending a meeting on 2 October 2024.
  - d)      Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese** circulated a copy of the data which will be placed on the website. Westlake to Endsleigh litter pick has recently taken place.
  - e)      Assessment of Parish Footpaths and update on repairs to FP10 (Honeys Field to the Parish Church) = **Cllr Owens** – The contractor is ready to commence work on 18 November on FP10 – cost of £4,388.11 (excludes VAT).
- Email sent to Alan Mighall, Chair of South Hams Ramblers re. the proposal to create a “South Hams Way” a proposal from South Hams Ramblers to create a 100 mile walking route circumnavigating the South Hams Area, part of which is the current Erme Valley Trail Way” which would incorporate the Erme Valley Trail from Ivybridge to Sequers Bridge.
- f)      Public Transport and active travel options = **Cllr Dunlop** – no new information.
  - g)      Ermington Primary School liaison contact = **Cllr Owens** will liaise with the school to discuss the Lollipop person.

**074/2024      CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE**

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

Copy of an Email sent to Rob Pike at Devon and Cornwall Police from Cllr Dan Thomas – re. speeding in the village  
Parishioner – emails in connection with grants - Ermington Parish Council's response to emails of 3 & 5 September 2024  
Email from Parishioner - Parish Council Meeting - 3rd September 2024  
DCC – Dan Thomas - Land opp Plantation Ermington  
Parishioner - 3rd September 2024

**075/2024      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 **7 November 2024**, in the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

*Denis Onley*

.....  
(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 7 November 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>**