

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 17 April 2023 at 7.00pm

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

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr Croad (Devon County Council)
Mr Knight (Stagecoach)
Mr Ford (Stagecoach)
3 members of the public
1 member of the press

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then introduced Mr Knight and Mr Ford from Stagecoach.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.53pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

* Mr Knight, Mr Ford and 1 member of the public left at 7.31pm

* Cllr Croad left at 7.47pm

* 1 member of the public left at 7.53pm

22/122 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Cade, Parsons and A Rea.

22/123 **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.

22/124 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 6th March 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Lannin confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/125 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 20th February 2023 and 13th March 2023 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Budd confirmed and Cllr Brown seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

- 22/126 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March (copy previously circulated) were received.
Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Reville seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/127 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th March (copy previously circulated) were received.
Cllr Lannin confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/128 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April (copy previously circulated) were received.
Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/129 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March (copy previously circulated) were received.
Cllr Pringle proposed and Cllr Khong seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/130 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 1st March 2023 to 6th April 2023 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 22/131 **BUS SERVICES:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.
This was discussed during Public Participation.
Cllr L Rea commented that a regular evening bus service would benefit all the towns on the route. The train is too expensive to be viable. With the Climate Emergency we really need to be using cars less.
The Town Clerk commented that he was surprised that Cllr Croad had not been involved in the discussions at Devon County Council.
Cllr L Rea commented that if it is a genuine ask from Great Western Railway to encourage people from Sherford to use Ivybridge Station this has to be a positive as it could mean more trains stopping at the station.
Cllr Brown commented that this would need buy in from GWR regarding fare prices.
Cllr Budd agreed, tickets from Plymouth are cheaper.
Cllr Lannin asked whether it would be possible to form a bus users group after the elections.
The Mayor agreed and suggested that the idea of a bus users group be taken to the Annual Town Meeting.
- It was **RESOLVED** to put forward the idea of a Bus Users Group on social media and at the Annual Town Meeting.

22/132 **CORONATION:** The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. The pencils have been received and will be handed out to the schools. Bunting has been put up in the town. The event at The Watermark has not sold well so they will decide at the weekend whether to continue with this. If not, the TV coverage will still be shown on the big screen with free entry, the bar will be open and cream teas available to purchase. Coronation mugs are not selling as well as the jubilee ones did. Cllr Budd commented that it is still early days and sales may pick up closer to the event.

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

22/133 **BUTTERPARK:** The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. Butterpark is now on the market with offers invited by the end of June, there have been 2 serious enquiries already. It is designed to be a simpler process than previously. Cllr L Rea asked whether this will cause any impact on the budget. The Town Clerk advised that this was taken into account. Cllr Lannin thanked the Town Clerk for his work on this.

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

22/134 **HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY:** The policy (copy previously circulated) was considered. The Town Clerk advised that amendments had been made based on comments received from Councillors. Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr Dredge seconded, all were in favour and the Health and Safety Policy was agreed to be accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Health and Safety Policy.

22/135 **STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL:** The Statement of Internal Control (copy previously circulated) was considered. There were no comments. Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded and all were in favour of accepting the document, which was then signed by the Mayor and the Town Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Statement of Internal Control.

22/136 **DEVON ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS:** The report (copy attached) was considered. The Town Clerk advised that DALC are the only training provider and the membership subsidises the cost of these courses. They also provide information and policy templates as well as providing advice. Cllr Wilson proposed membership was renewed and Cllr Pringle seconded. All were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the membership of Devon Association of Local Councils.

22/137

TOWN CENTRE DATA SOFTWARE: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Wilson commented that it looks like really useful data but queried the source.

The Town Clerk explained that it is anonymised data from phone users which has been collected via apps on their phones. The location data shows where people travel to and from and whereabouts in the town centre they are, however it is not possible to drill down to look at an individual's data. This data is being collected anyway, this is just to buy access into it. South Hams District Council are keen for the towns to buy into this, they are asking the towns to pay half towards it with the idea of creating a Town Plan for economic development and to look at how footfall is affected.

Cllr L Rea asked whether Officers have the skill and knowledge to interact with this data.

The Town Clerk advised that SHDC do, they will use the data and feed it back to the Town Council. There will also be training available for local users eg Officers and Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr L Rea asked whether SHDC will give Ivybridge the focus it deserves.

The Town Clerk advised that Ivybridge was the first town they approached. This was confirmed at the Mayor's and Clerk's meeting. The data would be useful, it would be possible to look back at previous events over the past 2 years such as the Christmas festival, bus usage, car park use etc. There is some Tesco Town Development money available and the Chamber of Commerce have offered to contribute £100 towards the cost.

Cllr Budd commented that SHDC are going to go ahead with this anyway so it would be better for the Town Council to be involved and be part of any plans.

Cllr Munro asked whether there is a demo.

The Town Clerk advised that they did a demo at the Mayor's and Clerk's meeting.

Cllr Spencer asked whether we need to let people know that we are using their data.

The Town Clerk explained that the data was already being collected by apps on people's phones. They agree to this when they sign up to these apps.

Cllr Munro proposed and Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign up for 1 year's access to this data at a cost to the Council of £725.

22/138

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

Cllr Dredge advised that there are still issues with copper cables being stolen in the South Hams.

The Mayor commented that vaping is a big problem even at primary ages. She will speak to the College about this when they meet. The long term effects of vaping are not known which is a worry.

The Mayor advised that she had attended the Chapel Place AGM and hopes that it will be used more in the future.

Cllr Abbott asked whether there are 2 groups looking at the Erme catchment area.

Cllr Lannin advised that there are but they do not cover all of the Erme. They are hoping to hold a public event after elections and to create one group or CIC which covers the whole Erme like there is for the Yealm.

Cllr Abbott commented that we need to ensure that all interested parties are talking and that the tributaries are all monitored so any problems can be mapped.

Cllr Lannin commented that they are trying to produce an activity map with local volunteers doing the monitoring and testing.

Cllr Abbott commented that this is a good opportunity for the new Council to get involved in.

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

22/139 **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** The proposed date of Thursday 25th May 2023 at 7pm was considered.
All were in favour of this date.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 25th May at 7pm.

22/140 **VOTE OF THANKS:** The Mayor thanked all the Councillors for their work over the past 4 years.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.

Signed: Date: 15 May 2023

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 17th April 2023

STAGECOACH DISCUSSION WITH MR KNIGHT AND MR FORD

Mr Knight explained that any changes to a bus service have to go through the Traffic Commissioner and are then consulted upon by Devon County Council. This process was followed prior to rerouting the service away from Marsh Mills and through Sherford. The decision was taken based on data showing where the customers are. He advised that the actual distance of the journey is less but takes 3 minutes longer. The late night services were withdrawn 6 nights a week but retained on Saturday nights based on user data.

Cllr Wilson commented that he was aware of a key worker who has found that the 8.30pm bus often does not turn up.

Mr Knight requested dates so he can look into what happened as over the last 3-4 months the service has been where it should be.

L Rea commented that on 18 March the 12.00 bus left 7 minutes early and this is a regular occurrence.

Ms Jones advised that her 15 year old daughter was stuck in Plymouth one evening as she was not aware that the timetable had changed, and voiced her concerns about this happening to other young people.

Mr Knight advised that costs have risen and services need more passengers to be viable so there are no plans to reinstate the service at this time.

Cllr L Rea asked whether trackers on the bus back up that the service only takes 3 minutes longer than previously.

Mr Knight advised that driving down the A38 feels quicker than weaving through the streets so it may be how it is perceived. Sherford has 700 residents which is set to increase so this is a commercial decision.

Cllr Lannin asked whether it would be better to keep the late night buses and see whether Sherford customers use them. She commented that buses at peak times are very busy and there may not be room for customers from Sherford to get on. She went on to comment that by not going to Marsh Mills, this makes it harder for people to continue on to Derriford.

Mr Knight advised they could look into a Derriford route.

Cllr Lannin asked whether the £2 fare would be continuing.

Mr Knight advised that the £2 fare is a government initiative and has been extended to the end of June. They are currently looking at what to do in the future and whether the £2 fare has encouraged new customers.

The Mayor commented that she was aware of a resident who has learning disabilities and always used the 9.38 bus to get to work as she was able to use her bus pass. The new timetable means that she is no longer able to use the later bus as it gets in too late and she is unable to use her bus pass on the earlier journey. Her parents now have to pick her up on Sundays so this has seriously inconvenienced her.

The Mayor went on to ask what sort of numbers there are travelling east from Sherford.

Mr Knight advised that GWR had made a request to encourage people from Sherford to use Ivybridge train station.

The Mayor commented that we are being encouraged to use public transport but the facility isn't there so we have to use cars.

Mr Knight explained that with regard to the evening buses Devon County Council were consulted with but they didn't ask for a price to see whether they could fund this.

Cllr Budd asked what consultation was undertaken.

Mr Knight explained that the proposed changes have to be submitted to Transport Authorities, in this case Devon County Council.

Cllr Budd asked what consultation was done with customers.

Mr Knight advised that as it was a commercially driven decision, no consultation was taken with customers.

Cllr Budd commented that they are trying to get people to use the services so surely it would have been a good idea to consult with customers.

Mr Knight advised that Sherford is a new development so it is different to an established community.

Mr Roberts asked whether they communicate with Citybus.

Mr Knight advised that as they are both commercial enterprises they have to be very careful.

Cllr Croad advised that Devon County Council spend about £5million subsidising bus fares in the region. Someone at County Hall has decided not to fund this. He agreed to find out the details.

Mr Smith advised that there was a problem with the app not showing real time data for when services are cancelled.

Mr Knight advised that updates are put on twitter.

Cllr Munro pointed out that most members of the public do not use twitter.

Cllr L Rea suggested updates on screens in bus stops or in the app.

Mr Knight commented that he had noticed that real time screens are few and far between and this is something he was looking into.

The Mayor queried the difference in cost for sending a single decker versus a double decker.

Mr Knight advised that the difference is minimal.

The Mayor thanked Mr Knight and Mr Ford for their time.

Mr Knight advised that he would collate the information and respond to the Town Clerk.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad advised that the spring offer of Covid vaccinations for the over 75's and over 5's with weakened immune systems has been opened. There is a walk in session at the Leisure Centre on Friday.

Devon County Council are consulting on the future of the mobile library service. They are suggesting that this is closed as it is very expensive – the lorries are 15 years old and getting to the end of their serviceable life, expensive to run and replace. Since 2013 visits have fallen by 73%.

Cllr Lannin asked whether there is any news on the A38 roundabout.

Cllr Croad advised he would make further enquiries. None of the roundabouts in Ivybridge are very good. Devon County Council was drafting a Roundabout Policy but it had gone very quiet.

Cllr Dredge commented that Devon County Council have received £14million in grants for bus services

Cllr Croad was not aware of this and asked Cllr Dredge to forward him the information about this.

Mr Smith commented that parking on Fore Street is chaotic. People parking on pavements are causing damage and he has only seen 1 parking warden in the last month.

Cllr Croad advised that he is aware of this but it's not possible to have someone there 24/7. Local businesses need the customers.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

The committees continue to run and I was out on site visits and at the Development Management Committee since the last Town Council. Yet, there is little to report.

Waste Disposal and Recycling

The full recycling and waste collection service is expected to run across the District from October 2023.

Emergency Alert

As you will have heard from various sources, there is to be a nationwide test alert to all smart phones at 3pm on Sunday 23rd April. This will work on 4G and 5G networks only.

Non-emergency Police contact

We are advised the police are moving to a web-based form. The website is www.devon-cornwall.police.uk and the new web forms are available on the home page.

Though short, this is my 32nd report out of a possible 35. Thank you for your support in my work as a District Councillor. It has been a pleasure to work with the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, Councillors and staff. I wish you well.

POLICE

Sgt Canning had provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

As the Town Council are aware, we have seen a significant uplift in youth related ASB at weekends and over the holiday period. We are acutely aware of the impact this is having on local residents, businesses such as Poundland, Tesco, the Coop and The Watermark. PCSO Summers has today compiled a fresh Briefing Item for officers and made the location subject of a Primary Tasking. These Taskings are what officers default to in the event that they are not required for a 'live' incident. We have Tasked officers to conduct both mobile and foot patrols specifically targeting these areas. We will endeavour to identify those responsible and begin any relevant ASB escalation process. I am aware that staff at the Watermark will soon be using Body Worn Video which hopefully will greatly assist in any identification.

Ivybridge officers dealt with a total of 180 Calls for Service for the month of March - the total within the town council area was 87 via 101 / 999 including;

- *11 incidents on the A38*
- *7 RTCs*
- *6 reports of ASB, not including Butterpark / The Watermark.*
- *7 Concerns for Welfare for persons at High Risk of significant harm / suicide.*
- *3 Missing Persons.*
- *A number of Domestic Incidents within the home address.*
- *A report of a vehicle being driven dangerously.*
- *A Drunk male laying in the road.*
- *A Drink driver.*
- *And a male, gaffer-taped to a lamppost, shouting for help!*

GENERAL

Mr Roberts said that with elections coming up people are asking who the candidates are, limited information is available so how do people decide who to vote for?

The Town Clerk explained that it is down to individuals to promote themselves, the Town Council cannot do this.

The Mayor commented that if individuals are not affiliated to political parties they have to pay for this themselves.

Mr Smith commented that the issues with children causing trouble at The Watermark are ongoing.

The Town Clerk advised that staff have a bodycam to collect images. They are going to meet with the college to identify those responsible and PCSOs will do

home visits. The team now dial 999 if they are feeling intimidated. This does seem to be working.

Cllr Budd commented that Poundland are closing at 7pm now rather than 8pm which may help to disperse the children.

The public participation session closed at 7.57pm.