

River Erme Parish and Town Councils

Notes from meeting on July 27th 2023

Attendance: Cllrs Ann Turner (Modbury), John Dunlop (Ermington), Jon May (Ugborough), Harry Baumer (Holbeton), Pat (Ermington).

Apologies: Cllrs Helen Nathanson (Modbury), Merv Freeman (Kingston), Tessa Lannin (Ivybridge), Barbara Price (Modbury), John Sherrell (Holbeton),

1. Actions from last meeting

AT had circulated draft Terms of reference (see item 2)

A Meeting with SWW regarding forthcoming work in Modbury and Ermington had been held (see item 3)

AT had written to John Mildmay-White to explore relationships with WATER but had not yet received a reply. No-one who had attended the meeting at the Watermark and offered their help had had any follow-up contact either.

AT had written to the Environment Agency and had received a supportive response from Emma McGee, who would be happy to attend meetings when it would be helpful.

Action AT: Emma McGee to be added to circulation list for Agenda and Minutes.

2. Review amended draft terms of reference.

The draft ToR were agreed with the addition of a list of the Parish and Town councils being added to the 'Who we are' section, and a date for their review (July 2024).

Action AT: finalise ToR and send to Gary Streeter MP and all DCC and SHDC councillors representing wards in the area with a brief letter introducing the group.

3. Feedback from Modbury meeting with SWW.

The meeting had been helpful in providing a rationale for SWWs decision to replace Modbury's current combined sewer as is, rather than to install separate storm and foul water sewers, on the basis of feasibility, cost and inconvenience to residents and businesses. Despite this, the meeting felt that a

once in a century opportunity was being missed and that further advice on the feasibility of separate sewers should be obtained. It was noted that SWW has agreed to install separate sewers in Holbeton, and that the misconnection of foul water to storm water sewers had been noted by the EA as problem:

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?search=mothecombe&site=ukk4305-26100>

It also became apparent that some SWW representatives were unaware of the report previously circulated setting out plans for UV disinfection in Ermington, and that there was no implementation date and was aspirational rather than a firm commitment.

SWW named Vicky Garner as their Parish Council liaison.

Action AT: ask EA for their view on the suitability of SWWs current plans for Modbury and Ermington and the feasibility of works to support installation of separate sewers.

4. Updates from all councils on issues and developments.

All councils have reported passing motions supporting the group, apart from Ivybridge TC and Kingston PC. It might help if we could be clearer on the expected level of support needed (e.g., clerk's time and room hire).

Action AT: determine level of financial support needed and check with Kingston and Ivybridge on status.

5. Date and time of next meeting: TBA