

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 31 October 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Munro
Cllr J Brown Cllr L Rea
Cllr P Dredge Cllr T Rea
Cllr A Khong Cllr A Spencer
Cllr T Lannin Cllr R Wilson

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Ms C Donnelly (Community Connector)
Cllr R Croad (Devon County Council)
3 Members of the Public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.19pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

**Cllr Croad left the meeting at 7.47pm*

22/066 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Abbott, Budd, Reville, Parsons and Pringle.

22/067 **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.

22/068 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26th September 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/069 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 15th August 2022, 5th September 2022 and 26th September 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Brown seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/070 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Lannin

confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/071 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr A Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/072 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th October (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr Wilson seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/073 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 20th September to 24th October 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

22/074 **PLAY AREAS:** The request from the Parks and Open Spaces Committee (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Wilson commented that it was disappointing that only 167 responses had been received.

The Town Clerk explained that the issue has arisen due to the play areas at Victoria Park and MacAndrews Field deteriorating. There are separate plans for Filham Park using S106 funding.

Cllr Lannin commented that at the Parks Committee, the feeling was that Ivybridge needs good play facilities. A lot of families go out of Ivybridge to use play facilities whereas we want to encourage people to use the town.

Cllr L Rea commented that there is currently no budget for maintenance of play equipment so will either need to invest or have nothing. It would be good to explore what is possible for the parks.

The Town Clerk advised that the Parks Committee discussed the results of the survey and looked at examples. Spending £5-10k doesn't buy very much – one roundabout costs approx. £16k.

Cllr Dredge commented that withdrawing the CCLA investment would see a loss of approx. £3k interest per year.

The Mayor commented that the feeling was this could be used to make Ivybridge a destination and encourage people to stay in the town.

Cllr L Rea commented that not all the parks which people are going to are big fancy ones, just ones with good equipment.

Cllr A Rea commented that if members decide not to invest in the playparks there will still be a cost to maintain the current equipment.

Cllr Lannin proposed that the Council invest up to £100k to improve the playgrounds. Cllr Wilson seconded this. All were in favour.

Cllr Wilson asked whether it would be worth finding out how much it would cost then looking into how to fund it.

The Town Clerk advised that 6 months' notice is required to take out the CCLA investment.

Cllr Wilson asked what the difference would be if a loan was to be taken out versus using the CCLA money.

Cllr Dredge advised that we have had 7 good years of investment with the CCLA but not sure what the next 7 years would bring.

The Town Clerk advised that the loan would cost £2,700 / year in interest (fixed rate) if we borrowed £100,000, very similar to what we would lose if the investment was used.

Cllr A Rea said that using the CCLA investment would be his preference. If taking out a loan this would have an effect on the precept.

The Mayor asked whether it would be possible to take some from the investment and some from a loan.

The Town Clerk advised that we would need to do a consultation with residents with regard to the precept. As this is a capital project the CCLA investment can definitely be used for this.

Cllr Spencer queried whether the CCLA investment had been earmarked for any other projects.

The Town Clerk advised that toilets at Filham Park had been mentioned but other methods of funding this could be looked into.

Cllr A Rea commented that it may not be necessary to take out a loan on top of the CCLA investment.

Cllr Lannin asked what the term of the loan would be.

The Town Clerk advised it would be 10 years.

Cllr Wilson proposed that the CCLA investment be withdrawn and a loan to take the sum up to £100,000 be budgeted for. Cllr Munro seconded this. All voted in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a) invest up to £100,000 in the playparks; and
- b) to fund this using the CCLA investment and a loan to take the sum up to £100,000.

22/075

SKATE SOUTH DEVON: The request to fund the pre planning stage work required to progress the wheeled sports facility at Filham Park (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr A Rea commented that he was in favour in principle and there is money in the budget.

Cllr A Rea proposed that the Town Council fund the pre planning stage work to progress the wheeled sports facility at Filham. Cllr Wilson seconded this. Cllrs Dredge and Spencer abstained from the vote, all other members voted in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to fund the pre planning stage work required to progress the wheeled sports facility at Filham Park.

22/076

COST OF LIVING CRISIS: The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

Cllr A Rea commented that he had had 3 ideas as to how the Town Council could help residents:

- a) To make available ways residents could save money such as leaflets which could be available from The Watermark;
- b) A community fridge – like the one in South Brent where the Co-op donates out of date food; and
- c) Warm Spaces – perhaps the library, The Bridge, the Methodist Church – is there anything we could do to help them be open to provide a warm space during the day?

Cllr Munro advised that surplus food goes to Devon & Cornwall Food Action.

The Mayor said that the Ivybridge Co-op currently donate their food to the Ivybridge Foodbank.

Cllr Munro commented that this is a separate project.

The Mayor wondered where this could happen as they would need storage, where could the fridge be located?

Cllr A Rea advised that they do not have to be inside, it could be in a lockable shed.

The Town Clerk advised that the library are happy to investigate whether the fridge could be located there. Would need to ensure that there are volunteers to manage, clean and stock the fridge.

Cllr A Rea proposed that he, Cllr Munro and the Community Connector meet outside of the Council meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up a community fridge. All were in favour of this.

The Mayor advised that the Bridge Project Community Café is open, also St Johns are open to provide a warm space. The problem is that staff would need to be funded rather than heating.

The Town Clerk advised that SHDC have a very comprehensive page about money saving. We could look at creating a leaflet from this and pulling together a timetable of when warm spaces are open.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate what support the Town Council could provide to these initiatives.

22/077

EXTERNAL AUDIT: The External Audit report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Members thanked the Finance staff and the Town Clerk for their hard work

It was **RESOLVED** to note the result of the external audit report and that the required public notices have been issued.

22/078

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

The Town Clerk advised that there is a deed of variation for Butterpark which will hopefully allow the sale to progress. Hopefully County Councillor Croad will speak to the legal team at

Devon County Council. He has asked them for an amended deed of variation by 14 November. Agents are lined up to begin the sales process as soon as the deed is available.
The Mayor thanked the Town Clerk for his work on this.

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

The meeting closed at 8.22pm.

Signed: Date: 12 December 2022

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 31st October 2022

POLICE REPORT

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

There were 22 Crimes recorded for the period 01-10-22 up until this evening, 28-10-22 and 74 calls for service via 101 / 999.

There are no significant matters to report.

Cllr A Rea commented that the report was very brief and wondered how much faith can be put in these figures as Devon and Cornwall Police have been put in special measures due to incorrect recording.

Cllr Dredge advised that he is attending a police meeting on 1 November and will bring this forward at this meeting.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad was present at the meeting and provided the following report:

Police

In case some members were unaware, we have a new **Chief Constable**. Last week the Police & Crime Panel endorsed the appointment of DCC Will Kerr OBE. He is currently Deputy Chief Constable for Police Scotland. A very experienced officer, before Scotland he held senior appointments in the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the National Crime Agency.

Hate Crime – 2,564 hate crimes were recorded in the 12 months to June 2022. This is a 46% increase (+800) when compared to the baseline year, the 12 months to June 2019. Despite the observed increase, it is difficult to make objective inferences about performance based on increases or decreases in hate crime – victims may be more confident to report to the police. Conversely, the trend could also be interpreted as negative because it could be reflective of a 'real' increase in victimisation. 44% of all hate crimes were public order related and these were predominantly racially or religiously aggravated.

101 call waiting times – 101 or P1 (Priority 1) non-emergency calls are those calls that are identified by the Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system as high priority. These include calls relating to domestic abuse, sexual offences, hate crime, missing persons, and road safety. In the year to July 2022, the average wait time on the P1 line was **17 minutes** – this is an **increase of 11 minutes 57**

seconds when compared to the baseline year the 12 months to July 2020.
Unsurprisingly, fewer calls have been received in the latest period, fewer answered and a higher abandonment rate is evident.

Waste

A Waste Composition Analysis of residual waste bins is underway across the county. 1800 residual bins will be examined and will give an indication of which materials are in them, this will allow targeted communications and interventions where necessary. A similar project was carried out some 7/8 years ago with some enlightening (and surprising) results. So, if a constituent reports seeing a pair of legs protruding from their bin – you will know why that is!! I will publish the outcome(s) end November

Recycling Rates 21/22 – provisional data suggests that Devon County Council has retained its place as the 2nd highest performing Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) in the country at 55.3% - which is the combined performance of Waste Collection Authorities (WCA) and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

Waste statistics indicate that all Districts, apart from East Devon, experienced static, or reductions, in their recycling rates with the average reducing from 51.5% to 49.8%. East Devon at 61% achieved its highest ever ranking of 6th place nationally.

	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>Change over 2020/21</u>
East Devon	61%	+1.0%
Exeter	25.5%	- 2.3%
Mid Devon	53.7%	0.0%
North Devon	48.2%	- 1.2%
South Hams	46.7%	- 8.0%
Teignbridge	55.6%	- 0.3%
Torridge	53.9%	- 1.3%
West Devon	54.1%	- 1.1%

Energy from Waste Plant – Devonport

Where does your residual waste go? The facility in Plymouth has been fully operational for 7 years now. Last year 2021/22 the annual waste throughput was 248,000 tonnes with 189,000 tonnes coming from the South West Devon Waste Partnership - consisting of Plymouth (with 87,000 tonnes), Torbay (31,000), Teignbridge, South Hams & West Devon District Councils (64,000) with some small amounts from Mid Devon DC.

Electricity generated last year 197,000 MWh – to run the Facility and contribute to the National Grid. **Steam generated** 50,000 MWh – piped straight into the Dockyard.

COVID

As the weather cools down, COVID is heating up! Over the past three weeks those patients in our local hospitals (Derriford, RD&E, Torbay, and North Devon) diagnosed with COVID, numbers have moved up steadily from 51 to 138 to 185 and last week the number was 227! So we are in a changeable position, thankfully we have not seen a corresponding rise of patients in Intensive Care with, currently, just 2 on mechanical ventilation. **Some 60% went into hospital with something else and then tested positive!** The media are now talking about a 'Twindemic' with Flu joining up – so I suppose the answer is get a Flu jab and a COVID jab - depending upon your circumstances.

Ukraine Refugees

As of yesterday (Monday 31st October), there were 1,576 visa arrivals in the DCC admin area (not including Plymouth & Torbay) with a further 680 possible arrivals (that is those with valid visas not yet enacted). There are potentially more here because those children travelling on parent's passports are not in the count.

We now have 1,006 sponsors for those families and 1,700 DBS checks have been carried out.

Cllr A Rea queried whether the new Chief Constable has been brought in due to Devon & Cornwall Police being put under special measures.
Cllr Croad advised that this was due to the previous Chief Constable retiring.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

Recycling & Waste Collection

It is a pleasure to say that during the first month of the formal transition period the success in brown bin collections grew and nominally all rounds went out on all but the first two days. However, there were some problems, and in Ivybridge I know of an assisted collection needed chasing more than once. To the individual, this represents no improvement in service but to our town it is a great first step. We can now look forward to the pause in brown bin collections freeing up a few drivers and operatives to ensure recycling and waste collections are successfully collected over the winter. At some stage, there will be tweaks to a few of the collection rounds and for the west of Ivybridge and for large parts of the South Hams, we can hope for the intended full recycling system to be deployed.

Torbay is consulting on updates to its Local Plan and is appealing against the number of houses it must build. If the appeal is lost, it says it does not have

sufficient greenfield space to provide new builds and it is likely the South Hams will be requested to make up some of the shortfall.

The annual door-to-door registration of voters is about to start, with a concentration on addresses with no return of the self-reporting form. The new Electoral Register will be published on December 1st.

There is to be an estimate of rough sleepers on the night of 14th/ 15th November. The team would be grateful for descriptions of places where rough sleepers camp out. Personally, I think this might be well supported by the use of the software, What 3 Words.

There has been an outbreak of Avian Flu (HSN1) in Dartington and a flock of geese culled. SHDC is responsible for collecting dead birds on public land where there is a public health concern.

On District Council staff workload, a few were dedicated in whole or in part to liaising with FCC or undertaking full time work. Other unexpected workload came with supporting Ukrainian refugees and from the consequences of Covid. Once again, officers are supporting the latter by distributing a further £1.6mn to 509 businesses in a recently agreed new payment to disadvantaged businesses.

GENERAL

Mr Smith advised that he has volunteered at The Watermark since 2016 and felt that Members should acknowledge the hard work of The Watermark staff through the pandemic and now with no Watermark Manager. He felt that they should be thanking the staff and also support them by attending events at The Watermark.

The Mayor thanked Mr Smith for his work as a volunteer.

The public participation session closed at 7.19pm.