

ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Reading Rooms on 7 January 2025 at 7.30 pm

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

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

Parishioner(s) / Visitor(s): 5

110/2024 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence accepted from District Councillor Alison Dewynter.

111/2024 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST(S) IN RESPECT OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Toms – declared an interest in agenda item 12, planning Reference: 3703/24/FUL - no financial interest, but may impact on one of his future businesses.

RESOLVED Clerk to ascertain if Cllr Dunlop needs to declare an interest in agenda 12 planning Reference: 3703/24/FUL as his property is near the planning application site.

112/2024 PARISH COUNCILLORS – THREE CO-OPTION VACANCIES

One completed application form has been submitted since the last meeting from Mr Messham who was present. Parish Councillors agreed to coopt Mr Messham and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Mr Savery was unable to attend the meeting, but it was agreed by Parish Councillors to co-opt him. RESOLVED the Clerk will contact Mr Savery to arrange for him to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. **ACTION: Clerk**

113/2024 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 on 8 November 2024. ACTION: Cllr Thomas*

There is a meeting at Devon County Council tomorrow to discuss:

- Planning policies from government
- Devolution white paper that came out in December 2024 – for Devon and Cornwall it could possibly lead to one large principle authority and the loss of local democracy if district councils were lost. The merger would mean the loss of district councils as they would be merged into large councils with an elected mayor. The government would like to see the end of 2 tier authorities of which Devon is one and replaced by unitary authorities is being discussed.

Whilst at Devon County Council Cllr Thomas will discuss the issue of bus service and the speed reduction on the A3121. There is currently no justification of extending the bus service in Ermington, but hopefully a survey may assist.

114/2024 EMAILED REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS

News from South Hams DC of note to Ermington PC:

1. Car parking app changing

The cashless parking app contract with current supplier RingGo for the South Hams will finish at midnight on 11 January 2025.

The new contract will start on 12 January with PayByPhone.

PayByPhone is one of the biggest suppliers of mobile parking payments in the UK. It already operates in some car parks in Devon.

After Christmas, signs will be going up in our car parks, asking our customers to download the new app ready for the switch over.



114/2024 EMAILED REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ALISON DEWYNTER INCLUDING ITEMS FROM PAST MEETINGS (continued)

2. Cost of living

This link gives information about help available with the cost of living:

<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/news/2024/get-help-you-need-winter>

115/2024 UPDATE ON THE SPEEDING AND TRAFFIC ISSUES AND LINE PAINTING A PEDESTRIAN WALKWAY ON HIGHWAY NEAR SHOP IN ERMINGTON VILLAGE

At a previous meeting Cllr Dunlop asked if a virtual pavement could be placed through the village. Cllr Thomas has sought clarification from Devon County Council, who are not keen to pursue virtual walkways, as it gives a false impression of safety. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

116/2024 A3121 SPEED RESTRICTION (40 MPH TO 30 MPH) UPDATE

Devon County Council has received the proposals since August 2024, but no response has been received. Cllr Thomas will attempt to ask for feedback on the proposals from the Devon County Council meeting tomorrow.

ACTION: Cllr Thomas

117/2024 SPEEDING

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

Cllr Owens will talk to a parishioner, to ascertain if there is an appropriate area where a member from speed watch group can record the speed of vehicles.

118/2024 UPDATE ON ERMINGTON CRICKET CLUB (ECC) PROPOSAL FOR BUILDING ON THE PLAYING FIELD – Cllr Sumner

Cllr Sumner attended a meeting with the Ermington Cricket Club (ECC) as a representative from the parish council. The club are waiting for a planning meeting with SHDC.

The ECC has made a consensus to review their project. Cllr Sumner proposed that the parish council should consider paying for their second preplanning application to SHDC. This would demonstrate to SHDC that the parish council:

- fully support the project for toilets on the playing field
- considers village groups, children
- clear message to parrshioners that the parish council are people orniate
- support and promote healthier lifestyles.

Standing orders suspended ay 7.56 pm

A parishioner was asked if they knew the cost of a planning application, which they were not able to confirm.

Standing orders restated at 7.58 pm

Discussion ensued and it was RESOLVED to send Ermington Cricket Club a grant form. **ACTION: Clerk**

119/2024 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

The following points were raised:

- Size of lorries passing through the village
- Speed of traffic through the village
- Signs required to point out there is a primary school on Bunkers Hill
- Bus services in the village is not suffice

Cllr Owens stated that the speed watch group is having an impact on speeding through the village. An incident was reported by a parishioner which was reported to the police, but they require photographic evidence.

Cllr Owens asked if signs could be placed on Bunker Hill, pointing out there is a school. Cllr Thomas pointed out, there was no suitable site identified by DCC Highways on land owned by them.

Cllr Toms - there will be many more plans due to the government's plans for housing. Concerned that SHDC S106 may not be applied to future planning applicatio nsby developers. Cllr Thomas suggested that this will not happen as by 2028 South Hams District may not exist.

Cllr Creese – road junction by Endsleigh there are no white lines. Cllr Thomas will speak to DCC Highways Office.
ACTION: Cllr Thomas

Cllr Sumner asked if there is a 7.5 tonne through the village and what is the limit at Keaton Bridge. Cllr Thomas will ascertain. **ACTION: Cllr Thomas**

Cllr Thomas suggested the parish council erect signs informing drivers of the weight limit and that he may be able to fund the purchase of signs.

120/2024 RESOLVE TO APPROVE THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF 4 DECEMBER 2024 (AS PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

RESOLVED to approve the Parish Council Meeting minutes of 4 December 2024.

121/2024 PLANNING - To consider the following planning applications:

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

Recommendation: Object

- Pollution
- Proximity to housing
- Impact on traffic
- Is there a need due to other facilities in the area
- Access for oil tankers
- Storage of oil
- Lack of specification of the flue height outside of the building
- Not an appropriate site for a cremation unit next to a housing estate
- The application does not accommodate the community request for car parking outside of business hours
- No provision for EV charging

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.

121/2024 PLANNING (continued)

Reference: 3956/24/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land to domestic and regularisation of constructed duck pen, boundary walls and hard standing.

Site Address: Bumblebee Barn, Ivybridge Road, Ermington, PL21 0LG

Recommendation: Comment

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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.

Planning Decisions

Reference: 2968/24/HHO Householder Application

Decision: Conditional Approval

Proposal: Householder application for removal of conservatory & replace with extension

Site Address: The Cottage, Beech Road, Lee Mill, PL21 9HL

122/2024 FINANCE

RESOLVED to agree the following:

(i) Bank balances:-

Lloyds Bank Business Account bank statement as at 11 November 2024: £26,792.48

Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 14 December 2024: £11,820.21

NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 29 November 2024: £70,308.60

(ii) Receipt(s): - £24.20 bank interest Lloyds Bank Business Bank Instant
£75.33 bank interest NatWest Business Reserve

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

Description	Gross	VAT	Net
Parish Clerk – December 2024 salary	£667.60	-	-
HMRC – Parish Clerk	£167.00	-	-
DB Computer Repairs – maintenance of parish council website December 2024	£45.00	-	-
T J Electrical – portable appliance testing on equipment in Reading Rooms	£70.00	-	-
Dart Fire Protection – servicing of fire extinguishers in the Reading Rooms	£48.70	£8.11	£40.59
G M Contractors Devon Ltd – repairs to footpath FP10	£5265.73	£877.62	£4388.11
South Hams District Council – for charges incurred in respect of the casual election held on Thursday 28 November 2024 for Ermington Parish Council	£2,852.33	-	-

(iv) Grant Request(s) – repairs required to the parish church clock - £650. RESOLVED to support the grant. **ACTION: Clerk**

122/2024 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 11 November 2024:	£26,792.48	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account bank statement as at 13 December 2024:	£11,820.21	
NatWest Bank Business Reserve Account as at 11 November 2024	£70,308.70	
Less: any unrepresented cheques:-	-£250.00	001588
	-£75.46	DD
Total Funds =	£108,595.93	
Earmarked Reserves		
Repairs to Reading Rooms, Ermington	-£500	
A3121 - speed reduction from 40 mph to 30 mph etc.	-£10,000	
Total uncommitted Funds =	£98,095.93	

RESOLVED to send the new Councillors the Callidus report sent to County Councillor Cllr Thomas in connection with the reduction of speed from 40 mph to 30 mph to discuss with DCC Highways. **ACTION: Clerk**

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

123/2024 PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR CLINIC = Cllr Sumner

Cllr Sumner has booked the hub at The Store and More for Saturday 25 January 2025 at 10.00 am to midday, where parishioners can come and talk to councillors. Cllrs Owens, Sumner and Grafton will be present to discuss issues/suggestions/concerns with parishioners.

124/2024 MAINTENANCE OF ERMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE = Cllr Sumner

RESOLVED Cllr Sumner will maintain the Facebook page. **ACTION: Cllr Sumner**

125/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

a) Ermington Parish Church liaison = **Cllr Owens** – Mr Irish is stepping down from being Captain of Bells after 20 years of service. Mr Kenyon will be the new Captain of Bells.
 Without prejudice to the making of a grant to repair the clock chimes, there needs to be a discussion over the funding of the fabric of the Church Building. Ermington Church has an aging congregation, and the funding of the Church is falling to ever fewer members on the Electoral Role.
 The Church maintains a separate fund for the fabric which is held completely separate from the general fund which funds the ecclesiastical work of the Church. To be clear, money given to maintain the fabric of the Church is restricted for expenditure on maintaining the building.
 In the future, discussion will need to take place on the future of the maintenance/fabric of the church.

b) Community Speed Watch report = **Cllr Owens** – Speedwatch – December 2024

Speedwatch Co-ordinators online meeting 12th December; issues discussed were:
 New wording to the letters sent to motorists which will have a QR code directing them to Speed Awareness website. Cornwall are starting a “Mini Operations” in January, which Police attending a Speedwatch session will stop the speeding vehicle and check for Road Tax, MOT, insurance, etc. If successful it will be rolled out to Devon.
 A request to receive the data from our Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS)

Feedback from the October Conference to the questions raised:
 What action is taken over abusive drivers, relative to the degree of abuse?
 What happens to drivers after the 3rd letter?
 Noise, especially from motorcycles, is a great annoyance. What monitoring is done or planned?
 Please can we see a copy of the letter that is sent to speeders?
 What is the enforcement position on the new Highway Code rules - eg leaving 2m gap when passing pedestrians?
 I have a PDF copy of all the responses and example letters sent out.

125/2024 REPORTS ON ALLOCATED AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (continued)

b) Community Speed Watch report = **Cllr Owens** – Speedwatch – December 2024

Dangerous Driving report I have received a report from a parishioner of a vehicle being driven dangerously. I have referred the incident to Ivybridge Police and have received advice from them. The vehicle has since been spotted by our Speedwatch team and we have added it to our “Look Out” list of vehicles being driven inconsiderately.

Tuesday 3 rd December 10.00am to 11.00am Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 15 (12%) Maximum speed: 31 mph	Church Road travelling North East	Traffic Volume: 122
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Monday 9 th December 10.00am to 11.00am Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 3 (3%) Maximum speed: 24 mph	Town Hill travelling up North	Traffic Volume: 97
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Thursday 19 th December 2.00pm to 3.00pm Vehicles exceeding 24 mph: 11 (7%) Maximum speed: 28 mph	Church Road travelling North East	Traffic Volume: 150
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Thursday 30 th December 12.00 to 1.00pm Vehicles exceeding 46 mph: 1 (0.5%) Maximum speed: 46 mph	A3121 travelling up East	Traffic Volume: 205
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c) Ermington Environmental Group Climate Change & Biodiversity and support for Climate and Nature = **Cllr Dunlop** – no additional information

d) Road Warden Scheme and maintenance of the speed cameras = **Cllr Creese** – the speed camera data was circulated.

e) Assessment of Parish Footpaths = **Cllr Owens**
FP10, I am making enquiries to replace the kissing gates with ones that are Wheelchair/pushchair accessible.

FP11, There has been a series of emails between the owners of Fawns Farm and Paul McFadden PRow Warden seeking clarification over:

- i. Providing an alternative route behind the barn whilst maintaining the official route through the farmyard
- ii. Fencing the route through the field leading up to corner with Ermington Wood.

FP11, I have reported a fallen tree over the path in the woods of Sexton Farm

FP12, I have reported the finger post at the junction with the A379 as broken.

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

g) Ermington Primary School liaison contact = **Cllr Owens** - no new information.

h) Hedge height “The Spires” Church Road = **Cllr Toms** – due to health and safety issues and proximity of the highway, his contact would not be able to reduce the height. RESOLVED the Clerk to contact SHDC Planning. **ACTION: Clerk**

126/2024 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE

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

Liaison and Support Lead for Four Rivers Dementia Alliance (4RDA) and Community Development Lead for Dementia Friendly = -
Email re. Parishes Around the Yealm. – request to attend a Parish Council Meeting.
South Hams Dementia Awareness Forum – Invitation to a meeting on the 15th of January 2025 – **RESOLVED Cllr Grafton to attend**

Email from Cllr Dewynter - Transport Survey – **RESOLVED Cllr Grafton to action**

Email SHDC - District Council doing all it can to help residents during cost of living crisis

Email from DCC - Temporary Traffic Order - Keaton Lane to Penquit House, Ermington (TTRO2561098) Tuesday 1 April 2025 anticipated finish Friday 2 May 2025

Email from SHDC - South Hams wants improvements to Devon's water infrastructure

Email from SHDC - Have Your Say on Car Parking Proposals

Email from SHDC - Parish Forum - 27 March 2025 at 6.00 pm Follaton House, Totnes

Email from Plymouth City Council - School Admission Arrangements 2026/2027 Consultation

Internal Audit Contract for 2024 – 2025

SHDC - South Hams District Council states its position on local government reform

SHDC - Hope Wood unveiled in South Brent

IDALC - **Cllr Dunlop**

127/2024 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 February 2025**.

The meeting closed at 10.00 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>