

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 7 August 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr A Spencer (Mayor) Cllr A Khong  
Cllr V Abbott Cllr K Pringle  
Cllr J Cole Cllr A Rea  
Cllr P Dredge Cllr L Rea  
Cllr S Hladkij Cllr M Steele  
Cllr T Lannin Cllr S Weeks

**In Attendance:** Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)  
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)  
Cllr Dommett (South Hams District Council)  
1 member of the press  
2 members of the public

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

***An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.08pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.***

*\* Cllr Lannin, Cllr Dommett, 1 member of the press and 2 members of the public left at 7.58pm*

23/040 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Austen who was away, Cllr Smith who was unwell and Cllr Murphy who believed that it was a bank holiday.

23/041 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members were invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests. On the recommendation of the Town Clerk, Cllr Lannin advised that she may have an interest in item 23/050 and so she would leave the meeting while this item is discussed.

23/042 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr Khong seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

23/043 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 (copies previously circulated) were received.

Cllr A Rea advised that at the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June one objection was made on the grounds of local knowledge of access to the site. He feels that local knowledge of the area does help to inform SHDC. Cllr Weeks confirmed and Cllr Hladkij seconded and the minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed to be accepted.

Cllr A Rea advised that at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July under Highway Matters there was a complaint from a resident that Devon County Council were looking at removing a disabled parking bay by St John's Church. The Town Clerk spoke to DCC about this and arranged that the space would not be removed but a time limit would be put upon it so people could not park there all day.

Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Cole seconded and the minutes from 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 were agreed to be accepted.

23/044 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor proposed and Cllr Dredge seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

23/045 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>th</sup> July 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Abbott queried item WM23/010 where one of the CCTV cameras had been replaced and one resited. He asked whether this had been done on police advice. Cllr Dredge advised that it was. Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Pringle seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

23/046 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (previously circulated) were noted. The Mayor advised that the Police Cadets presentation evening was a great evening and they are a fantastic group of people.

23/047 **VACANCY:** The vacant positions on Committees and outside interests and the casual vacancy process were considered. The Mayor asked members whether they would like to fill the vacancies on Committees and outside interests at this meeting. He advised that all Committees are quorate so could wait until the Council vacancy has been filled. Cllr Khong proposed that vacancies on Committees and outside interests are filled once the Council vacancy has been filled. Cllr A Rea seconded and all were in agreement.

The Town Clerk advised that if the new councillor is to be co-opted there is an application form with 3 questions for the prospective members to complete. This would then be voted on at the next Council meeting and the new Councillor appointed at that meeting.

Cllr A Rea commented that work had gone into the co-option policy previously and proposed that this process is followed if an election is not called.

All were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to look to fill the vacancies on Committees and outside interests once the Council vacancy has been filled and to follow the existing co-option process if an election is not called.

23/048

**INSURANCE:** The renewal documents (copy previously circulated) were considered.

The Town Clerk advised that a summary document had been circulated and it is just replacing like for like with a small change regarding salary levels. Events such as remembrance Sunday are covered by this insurance but Christmas would require its own insurance. Money has been set aside in the budget to cover this.

Cllr L Rea asked what the percentage increase is.

The Town Clerk advised that it is 5% but there will also be money coming back from Erme Court and the library.

Cllr Abbott asked whether they are a reputable insurance company.

The Town Clerk advised that they are one of the big firms of brokers and widely used by local councils.

The Mayor proposed renewal of the policy. Cllr Hladkij seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the Council insurance policy.

23/039

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

Cllr Dredge advised that he had attended the Travelwatch SouthWest meeting where there was universal condemnation of the proposal to close ticket offices. Queues at ticket machines and issues using phones were mentioned. It is likely that Plymouth would retain their staff but Totnes would not.

Cllr Lannin commented that a lot of people from Ivybridge buy their tickets on the train but the ticket inspector does not always walk through. If travellers know that there is a ticket office with staff then they know where they can go to receive assistance for example those with additional needs who require extra help and support to use the train.

Cllr Dredge had also attended a road safety seminar where they were advised that a blanket 20mph speed limit for the town probably would not happen. He advised that it would be more likely put in place on a busy road through a small village. They need Travelwatch groups advising the police if the speed limit is being broken for them to do something about it.

Cllr Lannin said that the Town Council needs to work with other councils to press Devon County Council on this.

Cllr A Rea commented that it would be a lot more expensive to only have certain roads as 20mph due to all the signage required. Cllr Cole asked whether we know what the people of Ivybridge want as she didn't feel a blanket 20mph limit would receive much support. Cllr A Rea reminded Cllr Cole that the Council had already voted on and agreed that their position on this was to support a 20mph limit.

The Mayor advised that he and the Assistant Town Clerk had attended a meeting regarding Abbeyfield and was pleasantly surprised to hear that closure was the last option. The Town Clerk advised that the options were commercially sensitive so they were unable to provide much information. An officer from SHDC was in attendance, they are very keen to offer their support in finding a solution.

The Mayor commented that recent events such as Pedal Power and the Fun Day had provided a good opportunity for councillors to engage with residents. A lot of issues were discussed including Aldi and 20's plenty.

Cllr L Rea agreed that these were a valuable opportunity to hear the views of residents and thanked the councillors who were able to attend. She thought it would be a good idea to have more of a presence perhaps at the Saturday market.

The Town Clerk advised that Christmas was not really an option as we require anyone available to act as marshals.

The Town Clerk asked councillors to look into the prices for promotional material such as a branded gazebo, and Cllrs Abbott and Weeks volunteered.

The Mayor advised that they had met with Graham Wilson to discuss the cycling and walking plan for the town.

The Town Clerk commented that he was impressed by how much further forward Ivybridge is compared to other places in the South Hams and West Devon.

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**

23/050

**BUTTERPARK:** The Town Clerk provided an update on Butterpark. He advised that 3 bids had been received which are being checked by the solicitor. He provided members with a blind analysis of the 3 bids which they then discussed.

Cllr Hladkij proposed council vote in favour of the Town Clerk's recommendation. Cllr L Rea seconded and all voted in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information and to proceed with the bid as recommended by the Town Clerk.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed: ..... Date: 18 September 2023

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August 2023

#### **POLICE**

The police were unable to attend the meeting but had provided the following report prior to the meeting:

*I have reviewed all incident logs for the month of July. There were a total of 117 calls for service via 101 / 999.*

*Amongst which;*

*8x Public safety issues.*

*3x Youths smoking cannabis.*

*19x Highway Disruption such as broken down vehicles / trees down etc.*

*1x Road traffic collision.*

*1x Hate crime*

*2x Drink drivers*

*3x Missing person reports.*

*5x Reports of ASB.*

*10x Domestic incidents*

*6x Reports of violence used.*

*6x Alarms.*

*3x Burglary, one of which was Butterpark.*

*In general, Youth ASB is significantly better. Of course, a very wet July has played its part in this.*

Cllr Steele queried whether there is any difference in this from 2022.

The Town Clerk advised that he will request this next time.

Cllr Dredge advised that the Ivybridge area is not just the town of Ivybridge but covers a much larger area.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

##### **COUNCILLOR ABBOTT**

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

*SHDC's Leadership Team won an award for best Senior Leadership Team in local government. The judging panel referred to the strong focus on working for and on behalf of our residents, and the strong emphasis to make the council the best place we can to work in.*

*The outline plan for development of the new Corporate Strategy was endorsed. The Council started conversations with the Towns and Parishes*

*with the initial focus for discussions being on developing our priorities for the next four-year term.*

*Following the 'My Place, My Views' survey, the results analysis, together with the information collected in Neighbourhood Plans, and the mandates of our elected councillors, will now directly inform our future approach to our Joint Local Plan (JLP).*

*Growing out of Ivybridge Town Council's support of 'Dementia Friendly Ivybridge', the link at the District Council has been reinstated. They have advertised the 5-minute awareness video (<https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/register-digital-friend>) and discussion about the District Council's actions will be picked up in the first full week of September.*

*Regular meetings have included Audit & Governance; the Annual Salcombe Harbour Inspection; Overview & Scrutiny; site visits and the formal Development Management Committee; a briefing on the Freeport.*

*New work on the Arboretum at Follaton House includes planting and a resurfaced pathway. We encourage you to take a walk there after the end of the month.*

*Work includes:*

- *Planting of 40 large standard trees to vary and complement existing trees in the Arboretum*
- *Planting several hundred whips (young trees) which will create new wildlife copses*
- *Extensive pruning to open up the entrance to the Arboretum*
- *Pruning of specimen (feature) trees to re-establish views and improve tree health*
- *Meadow enhancements e.g. introducing some scything and raking of the lower slopes (over 200 southern marsh orchids were recorded here in 2022).*

#### *Local actions*

*On our own trees, we are hopeful the view from New Bridge upriver to the Ivy Bridge will be opened up over the winter season. A redundant bin at the north end of Harford Road Car Park has been removed and its replacement established as a new bin in Bridge Park. The request for a bin at Waterside has been placed with the LiveWest Housing Association. We are making efforts to liaise with residents in the new housing estates over their Management Companies. We have been in initial discussions over the range of management approaches to public toilets.*

#### *Addressing the Manifesto/ the new Corporate Strategy*

*Tenants across South Hams are now able to report housing disrepair issues through our new and simplified service. The new, online form*

*makes the process quicker and easier to report a housing repair issue. Tenants can upload photos and will then be provided with a clear point of contact for advice and support. Tenants can expect a response to their enquiry within two weeks, with emergency situations dealt with more quickly.*

*This new online service supports our work in ensuring that housing issues are continuously monitored and resolved in a timely manner. Where appropriate, we will continue to inspect properties and contact landlords directly, working closely with Registered Providers to report and track the progress of any issues on the tenant's behalf.*

#### *Prioritising climate and biodiversity action*

*We have pledged £40,000 to support the work of Sustainable South Hams and the formation of a new council advisory panel for climate matters.*

*Our Executive has agreed to give the substantial grant to Sustainable South Hams to continue their district-wide work in fighting climate change. The organisation supports grassroots climate projects across the South Hams, sharing knowledge and inspiration between its member groups.*

*Our new Climate Change and Biodiversity Advisory Group will use specialist and expert knowledge to support ours and wider community's climate ambitions. Its core aim will be helping develop district-wide projects that have an influence on lowering carbon emissions.*

*Pedal Power was a great success with an estimated footfall of 4-500 people.*

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

Cllr Abbott advised that the Arboretum at Follaton House is beautiful and encouraged members to go there once the path is completed.

Cllr Steele advised that the Ivybridge Community Economic Plan meetings are starting to go ahead. The plan is to collect project ideas and prepare so they are ready should funding become available. The steering group is to guide the consultation. They are hoping to be joined by representative from the school in September.

Cllr Weeks asked whether the unused bin at the end of the snail garden in Harford Road car park could be removed and resited.

Cllr Abbot was under the impression that it had been moved, he advised that he would investigate.

The Mayor queried whether private landlords would receive any penalties for failing to provide housing of an acceptable standard.

Cllr Abbott read out the following statement from SHDC:



Yes, we were looking at issues of damp and mould as well as other problems of disrepair following the death of the little boy in Rochdale as a direct result of mould in his family home.

The council's Environmental Health officers have powers of inspection and ultimately the council can impose civil penalties and/or prosecution.

Data from the last three years shows there were no SHDC prosecutions, but the power does exist. Civil penalties were imposed once in 2020 and once in 2022. Most complaints are resolved before getting to this stage.

## **GENERAL**

There were no questions from members of the public.

The public participation session closed at 7.08pm.