

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 26 June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Spencer (Mayor) Cllr T Lannin
Cllr V Abbott Cllr S Murphy
Cllr L Austen Cllr A Rea
Cllr J Cole Cllr L Rea
Cllr P Dredge Cllr D Smith
Cllr S Hladkij Cllr M Steele
Cllr A Khong Cllr S Weeks

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr Croad (Devon County Council)
Cllr Dommett (South Hams District Council)
Cllr Munoz (South Hams District Council)
Ms Eames (South Hams District Council)
Mr Shears (South Hams District Council)
5 members of the public
1 member of the press

The Mayor, Cllr Spencer, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.41pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

** Cllr Croad, Ms Eames, Mr Shears and 2 members of the public left at 7.41pm*

** 1 member of the public left at 8.33pm*

23/025 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Pringle and M Weeks.

23/026 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members were invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests. Cllr A Rea declared an interest in item 23/038 as he is a member of the Royal British Legion and took no part in the discussion on this item.

23/027 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 15th May 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Lannin confirmed and Cllr Hladkij seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

- 23/028 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr S Weeks seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 23/029 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Austen seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 23/030 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr L Rea proposed and Cllr Murphy seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 23/031 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received.
Cllr A Rea asked what consideration was given to officers attending meetings.
Cllr Austen advised that it was about certain people attending other meetings to get to know them.
Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Hladkij seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 23/032 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 10th May 2023 to 20th June 2023 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 23/033 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.
Cllr A Rea commented that it is strange that for the Policy and Resources Committee previous mayors are favoured rather than the Deputy Mayor. He asked whether the standing orders could be amended so the makeup of the Policy and Resources Committee is the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, previous Mayor and committee chairs.
Cllr Hladkij commented that the Deputy Mayor is usually the chair of a committee but this would cover in case they were not.
The Mayor proposed to confirm the committee membership and the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee. Cllr A Rea seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the committee membership and confirm the membership of the Policy and Resources Committee as Cllrs Spencer, L Rea, Dredge, Hladkij, Khong, Pringle and A Rea.

23/034 **WHEELED SPORTS AT FILHAM:** The plans (copy previously circulated) were considered.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council receive free pre planning advice from South Hams District Council. There is a little work to do to complete the form, but he is impressed with the detail of the plans.

Cllr Abbott asked whether there was a changing spaces toilet.

Cllr A Rea proposed that standing orders be suspended to allow Mr Harris to answer the question. Cllr Lannin seconded this and all were in favour.

Mr Harris advised that currently there is an accessible toilet on the plan but he is happy to look into whether this is feasible.

Cllr Smith commented that they need to ensure that the parking is sorted out.

The Town Clerk advised that preplanning advice will look at access and parking.

Cllr L Rea commented that the plans are great, she was very impressed and would fully support this. She then proposed the plans be submitted for preplanning advice. Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the submission of the plans to preplanning.

23/035 **RIVER ERME:** The proposed motion from Cllr Lannin: Ivybridge Town Council resolves to supports the aims of WATER (Wild About The Erme River) and will look to work with it, and local Parish Councils to improve water quality and the environment within the River Erme catchment (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Lannin advised that a number of parishes are working together to try to improve the water quality in the River Erme. They need to put together a new organisation with structure to engage across the catchment. Other parishes are talking about funding things like officer time, citizen science, promoting increased knowledge of drainage systems in parishes - South West Water give the go ahead to developments but the increased sewage discharges suggest the systems are not adequate. Holding South West Water to account and increasing engagement with the community would be aims. She wanted to ask the Council to support WATER by providing a room for the group to meet in.

Cllr L Rea commented that she supports this in principle but asked who the organisation is led by.

Cllr Lannin advised that they are still looking for members including someone to take a finance role.

Cllr Spencer advised that he attended a meeting and was very impressed.

The Town Clerk advised that there is a £2,000 pot of funding available for Climate and Ecological which is not allocated to a committee so using this would need to be approved by full council.

The Town Clerk suggested that the Committee Room at the Town Hall would be a cheaper option than The Watermark.

Cllr Smith proposed an amendment to the motion to offer space at the Town Hall for the group to meet on a monthly basis. Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant WATER free use of a room at the Town Hall on a monthly basis.

23/036

20 IS PLENTY: The proposed motion to support the campaign for a default 20mph speed limit in residential, employment and recreational areas in Ivybridge, and across Devon (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Lannin commented that this was discussed at an informal meeting to which all members were invited. It was discussed that most residents would support this in residential areas but it makes less sense on main thoroughfares – but this would mean a greater cost for signage and also confusion for drivers with the speed limit changing frequently. Other areas and parishes are also looking at this and putting pressure on Devon County Council.

Cllr Lannin proposed the motion, Cllr Austen seconded and the majority were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the campaign for a default 20mph speed limit in residential, employment and recreational areas of Ivybridge and across Devon.

23/037

ABBNEYFIELD CLOSURE: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that it has taken a long time to receive a response regarding this. Unfortunately, it looks like an untenable situation for them as the cost of required repairs and works to the building is approximately £900,000.

Cllr A Rea commented that in public participation a resident highlighted the loss of Butterpark. Could it be brought to attention that the town has already lost one facility?

Cllr Lannin commented that South Hams District Council have said that housing is a priority for them, could we alert them to see whether anything can be done?

Cllr Hladkij said not all the residents at Abbeyfield have caring needs and we already only have limited facilities such as these in the town. All were in favour of writing to Abbeyfield and South Hams District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to Abbeyfield and South Hams District Council to voice concerns over the proposed closure.

23/038 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that an ex Councillor who is Chapter 8 trained is happy to help implement the road closure.

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.

23/039 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated) were considered.

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting with Inspector Shardlow, Councillors, Community representatives neighbourhood policing and the college. They are trying to meet every two weeks and taking advice from the police as to how to design out crime around The Watermark. They are also looking at funding detached youth work. The next meeting is on Thursday.

Cllr A Rea queried how this will proceed – will other stakeholders be brought in?

Cllr S Weeks advised that she is arranging a meeting with Space.

The Mayor advised that he had attended an interesting Chamber meeting. Anti-social behaviour was discussed as it is a concern for the Chamber as well as the Town Council.

Cllr Steele commented that the town needs to look at whether they want to support a night time economy.

Cllr Steele agreed to forward the minutes of the Chamber meeting.

Cllr Dredge advised that he had attended a Councillor Advocate meeting with the police. He went on to advise that the email address the police have provided is for intelligence gathering rather than to report a crime that is happening at that moment.

Cllr A Rea queried what acquisitive crime is.

Cllr Dredge explained that it is stealing.

Cllr A Rea asked what heritage crime involves.

The Town Clerk advised that this is crimes around heritage sites such as standing stones.

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended the Mayors and Clerks meeting. Minutes for this meeting have not been circulated yet. It was an introduction to the next four years, looking at ways to work with towns, wanting ideas and open to borrowing money if there are financially viable projects.

Cllr Hladkij asked whether parking charges are likely to increase.

Cllr Abbott advised that parking charges haven't been reviewed in the last four years but are due to be reviewed over the next few months.

Cllr Abbott advised that dementia has dropped off the radar a bit in the past few years. He asked members to do the online course and become dementia friends.

The Town Clerk reminded members that it is the Pedal Power event on Saturday. He will be there all day and has reserved a stall in case members felt they would like to be present.

Cllr L Rea advised that this is a great opportunity to speak to residents. A number of councillors have already volunteered.

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

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed: Date: 7 August 2023

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 26th June 2023

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad advised that the Devon County Council Cabinet have approved the acquisition of land at Rutt Lane for the proposed school for SEN children. This will provide 120 places for children with the majority being from Devon but also an agreed placement for Plymouth children. Outline planning was granted in January 2023.

Cllr Hladkij asked whether there will be any provision to ensure that Ivybridge students are given priority.

Cllr Croad advised that he will make sure there is.

Cllr A Rea said that when representatives of the Trust spoke to members previously, they did verbally promise that the facilities would be available out of hours for community use. He asked whether this can be written into the contract to ensure that it does happen.

Cllr Croad advised that he would ensure that this is included.

Cllr L Rea asked whether the impact on traffic had been considered and whether there was any further thinking about access to the A38.

Cllr Croad advised that using the train as transport will be encouraged. There will be a travel plan.

Cllr Austen asked for Devon County Council to provide some clarity over who is responsible for cutting the grass in different areas.

Cllr Croad advised that the Town Council are only responsible for the visibility splays. He has agreed in the past to pay a bit more for the Town Council to cut other areas, happy to discuss this further.

Cllr Lannin commented that when the public contact Devon County Council regarding the verges they are being told that the Town Council are responsible for them which is not true.

Cllr Croad advised he would ensure that those dealing with queries have a copy of the agreement.

Cllr Cole asked whether there was any news about the A38 roundabout.

Cllr Croad advised that he is still pushing for Devon County Council to provide a policy. He has complained about the cost and the requirement for Chapter 8 training.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

At the first Full Council on 25th May, the Leader, Cllr Brazil, said:

“We intend to be an inclusive Council and not worry about people’s political allegiances; we’re interested in people who want to work for their communities. We will be stronger together and therefore we will be asking all councillors, from all parties to work with us to deliver what our communities want.

“Our top priority is going to be local housing. It’s a massive issue for many people in the South Hams and that has a knock-on effect to our businesses, schools and hospitals. Keyworkers and carers can’t afford to live here, so that’s a massive area that we need to do something about and try to deliver.

“The other area of course, is the environment and the biodiversity crisis. This will take time and we will need to review our Joint Local Plan, but we will be looking to produce zero carbon houses and we will be looking to enhance and increase biodiversity at every opportunity.

“Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Judy Pearce, who despite our political differences we had many of the same aims. She achieved a lot and many of the plans and processes she put in place, we will continue. So, thank you to her and thank you to all of the other councillors who worked hard for their communities.”

The new administration is in place with the following appointments

- *Cllr Julian Brazil (Leader of the Council and Executive Lead on Waste and Recycling, Strategic Planning, Finance and Communications*
- *Cllr Dan Thomas (Deputy Leader) with Planning, Corporate Performance Oversight, Organisational Development and Community Development*
- *Cllr John McKay with Climate Change and Biodiversity*
- *Cllr John Birch with Economic Development and Commercial Strategy and Governance*
- *Cllr Denise O’Callaghan with Housing and Environmental Health and Licensing*
- *Cllr Victor Abbott with Community Services and Operations and Leisure Centres*
- *Cllr Jacqi Hodgson with Waste and Community Composting (working with the Leader)*
- *Cllr Nicky Hopwood with Service Quality Including (working with the Deputy Leader)*

- *Cllr Guy Pannell is the Chairman of Council; Cllr Bernard Taylor the Vice Chair*
- *Cllr Mark Long is the Chair of Development Management; Cllr Bernard Taylor the Vice Chair*
- *Cllr Jonathan Hawkins is the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny; Cllr Ben Cooper the Vice Chair*
- *Cllr Lee Bonham is the Chair of Audit & Governance*
- *Cllr Simon Rake is the Chair of Licensing*

On strategic issues:

There is until the 30th June to participate in the regional Climate Adaptation Strategy. See <https://www.climateresilient-dcios.org.uk/>

*The Community Ownership Fund runs until the 12th July
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-cash-to-rescue-community-assets-through-expanded-government-fund>*

*Residents who have a traditional prepayment energy meter may be eligible for up to £400 off their energy bills. Residents who have yet to make a claim can take their vouchers and ID to a Post Office or PayPoint by 30 June 2023. More about the Energy Bills Support Scheme:
<https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/getting-discount-energy-bill>*

Residents can also get support with the cost of living via our Support Directory: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/support-directory>

*The Town Council has been part and parcel of arranging Pedal Power and we look forward to seeing you at the Velodrome on Saturday.
<https://www.southhams.gov.uk/article/10044/Ivybridge-Pedal-Power>. You might like to promote that there are also Guided bike rides; Adult confidence cycle taster sessions; Skateboarding sessions; Dr Bike stand; Practice riding in the sports hall; Alfresco spinning; Swimming; and Music.*

As for your District Councillors' everyday activities in Ivybridge, we are variously involved with a small project on SHDC bench locations leading towards a maintenance programme; trying to support Skate South Devon by local District Councillor liaison; an opening discussion about tree inspections; in discussion about access or views along the Erme; continuing a three-year campaign to have litter bins re-located; continuing a four year campaign to have the views north from New Bridge towards the Ivy Bridge opened up; trying to ensure the resource of The Performance Area (variously called The Eye or the amphitheatre) is safe, and to see if we can encourage musicians to perform on an ad hoc basis; extending the toilet closure times to 6pm (which had worked in part but not last Friday). As there has been much discussion about the verges, some time has been spent trying to explain the situation.

Due to some topics addressing both Ivybridge and the neighbouring countryside, we are liaising with nearby councillors over Active Travel and

a review of the Town Centres Economies. Occasionally, we are also involved directly reporting fly-tipping and then following up with the neighbouring councillor.

*Nadine Dommett and Pablo Munoz, District Councillors, Ivybridge West
Matthew Steele and Victor Abbott, District Councillors, Ivybridge East*

Cllr Austen commented that in the local papers Cllr Brazil had advised that his top 2 priorities are environment and housing. He asked what this means for Ivybridge in the future.

Cllr Abbott commented that affordable housing is likely to be in Kingsbridge as there is suitable land. No immediate effect in Ivybridge. There is an environmental discussion document which the Executive have produced. A number of activities are going on in Ivybridge including economic, active travel, possibly solar panels, electric transport and they are hoping to see some results in Ivybridge in about a year.

GENERAL

A member of the public asked what is happening at Butterpark. She commented that it was a wonderful care home offering respite after hospital. She noticed that it is now for sale and wanted to know whether there would be anything to replace this facility. She was concerned that it would be for young people.

The Town Clerk explained that Butterpark closed in 2014 and was purchased by the Town Council in 2019 as it had been deemed surplus to Devon County Council's needs. The development will provide supported units and affordable housing, no taller than 2 storeys, which will be allocated by need, not necessarily for young people. Traffic issues will be considered at planning. The closing date for bids is the end of July.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC PLAN

Ms Eames advised that they are working on the Community Economic Plan. They are hoping to start work on Ivybridge in September. The aim is to help towns to produce an economic strategy. They need to understand what the economy is and consult with the population and businesses. They are hoping to recruit residents to a steering group include businesses and young people. The aim is to launch a consultation in September.

Software which measures footfall in the town will help to understand areas of large footfall, where people are coming from.

Mr Shears advised that they will be looking at travel to work, what industries there are in the town etc and this will be plotted against comparable data. Then there will be a consultation exercise. They are keen to hear a wide range of views from residents and users of the town. They are not looking at allocating sites but creating a vision for the town. The plan is to create a document setting out objectives and a pipeline of projects so should funding become available the information about potential projects is already available.

He went on to ask if members could let the Town Clerk know whether they are interested on being part of the steering group.

The Mayor asked what the size of the steering group would be.

Mr Shears advised 8-10 individuals would be ideal.

The Mayor commented that he envisioned the steering group being made up of business people, people who want to spend money in the town and young people. He then said he would approach other groups for potential membership of the steering group.

SKATE SOUTH DEVON

Mr Harris said he hoped that all Councillors had seen the plans. They have been being developed for some time by an architect who specialises in skate parks. So far, they have developed the plans and consulted with the public. They would now like to move towards pre-planning. They feel that the information they already have is beyond what is required for pre-planning with very detailed plans, a site plan etc but still require an environmental assessment and to look at the ground before going for planning permission. This will be expensive so they would like pre-planning advice before going ahead.

Cllr L Rea commented that the plans look great and asked what their position is with regard to funding and what the timeline is.

Mr Harris explained that they have spoken to South Hams District Council regarding S106 funding but they need to be closer to putting in their planning application before they can apply for this. They are looking at applying for lottery funding as well. They are also looking at unlocking more funding with other projects in the pipeline such as offering free coaching at Ivybridge Community College and more projects once the facility is built, also they are doing crowd funding. The projected cost for the facility is £500,000. The timeframe is looking at years not one year.

The public participation session closed at 7.41pm.