

2021 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Jago confirmed and Cllr Bowden seconded and the minutes were adopted.

- 21/029 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr Dredge seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/030 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Parsons seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/031 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Parsons seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/032 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 4th May 2021 to 21st June 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 21/033 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The proposed membership of the Policy and Resources Committee (copy previously circulated) was considered. The two vacancies were to be filled by Past Mayors, in line with the Standing Orders and the Mayor advised that she had selected Cllrs Laity and Pringle as they were the most recent Mayors who had indicated they would be happy to stand for this Committee.
- It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee as Cllrs Hladkij, Spencer, Jago, Bowden, Dredge, Laity and Pringle.
- 21/034 **CITIZEN AND GROUP OF THE YEAR:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.
- Cllr Wilson commented that this is a good way of promoting groups and people who have made a difference to the town.
- Cllr Lannin queried how this is publicised. The Mayor advised that it is put in the iMag, on the Council website and social media.
- It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the report and proceed with the arrangements for Citizen and Community Group of the Year Awards 2021.
- 21/035 **TOUR OF BRITAIN 2021:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.
- The Mayor commented that this is a great honour for the town and it was good to see that potholes along the route have been marked. She also said that we will be looking for marshals on the day, if any Councillors are available to help it would be greatly appreciated. The

schools have been contacted. This is a really great opportunity to promote our town perhaps with a display in a park that can be seen by the helicopter.

The Town Clerk commented that this is only 8 weeks away so will need to work quickly and appealed for Councillors assistance especially with the arts side but also with logistics. Cllrs Munro and L Rea indicated they were interested in helping.

Cllr Jago queried whether £1,500 would be enough.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Croad had also committed approximately £1,000 in addition to this.

Cllr T Rea queried the amount in the Festival/Community Reserve. The Town Clerk advised that there is over £7,000 and in an emergency, an additional amount could be made available.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the report and to:

1. Thank Cllr Croad for all his support and work on bringing the Tour through Ivybridge;
2. Set up a Working Group to coordinate activity in the town; and
3. Commit £1,500 of the Festival/Community Reserve (9104/901) to support activity around the event and to delegate the Town Clerk to authorise expenditure guided by the Working Group.

21/036

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 2021: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Wilson commented that there are less participants in the parade each year and agreed that the effort and investment would be better spent having a market in Fore Street to promote the town and local artisans.

Cllr Lannin agreed that it was a good idea to have stalls and to only close off part of Fore Street.

Cllr L Rea agreed and commented that if there are still Covid restrictions it is easier to socially distance at a market than with the parade and lights switch on.

Cllr Laity commented that she would love to see an ice rink being included.

The Mayor agreed with Cllr Laity.

The Town Clerk advised that one of the issues with this is where to place it, it would have to be there for some weeks not just the night of the event.

Cllr Spencer voiced concerns about the cost of an ice rink.

Cllr Jago was not in favour of the ice rink idea. He was concerned about the impact on the car park and that it would not get enough use. He went on to say he did not feel the switch on event was needed and asked what the appetite would be for the stalls.

The Town Clerk explained that this can be investigated should Council give this the go ahead. The Artisan Christmas Market at The Watermark usually has 30 stalls. Food stalls would also be good, perhaps the pubs and takeaways could be encouraged to get involved along with local businesses.

The Mayor asked whether the Chamber of Trade representatives had spoken to the Chamber yet.

Cllr Jago advised that the Chamber is currently not active.

Cllr Dredge commented that when the market is on a Saturday Ivybridge is busy, the cafes are all full. This would attract people on the evening too. With regard to Fore Street it would be good to maintain the access to the top half during the event to prevent people from being trapped.

The Town Clerk advised that Erme Court car park is also available if there is a lot of interest.

The Mayor said that the Methodist Church normally hold an advent market on the same day as the event, they are writing to stallholders to see whether they wish to take part this year.

Cllr Jago asked who would make decisions on the details.

The Town Clerk advised that Officers would be making the arrangements as with previous events.

The Town Clerk asked whether members were happy to extend the Christmas lighting for another year. All were in agreement.

The Town Clerk asked whether members felt that Fore Street should be consulted.

Cllr Spencer felt that they should be informed.

The Town Clerk advised that Officers deliver letters informing them that the road closure application is to be submitted, then closer to the time a second letter is delivered to remind them.

All were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the report and to:

1. Extend the Christmas lighting contract for another year;
2. Not to hold a lights switch on event;
3. To change the format of the Christmas celebrations focussing on craft and food market stalls alongside the usual entertainment rather than the lights switch on and parade;
4. Notify the traders and residents of the plans in the usual way; and
5. To hold the celebrations on Fore Street with Erme Court as extra space should it be required.

21/037 **PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Mayor and Cllr Wilson volunteered to be involved in a working group. Cllr L Rea advised that she does not have time to commit to being on the working group but would be happy to feed ideas in.

The Town Clerk said that there is plenty of time to think about this and come up with ideas.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the report and to set up a working group of interested Councillors.

21/038 **UPDATE AND INFORMATION:** Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information.

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be invited to withdraw.

IN COMMITTEE

21/039 **BUTTERPARK:** The report and information (copy previously circulated) was considered.
The Town Clerk advised Members that the project had reached a stalemate and the Solicitor's opinion was that the Town Council's position be maintained and this be communicated to LiveWest. Members were in agreement with this and requested that the Town Clerk provide them with additional information.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information in the report and:

1. To inform LiveWest that the Council were maintaining their position;
2. For the Town Clerk to provide Members with the requested information; and
3. To hold a Zoom meeting to discuss this further.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed Date August 2021

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 28 June 2021

Apologies: Cllr Pringle, Cllr Croad

CITIZENS ADVICE SOUTH HAMS PRESENTATION – JANIE MOOR, VIA ZOOM

Ms Moor's presentation was displayed on the screen.

Over the 12 months to March 2021, 240 individuals had been helped on more than 1,000 occasions. The demand has been the same as the previous year. After lockdown in April 2020 help was mostly sought regarding employment, benefits and universal credit. Queries regarding debt reduced in April, in line with mortgage holidays and other support being offered due to Covid.

Services were moved online due to lockdown in April 2020, and at least 90% of requests for help were via the telephone. WhatsApp was also offered but the take up was quite low. In the previous year roughly half of enquiries were in person and half by telephone. It was noted that during the year to March 2021, less men came forward for help and less with disabilities and long term health problems, possibly due to accessibility issues. Previously the majority of those helped were aged 55 plus, this year has seen more requests for assistance from younger age groups.

CAB were awarded the Queen's award for Voluntary Service.

The priorities are:

- Accessible for all (digital skills)
- A local voice for local people – to try to ensure that messages are powerful enough to be heard in London
- Great place to work and volunteer
- Efficient and effective – looking at the back office system
- A sustainable organisation – to ensure the right selection of funders and the environmental impact of the organisation

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is to be embedded across all of these.

Access points have been looked at to ensure accessibility. 8 channels are available:

- Freephone
- Email
- Opening times
- WhatsApp
- Video call
- Video booth – if people do not have their own facilities for a video call
- Outreach centre
- Online advice

How can you help?

- Support the CAB – they are very grateful for the support that Ivybridge Town Council provides
- Encourage volunteering
- Refer clients to them

Cllr Cade asked to what extent the CAB are meeting the need, and if not, what the problems are.

Ms Moor advised that they are answering 6 out of 10 calls. A bigger workforce, more volunteers would really help.

Cllr Dredge queried what their main source of funding is.

Ms Moor advised that South Hams District Council, Devon County Council and local towns and parishes provide 75% of the funding. They have tried fundraising but this is very labour intensive and hard work as people do not realise that CAB is a charity. Focus on going to funders and run projects on their behalf, seeking grant funding.

Cllr Lannin asked whether moving to online / telephone has made it more accessible.

Ms Moor advised that numbers dropped off at the beginning of lockdown due to financial support, for example mortgage holidays. Digital channels do help, they want to be able to support people of all age groups.

Cllr Khong wanted to know how many volunteers CAB have and whether there are any issues with violence against the volunteers.

Ms Moor said that there are 55 active volunteers and 64 on their books along with 8 trustees. During lockdown there were 70 volunteers. No violence has been experienced. In some cases, face to face meetings have been held with extremely vulnerable clients should the need arise.

The Mayor thanked Ms Moor for her report.

COMMUNITY CONNECTOR REPORT – JESSICA SHIPP

Ms Shipp advised that she has been in her role as Community Connector, a role which is part funded by the Town Council, since January 2020. Initially she became involved in the Ivybridge Response Group co-ordinating 85 volunteers who were helping vulnerable residents by picking up prescriptions and doing shopping during the lockdown. This led onto the Christmas hamper project which saw volunteers visiting vulnerable and isolated residents on Christmas day for a socially distanced chat and to give them a Christmas hamper.

The Social Prescribers from Beacon Medical have been providing telephone support to residents.

Ms Shipp feels that the role is successful through collaboration with other groups in the Ivybridge area. Trying to have a presence in the press, including a regular page in the Imag, Facebook and Instagram pages and has been on the local radio.

Now that restrictions are easing:

- Been involved in setting up a Mindful Art Class.
- Updating the Town Council events diary with the Administration Officer
- Working with Shirley Weeks' So Social group, looking to address food poverty through cooking classes.
- HOPE programme, an NHS initiative, which is a 6 week self-care peer support training course for those with chronic health conditions. She is a trained facilitator.
- Monthly wellbeing collaboration for people who work in wellbeing. Looking at holding a Wellbeing Week in the Autumn.

The Ivybridge Community Hub is holding a 6 week pilot in The Watermark, offering taster sessions of groups and activities such as the Walking Group, Gardening Group, Craft Group etc. The idea is to encourage people to get involved in these groups but also to offer a cup of tea and a chat, volunteers who have wellbeing training are available if needed. Funding for this has been received from the District Councillor's locality fund.

Ms Shipp asked of Councillors could:

- Please share information about the Hub.
- Let her know if they think of any proprietries for community connection.
- Suggestions of how to involve local businesses in the wellbeing work.

Cllr Parsons thanked Ms Shipp for the work she does.

The Mayor asked Councillors to email any questions they may have to Ms Shipp.

POLICE REPORT

The police were unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

There are no crimes of significance to notify the Council about.

Reports of Anti-social behaviour outside of the Watermark during the evenings. All local officers have been made aware by way of a Tasking process whereby they are required to attend this location and engage with the gatherings, each evening. If necessary using our powers of Dispersal.

I have been in contact with Devon Highways and WSP, who installed the new Western Rd crossing – several officers have raised concerns about this crossing and the potential for injury / incident. When vehicles are queuing westbound, towards the A38, the crossing can quickly become obscured – vehicles travelling eastbound, towards Fore Street can only see half a crossing and pedestrians have to walk half way across before being able to have a completely unobscured view – potentially into traffic travelling at 30mph. We have suggested a yellow hatched box after the crossing (westbound) creating a clear open space / view,

or traffic lights. We are concerned that the current layout is dangerous during peak times.

Following the very sad death of an Ivybridge resident in Longtimber Woods, the question was raised to me regarding water rescue equipment – a life ring or such like. I make mention of this as it was raised to me although I'm sure the council are fully aware.

Sgt R Canning

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR AUSTEN

Cllr Austen was in attendance and provided the following report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

£25,000 FOR NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT IN WOODLANDS PARK COMING SOON

I am pleased to say we have now earmarked £25,000 to spend on new play equipment in Woodlands Park and will soon be progressing with a public consultation to find out what equipment residents would like to see. The consultation is set to go live in July and I am hoping the equipment will be fitted by the end of the year.

WASTE COLLECTION PROBLEMS

South Hams District Council has continued to express its dissatisfaction with FCC's roll out of the Council's new recycling service and have insisted that the contractors take specific steps to fulfil their contractual obligations. At an extraordinary meeting of South Hams District Council, held specifically to discuss the current challenges facing the new recycling service, Councillors discussed the proposals put forward by FCC.

In the short term, 26,000 residents will continue to have their recycling sorted at the kerbside into the new vehicles. 11,000 residents will have their recycling collected in a different vehicle and it will be sorted at a local sorting facility. 8,000 residents will remain on the clear and blue sack system for the time being. All residents are being asked to continue to separate their recycling following the instructions, regardless of which vehicle arrives on your collection day. This will ensure that your recycling is separated and ready to be sorted at the kerbside as soon as the new service resumes.

The main problem would seem to relate to a shortage of drivers and difficulty recruiting. There is no question that the service that some residents have had has been unacceptable over the last couple of months. FCC have given the Council assurances that absolutely nothing will go to landfill.

SOUTH HAMS COUNCIL MAKES £10,000 EXTRA FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR EACH PROJECT TO TACKLE THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

South Hams District Council is joining forces with Crowdfunder to encourage and support projects and ideas that will help the District to tackle the climate

emergency.

The South Hams Climate Action and Biodiversity Fund is offering match funding of up to £10,000 for projects within the district that align with the Council's Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. It is hoped that the match-funding will provide crucial revenue to environmental projects that will help to make the South Hams become carbon neutral, improve its biodiversity and create climate resilient communities.

The site is now active

The Council will consider pledging towards crowdfunding targets as follows:

- **Up to 50% for constituted community groups and Town & Parish Councils**
- Up to 30% for registered not-for-profit organisations
- Up to 20% for incorporated locally based for-profit organisations

IVYBRIDGE MOTORHOME PILOT

South Hams District Council have agreed to progress their 12-month pilot motorhome plans following a comprehensive consultation with communities, which resulted in nearly 750 responses.

The Council are very clear that this scheme is only for self-contained motorhomes and campervans with their own on-board toilet facilities for a fee of £10 per night, overnight from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m. The pilot will allow overnight sleeping for a maximum two-night consecutive stay with no return within 48 hours.

The following five car parks across the District that are included in the pilot scheme are:

- Ivybridge, Leonards Car Park
- Kingsbridge, Cattlemarket Car Park
- Modbury, Poundwell Meadow Overflow Car Park
- Totnes, Longmarsh Car Park
- Dartmouth, Park & Ride Car Park

The aim of the scheme is to support and increase local tourism. There are ever-increasing numbers of motorhomes and campervan users opting to use car parks and other locations for overnight stays in the South Hams, and this is anticipated to increase because of restrictions on overseas travel due to the pandemic.

COUNCIL HAS NEGATIVE GENDER PAY GAP

The Equality Act 2010 requires local authorities who employ 250 employees or more to produce a gender pay gap report.

The headline figure shows that as an employer, South Hams District Council has a negative gender pay gap, that is, overall, we pay women more than men. This negative gender pay closes when we take our shared workforce into consideration, but still shows that both the mean salary and median salary of women is higher than for males.

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbott was in attendance and provided the following report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Dear Councillors and Officers,

I can tell you little more on the Recycling and Waste Collection than you've heard from our residents and seen reported in the papers. We are governed by the contract and the contract has not been shared with us. Some elements of the contract are held to be commercially sensitive and not open to public scrutiny. We continue to press them on improvements.

Any resident suffering a missed collection is inconvenienced and some have suffered repeated missed collections. I have heard of new examples each week and a resident on Assisted Collections has been missed more than once. However, most of the streets in Ivybridge East are accessible so the lorries can get to the bins when they do turn up.

Figures for missed collections across the District have reduced from 1000 a week to 150 a week. I have forwarded ideas from residents on improving collections. Not all ideas have been taken up and some improvements have come about due to District Council Officers' actions rather than from FCC's.

The waste and recycling management has taken up much extra staff (Officers') time. This is having a knock on affects in other areas. The costs (and on-costs) of staff time are being charged back to FCC (the outsourcing company).

SHDC Full Council meetings have started face to face (but at Tavistock due to the need of a large Covid-secure meeting room). Meetings of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee are also in Tavistock but the Executive meets at Follaton House. Site Visits to support Development Management Committee (DMC) meetings have recommenced as have face to face meetings of the DMC.

The policy to permit (self-contained) Motorhomes to park overnight on some car parks has been passed. This includes Leonard Road car park but I don't know of any use yet - do the Councillors or Officers of ITC know?

Six sources of funding are available for various projects and the details have now been made public at

<https://southhams.gov.uk/article/3854/Community-Grants-Funding>

On this web page, the 3rd in the list, 'Climate Change and Biodiversity Locality Fund' includes:

Each District Councillor with a budget to enable them to support a wide range of projects to help us tackle our Climate and Ecological Emergency Declarations. The project should meet one of the objectives in the South Hams Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy. These are

- Reducing carbon emissions from households, businesses or organisations, including community and voluntary groups
- Supporting behaviour change and sustainable living
- Projects which will result in removal of carbon from the atmosphere through nature-based solutions or supporting improvements in biodiversity
- Providing education and awareness of the Climate and Ecological emergency through direct engagement with hard to reach groups and individuals

- Projects which aim to help communities and species adapt to the effects of Climate Change
- Projects to help reduce organisational carbon footprints

Each Councillor has a budget of £3,000 until March 2022 to help not for private profit groups or organisations to deliver community projects that benefit their Ward or the wider local area.

It's been nice to meet with a couple of Town Councillors to hear your views on the District Council and District/ Town interactions. I would like to meet with all who can spare me an hour or so. Conversations have included older youths / young adults and sport. It's been great to hear the Mayor, the Chair of Parks & Open Spaces Committee, and Councillor Lannin were able to meet with some older youths by chance and to start a conversation.

I've been pleased to see the work of the very active skate board park redevelopment champions and I'm grateful to know about the Table Tennis activities. I'm concerned there is sufficient opportunity for both sexes, all ages, and all abilities, and the skate park champions have all groups in mind.

Isn't the Town looking well! I look forward to the work of the award-winning Ivybridge Bloomers flowering on July 30th. I've been asked by residents whether there can be more wildflower planting and there's been a comment on too much signage - could we take an outsider's viewer on signage and how to pretty up the Town?

On transport:

- The issue of on-street parking around the Town-centre remains as problematic as ever;
- There's a request for motorcycle parking at the ALDI, and generally more motorcycle parking and bike racks;
- There's an incomplete cycle route (see the photo attached below). It shows a sign on Woolcombe Lane just opposite Paddock Drive. There's a missing connection across the grass to the Woolcombe Lane cycle route.

My apologies for the 9th August meeting - I'm hoping to be on leave. Please email me on Victor.Abbott@swdevon.gov.uk



A discussion regarding District Council issues followed.

Cllr Austen advised that recycling is the burning issue at the moment and thinks that the issues are due to staffing. The contractors are going to start being penalised financially. They have assured SHDC that the situation will be getting better.

Cllr Parsons commented that elderly people struggle with taking heavy boxes out and queried the duty of care towards staff lifting heavy boxes.

Cllr Austen advised that he had seen the pace and physical activity that is expected of the staff and agrees that there are concerns, He will raise this with the contractor. He is also aware of issues with assisted collection and advised that recycling is voluntary so should residents really struggle, for example those with Alzheimer's, and cannot cope they can just put everything in the black bin.

Cllr Lannin was surprised to hear that there have been problems with recruiting and asked whether this is due to the contractor not offering the wages and benefits that SHDC used to.

Cllr Austen advised that it is likely that the contractor's terms are not as good as those previously offered by SHDC, for example zero hour contracts. They are not getting staff retention and are having to put up the driver's salaries to fill the demand.

Cllr Parsons commented that he was shocked to hear about the conditions with the staff and would like to see it being brought back in house.

Cllr Lannin queried why food waste cannot go in with garden waste.

Cllr Austen advised that at present some residents have been asked to put this in their black bins. This is not intended to be forever. The garden waste can be better processed if it is kept separate from food waste.

Cllr L Rea asked how SHDC has been communicating with residents.

Cllr Austen explained that the contractor had not been communicating with SHDC. They are now communicating better and were supposed to be putting cards out for residents.

Cllr Khong had seen an open cage lorry coming round and collecting all the recycling and mixing it up.

Cllr Austen said that the contractor was having to pay another contractor to do this and SHDC had been assured that it was being sorted at the other end.

Cllr Jago commented that the statutory responsibility for waste collection lies with SHDC not with the contractor and queried whether the decision to outsource was made by the Executive.

Cllr Abbott advised that it was made by Full Council several years ago.

Cllr Jago said he was disgusted by the situation.

Cllr A Rea thanked Cllrs Abbott and Austen for taking this on on behalf of residents.

Cllr Abbott asked whether anyone was aware of any motorhomes using local car parks. No one had seen any.

Cllr Abbott advised that each District Councillor had £3,000 fund for activities to tackle climate change.

Cllr Wilson commented that Fore Street looks awful with weeds growing along the pavements and queried where the responsibility for this lies.

Cllr Abbott agreed and raised concerns about the instability and unevenness of the paving stones.

The Town Clerk advised that clearing weeds is a District Council responsibility.

Cllr L Rea thanked the District Councillors for the repairs to the play park.

GENERAL

There were no members of the public present.

The public participation session closed at 8.00pm.