

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 11 April 2022 at 7.00pm

**Present:** Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Munro  
Cllr V Abbott Cllr A Rea  
Cllr M Cade Cllr A Spencer  
Cllr P Dredge Cllr R Wilson  
Cllr T Lannin

**In Attendance:** Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)  
Mrs J Gilbert (Minute Secretary)  
Cllr V Abbott (South Hams District Council)  
16 Members of the Public\*

Before the commencement of the meeting a minute's silence was held in memory of Lesley Hughes, former Town Clerk who recently passed away.

***An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.24pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.***

*\*7 Members of the public left the meeting at 7.24pm*

*\*1 Member of the public left the meeting at 7.30pm*

*\*1 Member of the public left the meeting at 8.17pm*

21/127 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Budd, Jago, Khong, Parsons, Pringle.

21/128 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members were invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests. No interests were declared.

21/129 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

21/130 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Munro confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded the minutes from 21<sup>st</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March. The minutes were agreed to be accepted.

21/131 **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

- 21/132      **WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Cade confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/133      **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 1<sup>st</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 21/134      **SHDC REGENERATION PROJECT:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that when he wrote the report he had hoped that the planning application would be live as had been previously advised. It was without doubt disappointing that it still remained unvalidated.

Cllr Wilson stated that SHDC had not looked at the long term impact and no feedback had been received from meetings. The Town Clerk advised that the Council had written to SHDC in 2021 raising the issues of parking, but this issue still remains unanswered. Cllr Wilson suggested that an officer involved in the project should be invited to a meeting. The Mayor stated that the officers had allegedly declared at the meeting with the Chamber that they weren't obliged to respond about the parking but had only done so out of courtesy. Cllr Munro stated that the meeting with SHDC hadn't inspired him, as upon querying their finances they confirmed that there would be no increased cost on energy and steel.

Cllr Lannin was in favour of Cllr Budd's previously circulated suggestion for further consultation with Ivybridge residents. Covid has changed shopping habits. People were not aware of the detail when they responded to the questionnaire asking if they would like an Aldi, and the realities of the impact on the riverside and shops. A low cost consultation would allow Ivybridge residents to feed into it and provide more data to support their position.

Cllr Cade queried the role of the Town Council. Is it a matter of courtesy that they are consulted or is there a formal protocol, or can they get answers to hold to account asking valid questions? He confirmed he would be willing to stand on a stall outside the Co-op to undertake a consultation with Ivybridge people to get their views on what is being proposed. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council is a statutory planning consultee and do have some weight, and can send a representative to the Development Management Committee.

Cllr Dredge compared two consultations, the boundary review which involved Ivybridge and the Aldi which covered the catchment area.

Those in the catchment area may not have any idea or interest in losing car parking spaces. The Mayor informed the meeting that looking at the figures of the questionnaire, 75% were in Ivybridge and 25% were outside. People from outside the town were happy to have an Aldi without the responsibility.

Cllr Abbott confirmed that they need to ensure that a consultation is as rigorously analysed as the first one. If it is online the location can be further away. Cllr Dredge stated that the electoral reference was required for the boundary consultation, however Cllr Munro felt that this can deter people from submitting.

Cllr Spencer was in favour of engaging with residents and suggested hand delivering letters through doors. Cllr A Rea felt that by opening up to the catchment area in the original consultation is sound as it is not Ivybridge Council tax being put at risk, it is South Hams. He would be happy to go with a future consultation but they have got to be realistic, South Hams have agreed heads of terms with Aldi, they are the landlord and the Planning Authority.

The Mayor stated that this project has generated more conversation and depth of feeling than she had ever known. The Chamber have been very vocal and are pulling together. Cllr Abbott advised that the planning consultation will be open for two months. Does it meet the planning criteria, and are SHDC really going to spend money on what residents may or may not want?

Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Cade seconded. All were in favour of accepting. It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council will conduct its own consultation with Ivybridge residents, and use the Annual Town Meeting as an opportunity to discuss the Aldi plans.

21/135 **GRANTS POLICY:** The new Grants Policy as recommended by Policy and Resources Committee was considered (copy previously circulated).

Cllr A Rea announced that he was very pleased that Policy and Resources Committee had accepted the new policy, and it had been a pleasure working with the Town Clerk on this. The policy was much improved, and the new format sets time schedules and aligns to our budget setting, and the form sets out clear strategies. The Mayor thanked Cllr A Rea for his hard work and contribution to the Grants Policy.

Cllr Rea proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded. All were in favour of accepting. It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the new Grants Policy.

21/136 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION POLICY:** The updated Freedom of Information Policy was considered (copy previously circulated).

Cllr Cade enquired whether there were many requests. Cllr Dredge responded that these tend to be in bursts, and there was one occasion when there was an underlying issue and the person had to be written to due to the frequency of the requests detailing finances.

Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded. All were in favour of accepting. It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the updated Freedom of Information Policy.

21/137

**RISK ASSESSMENT:** The updated Risk Assessment document was considered (copy previously circulated).

Cllr Dredge informed the meeting that the Risk Assessment tends to be split into two parts, detailing finance and the environment.

Cllr A Rea queried page 18 Ethical Investments, stating that investment in carbon heavy industries was a contradiction. Cllr Dredge explained that this was to highlight the risks of being put into that, and they could put into CCLA and balance ethical investments. Cllr Lannin commented that Lloyds bank invest in fossil fuels, and the issues have been discussed in the control of that risk. Cllr A Rea was happy to put that down to his misinterpretation.

He also queried the pension investments, claiming this was quite a negative statement. Other councils bring motions back to make their views known and we should do the same. Cllr Dredge advised that the Brunel Pension organisation is huge, and has brought together billions of pounds of investments. The Council would be unable to influence, however he proposed he could write to the pension fund advising of a resolution from Members for comments on how they can make it greener.

Cllr Munro queried page 8 Council website, and questioned the Risk Level being low. The Town Clerk confirmed that the website is not relied upon for day to day operations. Cllr Dredge remarked that this does go to the external auditor each year and he is happy, and added that from a management control of risks, placing this as high would not make sense.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Dredge, the Town Clerk and the Admin Officer on their work on this document.

All were in favour of accepting. It was **RESOLVED** to bring the ethical investments of Devon Pension Fund to a future meeting, and to receive and adopt the updated Risk Assessment document.

21/138

**UKRANIAN REFUGEE CRISIS:** The community response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis was considered.

The Town Clerk stated that as a Town Council it was unclear what could be done to help. He had been monitoring the local social media chatter, however there were mixed messages. The Town Council has space to accommodate a social event, or for example CAB clinics for help or advice as needed.

Cllr Munro queried the financial support available, for example bus fares. The Mayor confirmed that refugees will be financially supported. Cllr Wilson added that little is known about numbers and specific needs, and until then the Council cannot make plans.

The Mayor hoped that there would be more than one refugee family in Ivybridge as they can feel completely isolated, especially with language barriers. It is important that as a Town Council they help with community space. Cllr Lannin proposed putting out a statement that Ivybridge do support refugees and refugee families in the future, and offered to formulate the statement. Cllr Rea seconded this in principle. The Council had previously spoken about Ivybridge welcoming refugees at the time of the Afghan debacle. This would put out a powerful message. There are currently three families in the town and nineteen going to Moorhaven.

The Mayor remarked that the statement needed to be carefully worded, as she didn't want the words to come across as empty. Cllr Lannin proposed an initial statement on the Town Council website that can be built upon, with website updates. It was proposed:

*"Ivybridge Town Council welcomes refugees, and will work with the community to support refugees that live in Ivybridge and the surrounding area now and in the future".*

All were in favour in accepting. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the following statement on the Town Council website, *"Ivybridge Town Council welcomes refugees, and will work with the community to support refugees that live in Ivybridge and the surrounding area now and in the future".*

21/139

**DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:** The renewal of Devon Association of Local Councils membership was considered (copy previously circulated).

The Town Clerk informed Members that the cost of membership was £1,263. Cllr Dredge warned Members to be vigilant to unreasonable increases as the Treasurer had wanted to increase the fees by 28%

Cllr Wilson proposed Membership be renewed, Cllr Dredge seconded. All were in favour of accepting. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council renews its membership to DALC and NALC.

21/140 **BUTTERPARK:** An update on Butterpark was received (copy previously circulated).

The Town Clerk hoped to meet with solicitors later in the week. He has done an analysis on what can be achieved and delivered without needing a tender process which should speed things along.

Cllr Wilson remarked that it was nice to read that the Council has been talking to potential tenants keeping them up to date, and he thanked the Town Clerk for that.

Cllr Cade queried if timescales would be tight, being a couple of weeks adrift for going to market. The Town Clerk responded that the next deadline is December, however he was confident that he could approach Devon County Council and extend this if required. He is hopeful however that contracts will be in place by the middle of summer.

The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for all his hard work in delivering this project.

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

21/141 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated).

The Mayor commented that the #MyPlace Campaign wraps around the planters have brightened up the town. Cllr Munro queried why one of the planters had been left bare. The Town Clerk advised that this was due to a delay, but it was scheduled to be wrapped in due course.

Cllr Wilson advised that there was no feedback for the Meet the Councillors as part of the Thriving Ivybridge event, however his personal impression was that there was a reasonable footfall, and the main topic was Aldi.

Cllr Cade enquired if there was anyone shadowing Cllr Dredge as DALC representative. The Town Clerk confirmed that they would be elected in the new Council year.

Cllr A Rea informed the meeting that as he had recently been elected to the Community Resilience Group, he would be attending a face to face Devon Resilience Group meeting on 23 May and would report back.

Cllr Munro would be sending apologies to the next Harford Parish meeting.

Cllr Dredge read out an email from Inspector Ben Shardlow, who is the new South Hams Sector Inspector. He would be setting up quarterly meetings through Teams with Members involved in the Cllr Advocate Scheme.

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

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed: ..... Date: 23 May 2022

## **IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2022**

#### **POLICE REPORT**

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

We had several reports of fake £20 notes being tendered at various shops in the town centre. Enquiries are still on going.

Following the arrest of two young males for an affray in the Glanvilles Mill Car park, there has been a lull in ASB related reports however, Friday evenings are still busy with reports of young persons turning up for the Youth Club either under the influence of drugs / alcohol or both.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

##### **COUNCILLOR ABBOTT**

The government has outlined support for up to 200,000 Ukrainian refugees under 'temporary visa concessions'. Further visas are being granted to those currently within the UK, including specific groups of workers, students and other visitors. The fastest way to donate to a DEC appeal is by donating online. Visit <https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

All initial 22 potential host sponsors within SHDC area have been contacted to arrange a visit to assess the suitability of accommodation. Guests have started to arrive through the scheme.

The Government have published a guide which has advice, including on how to access benefits and find work. The Department of Levelling-Up, Housing & Communities has said this will be available in Ukrainian. The guide can be found: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>

SHDC has a single point of contact for Ukrainian refugee issues. As of last Friday, we are expecting 84 guests being housed with 40 sponsors.

I attended the 4 Rivers Dementia Alliance Meeting in Ivybridge. It was a full day with many speakers and activities. I am not SHDC's representative but go along to keep myself informed.

Brown waste bins were collected in the first fortnight back but with further staff absences, priority has reverted to recycling & black bins. Please continue to report missed collections as we continue to hold FCC to account.



There have been various briefings and there is significant comment upon the proposed building of the Aldi. There have been various briefings on the Freeport but it's outside the direct area of ITC.

The Joint Local Plan Team have secured funding to develop an interactive mapping tool on community infrastructure and its use. This local intelligence will help understanding on how our areas work and is a step towards more digital engagement in planning.

More information is available:

<https://plymswdevonplan.co.uk/news/residents-given-greater-say-in-planning-their-community>

## **GENERAL**

The Mayor introduced Ali Arnold, one of the Directors of Skate South Devon. He was in attendance to enquire where the replacement skate park will go? How long will Ivybridge be without wheeled sports facilities? £100,000 is not enough for a like for like skatepark. Where will the additional funding come from? Mr Arnold had attended the recent South Hams consultation at the Bridge Café and he stated that all these questions remain unanswered.

Cllr Abbott confirmed that Mr Arnold had raised good points, and these questions do remain unanswered. He advised that the £100,000 was a nominal figure and that the money would only come from the Aldi project if it goes ahead. The reason the skate park cannot be done beforehand had not been made clear to him.

Cllr Wilson enquired whether South Hams could fund the skate park from their reserves and pay back once the development is done.

The Mayor wished to reassure the public that the Town Council takes this matter very seriously, and have had conversations regarding this. Their own hands are tied, however she does a lot of youth work and felt strongly about this. The Town Council is not prepared to let it be forgotten and do keep raising the issue when they can, and will do whatever they can for wheeled sports and the skate park. She thanked Mr Arnold for showing his passion regarding this.

The Mayor introduced the next person. Laura Hughes is a Director of Moorvision which looks after families who are blind or partially sighted. She raised serious concerns over the lack of disability parking proposed with the regeneration project, many people with blue badges will have to use ordinary spaces.

The Mayor confirmed that the question of disability parking spaces has been raised on several occasions, but felt that they were not being taken seriously. As a town they are not prepared to have this ignored. It was also brought up recently at a Four Rivers Dementia Alliance meeting.

Ms Hughes was concerned about the short and longer term parking issues. The shuttle bus proposal would not help their children who are blind, some have oxygen needs and require wheelchairs and would have difficulty using the bus.

She stated that people who are blind, elderly and disabled are being discriminated against.

Cllr Abbott advised that there are five disabled spaces and enquired what Ms Hughes would expect to see. She estimated that it would need to be at least double that, particularly for blind people. She would provide Cllr Abbott with national figures required for disabilities.

Gill Wykes was representing Erme WI. She queried what people will do in the 6 months where there is no parking, and how will this affect the Leisure Centre and the clubs. The Mayor responded that there is no satisfactory answer. The Town Clerk, Cllr Spencer and Cllr Lannin had met with South Hams and the Chamber of Commerce, and South Hams still did not know. There was a vague idea about a bus, but they could not give timelines.

The Mayor informed the public that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 May, and welcomed everyone to come along and support the meeting. There will be opportunities for the public to look at the Aldi plans, and use that time to be involved in consultation ideas to give to South Hams.

The Mayor called Janet Swootweg. Ms Swootweg advised that she was new to the town, and although she can't offer a room to the Ukrainian refugees, she had some thoughts about how to help. She queried whether there could be a central point to find opportunities to meet and help them. The Mayor confirmed that the Town Council can make space available. Also the Salvation Army at the Bridge Café, and the Methodist Church are happy to be open, and the Methodist Church has cooking facilities. She added that she was interested to hear from Cllr Abbott that some families had been signed up and contacted, because as a host she was still waiting to hear. She asked Ms Swootweg to let the Town Hall have her contact details, and thanked her for raising her ideas.

The public participation session closed at 7.24pm.