

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 27 June 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Lannin
Cllr V Abbott Cllr T Munro
Cllr J Brown Cllr T Parsons
Cllr L Budd Cllr L Rea
Cllr M Cade Cllr T Rea
Cllr P Dredge Cllr A Spencer
Cllr A Khong Cllr R Wilson

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr R Croad (Devon County Council)
Guy Chappell (The Special Partnership Trust)
Andy Wadsworth (The Special Partnership Trust)
1 Member of the Public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Guy Chappell and Andy Wadsworth from The Special Partnership Trust.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.57pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

** Mr Chappell and Mr Wadsworth left the meeting at 7.34pm*

** Cllr Croad left at 8pm*

** 1 member of the public left at 8.25pm*

22/025 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Pringle.

22/026 **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.

22/027 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/028 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 16th May 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/029 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/030 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr Lannin commented that on item PA21/043, the comment about the fitness circuit in Preston Green was from Cllr L Rea not her. Also, with regard to handing out questionnaires, she is available but on certain days.

Cllr Lannin confirmed and Cllr Wilson seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted with the above amendments.

22/031 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. The minutes were noted as being accurate and will be confirmed at the next Annual Town Meeting.

22/032 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 17th May to 21st June 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

22/033 **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR END 2021 - 2022:** The Internal Audit report (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Dredge wished Councillors to note how complimentary the report was with regard to the Finance staff at the Town Hall.

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

22/034 **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT REVIEW:** The Annual Return for 2021-2022 (copy previously circulated) was considered.

- i. To note the sign off by the Internal Auditor – Cllr A Rea proposed, Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour of accepting this.
- ii. In respect of the Annual Governance Statement – to confirm 'yes' to all the statements in Section 1 – except Statement 9 which is 'n/a' – Cllr Dredge proposed, Cllr Spencer seconded and all were in favour of accepting this.
- iii. The exercise of public rights will commence on 30th June 2022 and will end on 10th August 2022.
The Town Clerk explained that this is the period when members of the public can request to see the financial information.
Cllr Wilson proposed, Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour of accepting this.
- iv. The Accounting Statements in Section 2, noting the supplementary information which is required as part of the

return – Cllr Parsons proposed, Cllr A Rea seconded and all were in favour of accepting this.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Note the sign off by the Internal Auditor (copy attached and report considered at item 22/033 above);
- ii. In respect of the Annual Governance Statement – to confirm “yes” to all the statements in Section 1 – except Statement 9 which is “n/a”;
- iii. Note the exercise of public rights will commence on 30th June 2022 and will end on 10th August 2022; and
- iv. Approve the Accounting Statements in Section 2, noting the supplementary information which is required as part of the return.

22/035 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The accounts paid by BACS during April and May 2022 were considered (copy previously circulated). The Town Clerk advised that as the Policy and Resources Committee will not be meeting until July it was advisable for Councillors to check the figures to ensure they were happy. Cllr Wilson asked what the Pantaloons are. The Mayor explained that they are a theatre company. Cllr Wilson proposed that the BACS payments were accepted, Cllr Khong seconded this and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the list of BACS payments for the period 1st April 2022 to 30th April 2022 be approved in the sum of £65,515.47 and the list of BACS payments for the period 1st May 2022 to 31st May 2022 be approved in the sum of £59,744.04.

22/036 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The proposed membership of the Policy and Resources Committee (copies previously circulated) was considered. The Mayor advised that Chairs have now been appointed for all Committees:
Planning Committee – Cllr A Rea
Parks & Open Spaces Committee – Cllr Spencer
The Watermark Committee – Cllr Munro
Personnel Committee – Cllr Dredge
The two vacancies were to be filled by past Mayors, in line with Standing Orders. Cllrs Wilson and Parsons confirmed that 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, Dredge, Munro, Parsons, A Rea and Wilson.

22/037 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** The report on Council’s involvement in the event (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Wilson commented that requesting and managing the road closure is the standard thing that the Town Council do every year for this event and he felt that it is very important to support it.

The Mayor agreed, Ivybridge residents always turn out in force on the day and it is a very important event.

Cllr A Rea commented that it was hard for members to be in the parade and to be a presence.

The Town Clerk advised that members were requested to either take part in the parade or to provide a presence on the day.

Cllr Munro proposed and Cllr A Rea seconded and all agreed to support the proposal for the Town Council to take the responsibility for this as a civic event.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information in the report and to support the proposal for the Town Council to take responsibility for this as a civic event by organising and implementing the road closure with the RBL taking the lead on organising the parade, the risk assessment and the first aid cover.

22/038

CITIZEN AND GROUP OF THE YEAR: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk explained that it was not fair to expect people to wait for the duration of the December Council meeting in order to receive their award at the end, so it was suggested that instead the awards take place at 6pm followed by a buffet with the Council meeting taking place at 7pm.

Members discussed the possibility of presenting the awards at the Annual Town Meeting.

Cllr Lannin proposed an amendment for a December deadline for nominations with the winner being decided at the Council meeting in January and the awards being presented at the Annual Town Meeting. Cllr Cade seconded this.

It was **RESOLVED** to change the process for the awards so the deadline for nominations would be December with the winners being selected at the Council meeting on 23 January 2023 and the awards presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

22/039

UPDATES AND INFORMATION: Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Cllr Dredge commented that only a Police Constable from Dartmouth attended the Police meeting, along with 3 others, due to a situation with suspected migrants landing at Slapton. He raised the issue of youths and noted that the police attend Dartmouth meetings. The Inspector should be at the meeting in July. He asked members to let him have any items they would like to see on the agenda.

Cllr Munro apologised that he had not submitted a report from Harford. He advised that they are not happy about the Aldi development.

They also have an ongoing issue Stowford Farm where the Environment Agency have been involved and South West Water are refusing to take action.

Cllr A Rea advised that he had raised Cllr Budd's comments about being advised by 111 that Beacon are a trust in crisis.

Unfortunately, Beacon are not sending a representative along to the Patient Participation group any more. The Chair of the PPG has requested that they attend.

Beacon have recently appointed a mental health nurse and 2 additional Social Prescribers bringing the total to 3. He explained that a Social Prescriber points patients to community groups etc which may help them with their issues.

They do have a problem retaining their reception / telephone staff due to the amount of abuse they receive.

Cllr Budd commented that Beacon should ensure that residents are aware of this.

Cllr A Rea advised that they had held a very useful meeting for Ukrainian refugees at the Town Hall. Over 60 people attended this meeting and travelled from other areas including Plymouth.

English lessons are taking place at the Town Hall on Mondays and Fridays with 3 groups on each day.

He thanked the Town Hall staff for their help with photocopying and other support offered.

He then went on to query the funding available from DCC for tutor's travel expenses. The Town Clerk advised that he was liaising with Mrs Rea regarding this.

Shirley Weeks has started up a So Social group at The Bridge on a Wednesday for older Ukrainians.

The Mayor thanked Cllr and Mrs Rea for their work on this.

The Mayor thanked the Town Hall staff and their families and Councillors who helped with the Jubilee celebrations. In spite of the weather it was a very successful event.

Cllr Lannin seconded this, she said that the Town Hall staff had done a great job and she had heard good feedback from residents. The Mayor commented that using Miss Ivy Events really does work. The response from the shops in the town was positive and the Jubilee Corgi trail was a big success.

Cllr L Rea commented that last summer we had the Tour of Britain cycle event, this year the Platinum Jubilee these bring people into the town, could we think about doing something next summer?

The Town Clerk advised that there had been thoughts about reviving the Bridge Ceremony unless any other big national events are planned.

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

22/040 **BUTTERPARK:** The Heads of Terms (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Members discussed the Heads of Terms and requested the terms be updated to clarify a number of points. The Town Clerk agreed to speak to our advisers to settle these.

It was agreed to progress to advertising the opportunity with revised Heads of Terms based on the discussions.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information and for the Town Clerk to progress and adjust the Heads of Terms.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed: Date: 8 August 2022

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 27 June 2022

GENERAL

The Mayor called Mr Chappell and Mr Wadsworth from the Special Partnership Trust to speak about the proposed Rutt Lane development.

Mr Chappell passed out a handout to all Members:

<h4>The Special Partnership Trust</h4> <p>'An ambitious, inspirational partnership of outstanding learning'.</p> <p>An aspirational Trust strategically assessing opportunities, working innovatively with partners, to support learners across the county and region.</p> <p>An integrated Trust with strong leadership at all levels, valued & empowered staff, and an engaged community, delivering the highest standard of education to all learners.</p> 	<h4>New Free School for Plymouth/Devon children with ASC</h4> <p>The department's approval is based on the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devon Council will provide an appropriate site to the department.• The site will be located as close to the border with Plymouth LA as practicable.• Devon Council will have control of the commissioning of places.• The number of places should be divided equitably between both Plymouth and Devon authorities.• As per the original specification, the provision should continue to focus on meeting the needs of high functioning pupils with ASC of 7-16 years. The school should form part of both LA's ongoing strategies to ensure girls with ASC receive access to appropriate provision.• The capacity of the school should be 120 places.* <p>Baroness Berridge - Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the School System - June 2021</p>
<h4>Vision for the new Free School</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Partnership Trust vision, values, ethos and experience will shape the school.• The school will provide an excellent specialist environment for children with Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). Specifically high-functioning autism.• Improving outcomes for children with ASC - mainstream pathways are not always effective for all pupils in overcoming barriers to learning.• Providing the innovative and flexible approach required to refining and personalising provision.• School offer will be shaped through close partnership working with pupils, families, professionals and the local community.	<h4>The school offer</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), Key Stage 2 (7 years) to Key Stage 4 (16 years).• Learners who are broadly academically in-line with their peers, or would be given the appropriate environment.• Personalised - ensuring each learner can be successful and develop skills and confidence. Highly inclusive, calm quiet and purposeful. Transitions and social times well managed.• A rich and diverse educational and therapeutic offer, meeting pupils needs through a holistic approach.• Learners who experience anxiety and stress - Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) need can be listed on their EHCP.• The curriculum pathways to GCSE's and Entry Level. Balance of personal development, academic, sporting, vocational and creative learning.
<h4>Wider impact on SEN provision in Plymouth and Devon</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School will enhance the landscape of special and mainstream provision for SEN children in Plymouth and Devon.• Outreach partnerships will provide support for staff and learners in mainstream settings from EY through to post-16.• Partnerships between schools strengthened and SEN provision across the area improved.• Upskilling of local workforce.• Creation of skilled jobs for 55 staff.• Opportunity for local community use of facilities and the development of working partnerships with the school.	<h4>The Special Partnership Trust and the Plymouth/Devon Free School</h4> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Really exciting opportunity for pupils and families in the area, aligned with...• Schools White Paper - children will benefit from being in schools that are part of strong and effective MAT's.• Schools Green Paper - proposes that there should be greater consistency in access to high quality SEN provision.• Special Partnership Trust will continue to work with stakeholders to consistently deliver on these priorities.

He went on to explain that the aim is to produce a school offering 120 places to SEN students. They are hoping to meet with the Town Council frequently during the process and work together on this project. Originally, they were looking to build a Free School in Plymouth with 60 places however they were unable to find a site.

Devon County Council offered to put in the capital to purchase the site. They will be working in partnership with Devon County Council and Plymouth City Council.

Cllr Budd commented that following the Council meeting on 13 December 2021 when Mr Niles from Devon County Council presented, there were concerns that the plan was for a Pupil Referral Unit for excluded children. This is a very different offer and one that is needed.

Mr Chappell advised that the Special Partnership Trust do not do Pupil Referral Units.

Mr Wadsworth advised that the offer is for children from 7 – 16 years old with an education health and care plan for ASC, high functioning autistic children who are academically able. The aim for the school is to provide an environment where they can succeed and achieve. These young people may also have a secondary diagnosis of anxiety around education. The school will be a personalised and calm environment with a focus on personal development, learning, creative arts, sports.

Cllr Dredge asked what would happen to these young people after the age of 16. Mr Wadsworth explained that the school will provide a place in a wider scope of provision and offer outreach from early years to 19-20. They will aim to get the transitions right and will be working with post-16 providers.

Cllr Cade asked whether Ivybridge pupils would get priority.

Mr Wadsworth explained that if the school offered the right provision for them then he would envisage that short transport times should be prioritised. There will be no overnight provision but they may develop breakfast and after school clubs over time.

Cllr Lannin asked what the split of children from Devon County and Plymouth City would be, would it be 50/50? How much power would the school have over admissions?

Mr Wadsworth advised that it would be on a needs basis and the school would ensure that the children were suited to what they will provide.

Cllr Lannin went on to ask whether transport arrangements would be made if a significant number of children were coming from Plymouth.

Mr Wadsworth advised that they would be.

Cllr Khong asked how much mental health support would be provided.

Mr Wadsworth explained that there would be a therapeutic team with a trauma informed approach. All staff would have baseline training in this.

Cllr Khong asked what the input would be from our health centre and would this put more pressure on it.

Mr Wadsworth advised that the staff would work with the health centre.

Mr Chappell advised that there would be 55 members of staff. They would work alongside local services to add value not to deplete them.

Mr Wadsworth added that if they felt there was a need for deregulation then it can be built into the school, however they do not anticipate that there would be a need. There would be breakout areas for the children to use should they need a quiet space.

Cllr A Rea asked how many jobs for local people would be generated as that land is currently earmarked for local employment.

Mr Chappell advised that there would be 55 members of staff and they would recruit specialist roles, as well as other roles and would use local people if they are the best candidates for the roles.

Cllr A Rea asked how they aim to engage with Ivybridge.

Mr Wadsworth advised that in Bodmin they developed community relationships through stakeholder working groups. He would propose that this approach was followed in Ivybridge engaging residents to help shape the school. There would be a Section 10 consultation 18 months before the school opens which would involve consulting in a public forum on how the school moves forwards.

Cllr L Rea asked whether there were any other potential sites what timescale for the school opening is envisaged.

Mr Chappell advised that there may be one other potential site and the aim would be to open in 2024/25.

The Mayor asked what provisions there would be for sport and whether these would be open for community use outside of school hours.

Mr Wadsworth said that it is likely that there would be a MUGA and a multi-use hall which could be open for the community to use for things such as plays, meetings, badminton.

Cllr A Rea commented that this would be a good thing as there is not a lot of provision at the eastern side of the town.

The Mayor then asked how the site would be kept secure.

Mr Wadsworth advised that there would be remote control gates with a CCTV / intercom system. Pupils would only be able to leave the site with a member of staff or parent / carer.

Cllr Munro commented that he can't see anything negative in this proposal, the provision isn't there at the moment and he would welcome this.

Cllr Budd commented that this sounds like a real opportunity for students but she is still concerned about the narrative so far from Devon County Council.

Cllr Croad commented that he thought that this was what had been put across previously. This is a great opportunity for Ivybridge children 3 children from Manor Primary had to go to Exeter every day by taxi.

Mr Chappell commented that he wanted to work closely with Ivybridge Town Council on this project and that he is happy to follow up Cllr Budd's concerns with Mr Niles and will report back.

The Mayor thanked Mr Chappell and Mr Wadsworth for taking the time to come and speak to members.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad advised that he has pledged £500 for plants for Fore Street following the vandalism over the weekend. The Ivybridge Bloomers have accepted but they need the money asap to prepare for Britain in Bloom. He asked whether the Town Council could provide the money to the Bloomers and he will pay the Town Council due to the timescale of Devon County Council being able to make the payment. The Town Clerk advised that there is a budget for planting so this should be possible. All were happy with this.

Cllr Munro asked how this could be prevented from happening in the future.

Cllr Croad advised that he would speak to Highways to see whether there is any unused CCTV equipment available.

Cllr Croad went on to advise that there are currently 972 Ukrainians in Devon and approximately 1941 visa applications have been made. Over 5,000 sponsors came forward initially, the third highest in England. These are being followed up, so far 700 incorrect or duplicate forms have been found.

Cllr Croad asked what the issue is with grass cutting in the town.

The Town Clerk advised that it wasn't clear how much South Hams District Council were actually doing. They lost the contract due to the cost. The new contractor is doing what is in the contract.

The Mayor commented that householders are letting bushes overgrow pavements and asked whether a reminder of their responsibilities could go out with next year's council tax.

Cllr Lannin asked about the A38 roundabout and whether it is possible for someone to sponsor it.

Cllr Croad advised that several firms have asked about advertising on it but when they find out the cost and that Chapter 8 training is required to work on it, they back out.

Cllr Munro asked why the roundabout cannot be removed.

Cllr Croad advised that the cost of removal is likely to be £250,000 and is not feasible at the moment.

Cllr Lannin asked why Devon County Council don't do anything to maintain the roundabout.

Cllr Croad advised that there is no money for this.

Cllr Lannin asked Cllr Croad to provide the costs to sponsor the roundabout.

The Mayor commented that better signage on the slip road would be useful.

Cllr Croad advised that the slip road is owned by Highways England and they refuse to put in additional signage.

Cllr Croad advised members that the Chief Executive of Devon County Council will be retiring in August.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbott had provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

Ukraine

There are 371 Ukrainians here in the South Hams & West Devon or on their way. SHDC have been:

- Continuing initial property checks for new additions to the scheme
- Carrying out welcome visits for Ukrainian guests (and planning for a subsequent two visits)
- Developing a plan for how we support the sustainability of host/guest relationships
- Develop a rematch scheme for placements that have broken down
- Plan for the end of the initial 6 months of the scheme
- Continue to deliver our wraparound support offer (through CAB and CVS)

There is a change coming to allow hosts to match with unaccompanied Ukrainian children. Previously the Ukrainian Government said Ukrainian children may not be placed with UK families without a Ukrainian adult. The change will have significant safeguarding implications but:

- There are currently 700 applications for unaccompanied children on hold – we don't yet have data for how these are spread across Councils
- Anticipate that the visa process will open for those children (and others who may not have registered) within the next two weeks
- The expectation of hosts is that the placement must be for 3 years or until the Child turns 18, whichever is soonest
- The thank you payment of £350 per month will be available from District Councils for up to the full three years

A new team member is starting in July. Her work will include work on resources and support offered by CVS and CAB and translate texts into Ukrainian. A further two case-workers will be employed for the next 6 months to enable us to complete welcome visits as soon as possible and to plan them for the coming months.

Recycling & Waste Collection

We called a Special Meeting of the Council to question FCC about the recycling and waste collections, and the brown bin collections. It took the full six weeks permitted under the call to get the meeting held. Two representatives of FCC did turn up but they answered no substantive points. Despite the point being made that local conditions do not change across the political boundaries of the District Council; the representatives of FCC said the problems lay with local conditions. We were not enlightened.

Housing

Having seen affordable houses come on stream at Bloor Homes a few months ago, more have become available at Wain Homes/ Saxon Gate.

Verges

I have been asked about the verges and safe driving in Ivybridge. Jonathan has supplied a summary of the DCC position and ITC's funds and actions.

Cllr Budd asked whether SHDC has been briefed on any updated figures for the Aldi proposal as she has had no response from Cllr Austin, who had said he would provide these figures.

Cllr Abbott had asked for a reassessment of costs but SHDC have not agreed to do this yet. He went on to explain that on 6 July Development Management would be looking at the planning application which would be judged purely from a planning perspective. Finance would not be included in this. The Town Council can put a question to the Executive requesting updated costs.

The Mayor commented that Sir Gary Streeter had voiced concerns over £9million being borrowed for a regeneration which is purely building a store.

The public participation session closed at 7.57pm.