

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 4 February 2025 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Denis Onley (Chair), Robert Owens, Ian Creese, Cliff Sumner, Nicholas Toms
Andrew Savery, John Messham and Margaret Grafton

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 8

128/2024 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter and Cllr John Dunlop.

129/2024 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Dunlop requested after liaising with the Clerk, to minute that he declared a pecuniary interest in January 2025 agenda 12 planning Reference: 3703/24/FUL, as his property is near the planning application site.

Cllr Toms declared a personal interest with discussions on the Pet Crematorium planning application reference: 3703/24/FUL

130/2024 PARISH COUNCILLORS – ONE CO-OPTION VACANCIES

No applications received.

131/2024 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 – Cllr Thomas reported that SHDC will agree in principle, for three car parking spaces which will be signed

- *A3121 Speed Restriction (40 mph to 30 mph)* - RESOLVED Cllr Creese will send the data from the speed box from the A3121. **ACTION: Cllr Creese**

The 10 January 2025 was the deadline for the Government to hear from Councils who wish to delay elections in May 2025. Devon County Council (DCC) have voted to delay the elections.

The budget will be decided by DCC on 20 February 2025.

Public Buses - the number 3 is a double decker bus, so it will not be coming into the village, it is better to support number 94 bus.

132/2024 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

No report

133/2024 UPDATE ON THE SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC ISSUES AND LINE PAINTING A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON HIGHWAY NEAR THE SHOP IN ERMINGTON VILLAGE

No update. RESOLVED to remove from agenda.

134/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Cllr Owens attended a Devon Association of Local Councils meeting; they wish to have a one-page document from each council in connection with the Devolution. RESOLVED Cllr Onley will submit a document. **ACTION: Cllr Onley**

Cllr Toms asked if SHDC increase in carparking charges, will have a detrimental effect of those shopping in Ivybridge, as there are plans to build another supermarket.

Visitor from Plymouth Corinthians Cycling Club – a cycle race will take place in mid June 2025 that will follow the Ermington valley. Next year the club would like to have a cycle race that will pass through the village and would hope the parishioners would support the event. RESOLVED to support the event.

Planning Applicant for Pet Cremation at Ermington Industrial Estate – various questions were clarified with the applicant. The applicant was disappointed that there was misinformation in Ermington about the business.

135/2024 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 7 JANUARY 2025 (AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 7 January 2025.

136/2024 PLANNING

To consider the following planning applications and RESOLVE to submit comments where appropriate:

Reference: 3807/24/FUL Proposal: Provision of stables Site Address: Strashleigh Farm, Ivybridge, PL21 9JP
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.

Permission Granted:

Application: 3564/24/TPO

G002: Common Ash - x 6 - Sectional dismantle & fell trees marks with orange paint. Ash Dieback Health Class 40%-25%

T1785: Common Ash - Sectional dismantle and fell

T1958: Common Ash - Sectional dismantle and fell

Location: Woodland South Western edge of Wadland Wood, Ermington

Planning Decision:

Planning Application: 2344/24/OPA Outline Planning Application

Decision: Conditional Approval

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

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

Planning Application: 3594/24/FUL Full Planning

Decision: Conditional Approval

Description: Installation of Styrene Extract and Plant including, 630mm Flue

Site Address: Princess Yachts, Central Ave, Lee Mill Industrial Estate, PL21 9ER

Cremator Planning Application - Reference: 3703/24/FUL

Proposal: Change of use from a Tech Company (Class B2) to a Pet Cremation Unit (Sui Generis)

Site Address: Unit 8A, Ermington Workshops, Ermington, PL21 9NT

Attendance of Ermington Parish Council to make representation at SHDC Planning Committee = Cllr Sumner

RESOLVED Cllr Sumner will attend the SHDC Planning Committee meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Sumner**

137/2024 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:-

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 December 2024: £26,813.03
 Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 January 2025: £2,728.09
 NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 31 December 2024: £70,391.81

(ii) Receipts – £20.55 bank interest Lloyds Bank Business Bank Instant
 £83.21 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – January 2025 salary	£667.60	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£167.00	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£107.19	-	-
Source for Business – water bill for Reading Rooms 2 August 2024 – 7 January 2025 (DD payment)	£48.69	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website January 2025	£45.00	-	-
EDF Energy - 23 July 2024 - 1 January 2025 (DEVON AIR AMBULANCE LANDING SITE)	£99.80	£4.75	£95.05

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

Financial Statement		
Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 9 December 2024:	£26,813.03	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 15 January 2025:	£2,728.09	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 31 December 2024:	£70,391.81	
Less: any unpresented cheques:-		
	-£250.00	001588
	-£48.70	001594
	-£650.00	001596
	-£107.19	001597
	-£48.49	DD
Total Funds =	£98,828.55	
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£500	
A3121 - speed reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph etc.	-£10,000	
Total uncommitted Funds =	£88,328.55	

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

(vi) Recommendations from the servicing of fire extinguishers in the Reading Rooms – RESOLVED to obtain a quote from CHUBB for replacement fire extinguishers. **ACTION: Clerk**

138/2024 TRAVEL SURVEY = Cllr Grafton

The travel survey is included in the Ermington Parish Magazine and copies available at Ermington Store. Completed surveys to be taken to Ermington Store and More or and The Crooked Spire. Cllr Grafton will add the survey to Ermington Face Book Page. **ACTION: Cllr Grafton**

139/2024 ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB PAVILLION AND TOILETS = Cllr Sumner

Prior to the meeting Cllr Sumner had circulated a document to parish councillors (see attached). RESOLVED Cllr Toms will obtain quotes to hire serviced mobile toilets. **ACTION: Cllr Toms** Cllrs Savery and Sumner will liaise with the cricket club about the size of their project. **ACTION: Cllrs Savery & Sumner**

140/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = Cllr Owens

The first handrail has been installed on the steps leading to Lychgate. A second handrail is to be installed on the other steps in a few weeks. The Parochial Church Council has sent a letter of thanks for the grant, and the clock is expected to be repaired in the next few weeks.

b) Community Speed Watch report = Cllr Owens

A New Speedwatch site has been approved on the driveway of 6 Church Road to monitor traffic, heading south west from the Shop

Monday 9 January 9.00am to 10.00am Town Hill travelling up North
Traffic Volume: 83
Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 5 (3%)
Maximum speed: 30 mph

Tuesday 16 January 3.00pm to 4.00pm Bunkers Hill travelling North West
Traffic Volume: 42
Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 1 (2%)
Maximum speed: 24 mph

Thursday 23 January 9.00am to 9.35am Church Road travelling North East
Traffic Volume: 60
Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 4 (7%)
Maximum speed: 31 mph
PC Charlotte Mathers in attendance

Thursday 30 January 9.00am to 10.00am Church Road travelling up South West
Traffic Volume: 127
Vehicles exceeding 46 mph: 3 (2%)
Maximum speed: 26 mph

c) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = Cllr Creese – speed camera to be relocated near the Ermington Store and More.

d) Assessment of Parish Footpaths = Cllr Owens

FP11, The fallen tree over the path in the woods of Sexton Farm was cleared within a few days of the report.

FP12, The finger post at the junction with the A379 has been temporarily fixed to a fence post. The old wooden finger "Public Footpath Ermington 3/4" has gone missing. It will be replaced with a metal finger when the contractor permanently replaces the rotten post. At the same he will repair the steps to the A379.

e) Ermington Primary School liaison = Cllr Grafton – has visited the primary school and spoken to the head. It was reported that a parent was seen dropping off children whilst parked on the zig zag lines near the school.

f) Feedback from Meet Your Councillor's Clinic on 25 January 2025 and actions = Cllr Sumner

17 parishioners attended the clinic:

19% Transport (7% heavy vehicles, 7% bus services & 5% parking)

16% Parish Buildings (8% sell Reading Rooms & 8% for public toilets)

14% War Memorials (7% for Cenotaph & 7% for clock to both be EPC responsibility)

15% Roads (8% potholes & 8% road signage though the Questionnaire made clear this was not an EPC responsibility, but respondents clearly want strong action by EPC)

12% Development (5% allotments, 4% investigating generating local electricity from the Erme & 3% more local jobs)

10% Footpaths (6% on Sports Field, 4% gates between Church and Square)

10% Grass cutting (7% Sports Field & 3% Honey's Field)

4% Other miscellaneous

RESOLVED to trial holding the parish council meeting once a quarter at Ermington Store and More. **ACTION: Clerk**

RESOLVED Cllr Messham will produce a resume of what action the parish council is doing about transport. **ACTION: Cllr Messham**

RESOLVED to pay £60 for the hire of The Hub for the Council Clinic (January 2025) at Ermington Store and More. **ACTION: Clerk**

g) Feedback from South Hams Dementia Awareness Forum on 15 January 2025 = Cllr Grafton - various events are organised by the Four Rivers Dementia Group which can be viewed on their website - <https://www.4riversdementia.org.uk/eventslist.php>

141/2024 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

SHDC - Premises Licence Full Variation - Tesco Stores, Lee Mill, PL21 9PE The application proposes to include the kiosk within the petrol filling station within the ambit of the Premises Licence for the main store. The existing hours, activities and conditions relating to the main store are applied for on exactly the same basis as currently exists and do not change.

SHDC - Council on the lookout again for its community heroes

Email from the planning applicant - Goodman's Pet Cremations Ltd

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service - Fire service consultation- Automatic Fire Alarms

DALC - Smaller Council Meeting - Devolution White Paper

SHDC - Council gives much needed housing project a major boost

Parishioner - Village Fund meeting - Monday 27 January 2025 – the email was read out by Cllr Onley. RESOLVED to add an agenda item on the March 2025 and invite a representative from Ermington Village Fund to attend the meeting. **ACTION: Clerk**

Ramsland Farm Orchard Day, Sunday 23rd February, 10am-2pm, Ramsland Farm, Holbeton, PL8 2ES, For any event queries (but not bookings), please email Seb at SAllen-Mepham@bats.org.uk. Please note, this event is suitable for age 7+ but younger siblings are welcome. No dogs please. [tickettailor.com/events/bctevents/1536451](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/bctevents/1536451)

South Hams Community Action announcement - South Hams Community Action will cease to operate from 31 March 2025.

142/2024 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 4 March 2025](#) in Ermington Store and More.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Date: 4 March 2025

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(Ermington Parish Council Chair)

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>

Feasibility Study of Public Toilets on Ermington Playing Field (EPF)

Introduction

At the December 2024 EPC meeting the Ermington Cricket Club (ECC) re-presented their proposals for erecting a cricket pavilion on EPF, a ground owned by South Hams District Council (SHDC). Because an interest was shown by EPC that a public toilet facility could possibly be incorporated within the ECC development proposal I was charged with investigating its feasibility and report back to the council for its February 2025 meeting.

Object

To maximise the benefit that could be obtained for both ECC and EPC through plans that include both the cricket pavilion and public toilets being installed concurrently.

Investigation

Being newly elected to EPC I met with the ECC Committee on 11 December 2024 to discuss their proposals in more detail. My initial approach was putting the point to the ECC that their project plan included toilets as an internal feature of the pavilion which meant their water/sewerage infrastructure resulted in no flexibility for EPC as to where best to position of the public toilets. After a lot of discussion the ECC Committee agreed to review the pavilion plan removing the internal toilets and a provisional, very optimistic, timescale was agreed with ECC who would put the revised plans to SHDC for pre-app planning approval (which had costs involved). At the EPC January meeting I proposed that EPC should fund this cost because it was ECC who had made the concession on internal toilets but this was not agreed.

At this point I decided that perhaps I had incorrectly judged the support that EPC would give to this approach and decided to approach the matter from another angle. I went around local cricket/sports grounds investigating the public toilet facilities they offered. The results of the investigation of 7 local sites is shown below.

Results of Investigation

The following is a table of the results found after investigating the grounds that are used for some sporting activity in parishes surrounding Ermington.

Community	Sports Field		Near Centre	Open/ Closed	Comments
	Cricket	Other			
Ermington	X		X		
Aveton Gifford		X	X	O	Unisex toilet – not wheel chair accessible
Cornwood	X	X		C	Excellent cricket facility
Ivybridge (Filham)	X	X		C	Excellent cricket facility
Modbury		X		O	Unisex toilet – not wheel chair accessible
South Brent	X	X		C	
Yealmpton	X	X		C	

Conclusions

Only 2 out of 6 other parishes visited have open public toilet facilities attached to their sports grounds. The 2 that do have open toilets:

1. Appear clean and well maintained
2. Are contained within a brick/block structure, although Modbury is an out of town site
3. Are a single unisex toilet bowl with hand basin and dryer
4. Do not have any access for wheelchair bound people
5. Do not meet the current statutory requirements for new build toilets

SHDC Playing Pitch Strategy states "...our playing pitch strategy sets out clear priorities for sport in our area, ensuring that there's a good supply of high quality pitch facilities...". However it is difficult to find the tactical measures to support this strategy, especially in terms of cost and maintenance.

Although my initial stance was for Ermington having public toilets on EPF, this has changed following this investigation, in that the following essentials are required first:

- A. Some formal statement by SHDC confirming that its strategy will be introduced at Ermington
- B. Indication by SHDC that some exemption to the planning requirement that a wheel chair accessible toilet must to be installed at EPF
- C. Following A. and B. EPC must resolve to support the construction and maintenance of a toilet before any further effort is spent investigating this subject (regardless of the possibility of obtaining grants)

Until the 3 points above are clarified then I do not see any reason why ECC should not be given the go ahead to erect a pavilion with an internal toilet facility. Furthermore I can see no possibility of EPC then being able to take advantage of the infrastructure works the ECC project will require.

I will formally present this report as an Agenda item for discussion and resolution at the next EPC meeting on 4 February 2025.

Cliff Sumner
12 January 2025