

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 4 December 2024 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, John Dunlop, Cliff Sumner, Nicholas Toms and Margaret Grafton

District Councillor Alison Dewynter
Teresa Drew (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 9

091/2024 TO WELCOME THE NEWLY ELECTED PARISH COUNCILLOR - Mr Cliff Sumner

An election took place on 28 November 2024 to fill a Casual Vacancy (two candidates). The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was completed prior to the start of the meeting by Cliff Sumner.

Parish Councillors welcomed Cllr Sumner.

Cllr Sumner thanked the parish councillors and suggested a Parish Council monthly clinic for parishioners in The Store and More and also he would be happy to update the Ermington Parish Council Facebook page. **RESOLVED** to itemise these ideas on the January 2025 agenda. **ACTION: Clerk**

092/2024 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence accepted from Devon County Councillor Dan Thomas and Cllr Creese.

093/2024 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Sumner and Owens – declared an interest in agenda item 17 (a).
Cllr Toms declared an interest in agenda 14 (iv) Ermington History Group.

094/2024 PARISH COUNCILLORS - FIVE CO-OPTION VACANCIES

Three application forms have been submitted since the last meeting.

Two of the applicants were co-opted and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office – Cllrs Nicholas Toms and Margaret Grafton.

Application three was not co-opted but will be offered another opportunity at the January 2025 meeting, when the applicant and their seconder may be able to attend.

095/2024 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

- *Ermington Mill Industrial Estate - review car parking provision at the top of the industrial estate. Cllr Thomas will discuss with SHDC on 8 November 2024.* **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

An update from County after Storm Bert.

Our flood risk team is working closely with the Environment Agency and District Councils to review the communities and properties in Devon which were flooded during Storm Bert. Strong winds and heavy rain battered Devon last weekend and we received reports that approximately 40 properties suffered internal flooding. The results of the investigation, which will be published in the New Year, will help us identify which properties and areas would most benefit from future resilience measures, in line with other priorities, workload and funding opportunities.

095/2024 EMAILED REPORT FROM DEVON COUNTY COUNCILLOR DAN THOMAS INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)

Our initial investigations, which includes feedback from communities, shows that in the communities where we have delivered flood schemes in recent years, such as Ivybridge, Sidmouth, Axminster, Uplyme and Stokeinteignhead, flooding was prevented. The number of flooded properties across the county would certainly have been much higher without these essential flood improvements. In Modbury for instance, approximately 4 million litres of water (4,000 cubic metres) was held behind a specially constructed dam without which many properties would have been flooded. The dam was part of a £1.1million scheme delivered in 2019 and it helps control the flow of water through the drainage system in Modbury town centre by storing excess water behind it and redirecting the flow of water from certain fields.

Councillor Roger Croad, Cabinet Member with responsibility for flood resilience said: “We are committed to implementing measures to reduce flood risk to communities across Devon and we will continue to work to maximise funding to make a real difference to our residents.”

Please make sure you have let me know of any areas where homes were flooded so that we make sure not to miss any homes.

Devolution Latest

The ‘Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority Regulations 2024’, a ‘statutory instrument’ (SI), has been laid in Parliament, paving the way towards the creation of the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority. The Regulations will be debated in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. When they are signed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Angela Rayner MP, under powers delegated by the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023, the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (CCA) will come into being. The CCA will make decisions about the powers and funding devolved from Whitehall to Devon and Torbay through the deal that was agreed in January this year.

Paul Arnott, Leader of East Devon District Council & Chair of Devon Districts’ Forum, said: “This legislation is an important precursor to the establishment of the Combined County Authority for Devon and Torbay. All the District Councils in Devon will continue to work together and with our partners to ensure that the benefits for local communities arising from the transfer of powers and resources are maximised, **including in relation to the forthcoming Devolution White Paper for England.**”

I have put the last bit in bold as it is probably the most relevant part – devolution is not over just because the CCA is being created. This will very much be the first iteration.

I have requested another meeting with Andrea Davis, Cabinet member responsible, to discuss buses. The parishioner who has raised the issue had heard about extra money and was hopeful, I have been informed that the Government metric being used is based on population and deprivation, which is just another way of saying it’s for the (usually Labour represented) towns and cities. Case in point in Devon being Plymouth and Exeter, both Labour run.

I have chased Highways for an update on the costings for the A3121 scheme. Still waiting to hear back.

The Store and More – parking. I have managed to broker a provisional arrangement where I can pay (from my County locality) the rent for 3 spaces in the top car park to be available at all times for The Store and More customers (on an annual basis). These spaces would be signed to that effect. More spaces (in the top car park) will also be available on weekends too, but we need to button down the exact licence arrangement. Before I take this any further, does it have PC support? **RESOLVED** the Council supports this proposal. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

A very Merry Christmas to all Parish Councillors and Clerks. See you in the New Year.

- Enforcement of hedge height "The Spires" Church Road = acting enforcement case at SHDC - Alleged Breach of 21/1425/12/F Cond 10 height of hedge on Gransmore Walk - Agenda item 6 from Ermington Parish Council's May 2024 meeting stated that someone in the village had offered to lay the hedge for free. I checked with SHDC enforcement in May, and they were content for this solution. Cllr Toms will inform Cllr Dewynter. of the contact details.

ACTION: Cllr Toms

1. Free Parking in the festive period

• **Dartmouth**

- from 12 noon - 14 December
- from 4 p.m. - 19 December
- all day - 22 December

• **Ivybridge**

- all day - 7 and 14 December

• **Kingsbridge**

- all day - 14 and 21 December

• **Modbury**

- all day - 7, 14 and 21 December

• **Salcombe**

- all day - 14 and 21 December

• **Totnes**

- from 1:00 p.m. - 11, 12, 18 and 19 December

2. Disposal of upholstered furniture

From Sunday, only eight of Devon County Council's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) will accept upholstered furniture for disposal.

It follows the introduction of new requirements from the Environment Agency which require Devon's recycling centres to have segregated facilities to handle Waste Upholstered Domestic Seating (WUDS).

WUDS include sofas, sofa beds, armchairs, recliner chairs, upholstered kitchen and dining room chairs, upholstered garden furniture, stools and foot stools, office chairs, futons, bean bags, floor and sofa cushions.

In the South Hams, the Ivybridge HWRC will accept WUDS. However, the other recycling centres in the South Hams will not.

[For more information - https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/changes-are-being-made-to-how-you-dispose-of-upholstered-furniture/](https://www.devon.gov.uk/news/changes-are-being-made-to-how-you-dispose-of-upholstered-furniture/)

3. The Environment Agency's latest bathing water classifications in South Hams

Stoke Gabriel, Dart Estuary	Sufficient
Steamer Quay, Dart Estuary	Poor
Dittisham, Dart Estuary	Good
Warfleet Creek, Dart Estuary	Excellent
Dartmouth Castle and Sugary Cove	Excellent
Blackpool Sands	Excellent
Slapton Sands Monument	Excellent
Slapton Sands Torcross	Excellent
Mill Bay	Excellent
Salcombe North Sands	Excellent
Salcombe South Sands	Excellent
Hope Cove	Excellent
Thurlestone South	Excellent
Thurlestone North	Excellent
Bantham	Excellent
Bigbury-on-Sea South	Excellent
Bigbury-on-Sea North	Excellent
Challaborough	Excellent
Coastguards Beach, Erme Estuary	Poor
Mothecombe	Good
Wembury	Good
Bovisand	Excellent

096/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)

4. Christmas Events

Many Christmas events happening in the South Hams are listed at this link: www.southhams.gov.uk/christmas-events

097/2024 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: Cllrs Thomas and Creese**

098/2024 A3121 SPEED RESTRICTION (40 MPH TO 30 MPH) UPDATE

No update.

099/2024 SPEEDING

- Church Street from the Community shop down to the corner of School Road
- Woodland Road/ Beech Road, Cadleigh
- Hunsdon Road

RESOLVED to discuss under agenda item 17 (b).

100/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

- No signs informing drivers of a primary school – meeting to be arranged with Cllr Thomas. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

101/24 ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING ON THE PLAYING FIELD

Standing orders stood down at 8.00 pm.

The club is not asking Parish Council for any finance.
The pavilion is slightly smaller than previously proposed.
Pavilion for cricket.
Other potential ideas for the use of the building e.g. football.
Primary School has been consulted.

Standing orders reinstated at 8.15 pm

RESOLVED Cllr Dewnyter will discuss with SHDC the installation of toilets in the playing field. **ACTION: Cllr Dewnyter**

Discussion ensued, it was RESOLVED to support the next stage which is consulting the parishioners.

RESOLVED Cllr Sumner will be the parish council representative and will liaise with the Ermington Cricket Club to come up with a plan to consult with parishioners. **ACTION: Cllr Sumner/Ermington Cricket Club**

Cllr Toms pointed out that the parish council need to ensure any future S106 money, if there are any future housing developments, should be used to develop sports facilities in the parish.

102/2024 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 7 NOVEMBER 2024 (AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 7 November 2024.

103/2024 PLANNING - To consider the following planning applications:

Reference: 3309/24/VAR Site Address: Lower Burraton Farm, Burraton, PL21 9LA
Proposal: Application for removal of condition 9 (use) of planning consent 21/0430/11/F
Recommendation: No comment

Reference: 3594/24/FUL Site Address: Princess Yachts, Central Ave, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, PL21 9ER
Proposal: Installation of Styrene Extract and Plant including 630mm Flue
Recommendation: No comment

Planning applications withdrawn

2389/24/FUL Full Planning Application Site Address: Plantation House, Totnes Road, Ermington, PL21 9NS
Description: Change of use from current C1 (hotel and restaurant) to C3 (residential)

3050/24/FUL Full Planning Application Site Address: Bumblebee Barn, Ivybridge Road, Ermington, PL21 0LG
Description: Retrospective application for construction of duck pen

Planning Decision

3095/24/PDM Prior Approval of Agricultural Building to Dwelling C3 Site Address: Field at SX 615 556, Ivybridge
Description: 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))
Decision: Prior Approval Required and Given

104/2024 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:-

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement - 9 October 2024: **£26,746.30**
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement - 14 November 2024: **£17,303.81**
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account – 31 October 2024: **£70,233.27**

(ii) Receipt(s): - £21.98 bank interest Lloyds Bank Business Bank Instant
£85.81 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – November 2024 salary	£667.80	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£166.80		
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website November 2024	£45.00	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – South Hams Citizens Advice – RESOLVED to grant £250.00

Standing orders suspended at 8.30 pm

A representative of the group explained why the grant was requested and what the money would be used for

Ermington History Group – RESOLVED to grant £350 on the proviso that, if the group ceases the display boards are returned to the parish council and when a bank account is in situ.

RESOLVED the group could have six months free hire of the Reading Rooms and the parish council website could be used to communicate to parishioners.

Standing orders reinstated at 8.45 pm

104/2024 FINANCE (Continued)

(v) RESOLVED to approve the Financial Statement and Earmarked Reserves for 2024/2025

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 October 2024:	£26,746.30	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 November 2024:	£17,303.81	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account	£70,233.37	
Less: any unrepresented cheques:-	-£45.00	001580
	-£4,374.00	001583
Total Funds =	£109,864.48	
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£20,000	
Total uncommitted Funds =	£89,864.48	

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

(vii) Cllr Onley proposed to accept the recommendation of £16,234 for the year 2025/2026. RESOLVED to accept proposal by all Parish Councillors.

105/2024 REVIEW PROTOCOL ON THE FILMING AND RECORDING OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

No issues raised.

106/2024 READING ROOMS - PORTABLE APPLIANCE TESTING

The portable appliance testing of equipment in the Reading Rooms, will take place on 9 December 2024.

107/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = **Cllr Owens**

The Church is planning to install handrails up the steps leading to Lychgate.

The cost of repairing the hour chime to the clock is around £600 and a request for a grant is being prepared.

Forthcoming festivities:

Saturday 7th December: 5.00pm Twilight fair.

The Church Choir and others will be singing 2 carols in The Square before the lantern parade to the Church and a further 2 carols in the Church.

Sunday 15th December: 6.30pm - Carol Service

Sunday 22nd December: 11.00am -Christingle Service

Wednesday 25th December: 11.00am - Christmas Day Service

b) Community Speed Watch report = **Cllr Owens**

I am now in regular email contact with Rob Pyke.

On Wednesday 20th November, PC's Rob Pyke and Martin Perry were in attendance, which was part of the Vision Zero South West Road Safety Partnership's Week of Action during National Road Safety Week.

Thursday 14th November 9.00am to 10.00am

A3121 travelling East

Traffic Volume: 168

Vehicles exceeding 46 mph: 1

Maximum speed: 50 mph

107/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)

b) Community Speed Watch report = **Cllr Owens**

Wednesday 20th November 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Town Hill travelling up North

Traffic Volume: 122

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 5 (4%)

Maximum speed: 26 mph

** Police in attendance Rob Pyke and Martin Perry

Thursday 28th November 8.30am to 9.30am

Town Hill travelling up North

Traffic Volume: 121

Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 4 (6%)

Maximum speed: 30 mph

RESOLVED to move a speed camera to Hunsdon Road. Cllr Owens to liaise with Cllr Creese in connection with moving the camera. **ACTION: Cllrs Owens and Creese**

c) Ermington Environmental Group Climate Change & Biodiversity and support for Climate and Nature = **Cllr Dunlop**. Concern was raised at the recent meeting, about flooding in the parish.

d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese** – no update

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).

The repair to FP10 has been completed as follows:

Grade of vegetation on either side of path and level in locations of field as agreed on site with Robert and the landowner.

Install 2 x French drains across footpath as per agreed, arisings levelled in agreed locations in field

Install 2 x 110mm perforated pipe and backfill with 40mm clean stone to act as a French drain and pick up surface water
Supply, lay and compact minimal fines sub base as a base layer over the surface of the path, this allows water to run through the hardcore

Supply, lay and compact type 1 sub base as a finished surface

We have used the sub base from Glendenning's Ashburton quarry as this is the nearest quarry to Ermington so reduced our carbon footprint and is in keeping with the local area

Storm Bert certainly tested the path's resilience. I had to dig a few extra gulleys to drain off surface water, but I am pleased that once it had stopped raining the surface of the path was water free.

f) Public Transport and active travel options = **Cllr Dunlop** – no new information.

g) Ermington Primary School liaison contact = **Cllr Owens**

Dan Kay (Headteacher) is feeling he has made a good start during this term.

The entrance to the Reception area has been redecorated and now makes an inviting entrance to the School.

The Church Warden has been in contact with Dan, and next term they are planning visits to the Church to as part of understanding the local history of Ermington.

Dan is keen that the school is involved in the community of the village.

I asked him about road safety outside the school and the possibility of safe drop off and short walk to School. He is hoping to give this his attention next term.

108/2024 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

SHDC - Planning Application Consultation 3564/24/TPO Woodland South Western edge of Wadland Wood, Ermington = information sent to the Parish Tree Warden for their comment(s). The Parish Tree Warden Supports the application as the trees are visible from the road, but also potential a danger if they fall.
I can't see any reason for replanting as the wood is quite dense in any case and the removal might allow other trees to get bigger.

- Email from Parishioner – Village Fund Agenda and October 2024 minutes
- DALC - Meet the Leader of DCC (South Hams Event) | 14 November | The Watermark, Ivybridge
- SHDC - Reference: 3249/24/TPO - GRANT of CONDITIONAL CONSENT (Parish Tree Warden supported the work
- Email from Parishioner – Village Fund Agenda and minutes of October 2024 meeting
- Emails from Parishioner – Website and Election
- Emails from Parishioners – Parish Elections
- Email from a Parishioner - I found this funny
- D.C.C. - Travelling safely around Devon this winter
- D.C.C. - Flood Risk Management News
- D.C.C. - Upcoming drainage work in Ermington
- Email from parishioner - Dangerous driver Ermington

Letter from Lloyds Bank- The introduction of bank charges in January 2025 of £4.25 per month was noted.

109/2024 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AND VENUE

It was RESOLVED that the date of the next Parish meeting commencing at **7.30 pm**, will be held on **Tuesday 7 January 2025**, in the Reading Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Denis Onley

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

Date: 7 January 2025

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>