IVYBRIDGE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Monday 25 May 2023

The Watermark, lvybridge

Present:

Cllr A Spencer (Town Mayor) Cllr V Abbott Cllr P Dredge Cllr A Khong Cllr S Hladkij Cllr T Lannin Cllr S Murphy Cllr A Rea Cllr M Steele

In attendance:

Cllr V Abbot (District Councillor) Cllr N Dommett (District Councillor) Cllr M Steele (District Councillor) Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk) Mrs L Lane (Minutes Secretary and Administration Officer) Mrs J Gilbert (Assistant Town Clerk) Mrs P Cleal (Senior Finance Officer) Mr Harding (Press) 34 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllrs Austen, L Rea, S Weeks

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Annual Town Meeting 2022/23. He introduced himself and advised that he has the privilege of being your newly elected town Mayor, so new he has been in role for just 10 days. He went on to explain his role as mayor, taking part in ceremonial work representing lvybridge and chairing full town council meetings – but the decision making is undertaken by the elected councillors. lvybridge is in a proud position this term, having fought a fully contested election just 3 weeks ago. He thanked all those who came out and voted.

He went on to introduce Jonathan Parsons, the Town Clerk, and explained that it is his responsibility to carry the decisions of the Town Council, ensure they are provided with accurate information, ensure they make legal decisions, provide leadership for the town hall staff, basically the lynch-pin or glue without which the Town Council will not function. He went on to introduce the Administration Officer who was taking the minutes.

He then advised that the role the residents play is firstly to hold the Town Council to account. All public meetings are advertised, so he asked that residents come along and listen in. Minutes are a true record of the meetings, but you learn much more about the characters and thoughts by hearing councillors speak. Secondly give the Town Council your ideas. We have a diverse bunch of councillors, with a great idea set – but we cannot know every problem, every idea, so we need residents help in making lvybridge an even better place to live.

23/1 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of 16 May 2022

The Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 16 May 2022 (previously circulated) were received. Cllr Lannin proposed and Cllr Khong seconded and the Minutes were agreed to be accepted.

23/2 Awards: Presentation of the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award and the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year Award. The Mayor advised that this a fun and rewarding part of the role, having the opportunity to recognise people and groups who do so much for our community of Ivybridge. Every volunteer is appreciated from the person who washes the cups up after an event, to a coach who you see on the pitch, but perhaps don't realise they burn the midnight oil preparing for the next session. Every role is important, without volunteers in our society I would hate to think what a stale place we would become.

He went on to introduce the David Britton Citizen of the year award and read out some information about the winner.

Like the recipient of this award, David Britton's efforts across the community were far reaching. He was admired for his ability to interact with everyone. In 2019 the Rotary club of Ivybridge purchased and installed two 24-hour accessible defibrillators which are located at Friends Garage and Country Maid in Ivybridge. Not only did Rotary wish to supply the units, but they also wanted to give training. They contacted this person, a First Aid trainer to request help with delivering a training programme. Without hesitation, he said he would do it free of charge. His ability to communicate with the public in these sessions was second to none, with his added bit of humour, made these sessions fun for what is a very serious subject. Between 2019 and June 2022 he was responsible for training 229 people in the community in the use of defibrillators and CPR, and responsible for training a further 99 students from ICC and 11 members of staff during 5 hour long sessions last December.

There was no financial cost to club or school. We may never know whether somebody he trained, saves a life, but we should all be reassured that so many have the confidence to use defibrillators in the community, it gives me great pleasure to present the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award to **Andy Edmonds.**

Mr Edmonds came forward and received his awards.

The Mayor then introduced the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year award. He gave some background about the award and read out some information about the winner. Nick Cummins formed Manstow Football Club in 1984, he was passionate about bringing football to Ivybridge, and continued his involvement still pitch marking until sadly passing in 2014. He then went on to talk about the winner of the award, a group whose ethos is to provide voluntary opportunities to adults with learning difficulties or disabilities in the local community. The volunteers learn new skills – bottling, capping, serving customers, pulling pints, and having positive social interactions. As a consequence, they have gained confidence and improved their self-esteem. These volunteers are making a positive contribution in the economy. It is heart warming to see this group be received so well by the local community and has developed into a warm welcoming and inclusive environment.

Nick, known to enjoy the odd Guinness, would be most at home with this group. It gives me great pleasure to present the Nick Cummins Community group of the Year award 2022 to **Ivybridge Brewing Company**.

Mr Rundle and his team came forward to collect their awards. Mr Rundle advised that the Town Council has supported Ivybridge Brewing right from the start, providing a room at the Town Hall and advice for several years before he moved to his premises in Glanvilles Mill. Peter, David and Nia who had come along to collect the award have all been there from the start along with 2 others. In total, Ivybridge Brewing support 11 individuals from the Ivybridge area and 2 from the Plymouth area. He said that Ivybridge has a great community where those with learning difficulties feel safe.

22/3 Town Council Reports: To receive a report from the Mayor and Town Clerk on the activities of Ivybridge Town Council. The Town Clerk showed the following slides which show the work which the Town Council has been involved in.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT 23/3

Core Activity:

· Managing 100+ acres of parks and open spaces (Longtimber Wood, Filham Park, Victoria Park, MacAndrews Field and Woodlands Cemetery. The Town Council is also responsible for some smaller areas at Orchid Avenue, Holman Way and Baron's Pyke)

 Responding to Planning and Infrastructure applications - we are statutory consultees and provide recommendations to South Hams District Council from porches to Supermarkets...

 Running The Watermark - an accessible library, venue for comedy, cinema & live music, performance space, business spaces and community space

· Various events throughout the year including funding the Christmas lights and Festival

 Supporting various charities and groups within the town through grant funding. youth activities

· Listening to resident's views and coordinating responses to district, county and government plans that affect the town • Run and maintain Woodlands Cemetery

would otherwise be alone at Christmas

· Work with organisations such as So Social, lvybridge in Bloom, South Hams CVS Citizens Advice to facilitate and fund work in the town

 Raise additional funds for the community through the Mayors Charity

· Support the Remembrance Sunday commemorations

· Provide allotments through the Allotment Association

 Coordinating Christmas Day for those who
 Encourage other authorities to maintain and improve their services, or take them on ourselves for the benefit of the community

TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

Capital Projects In Progress:

- Butterpark
- •£100k investment in play areas at Victoria and MacAndrew
- Wheeled Sports Facility at Filham Park
- Filham Park Improvements
- •Football Club House Project with ITFC
- Joint Fundraiser role with Totnes Town Council

The Town Clerk advised that Butterpark was purchased from Devon County Council with the aim to provide housing for those with learning difficulties. The plan has not worked out and the site is now being marketed. The site will still provide 8 homes for those with learning difficulties and affordable housing. The provider should seek planning permission by the autumn.

Hoping that the play area improvements will be delivered by early autumn. Filham Park is still a work in progress to improve the access. This has been funded by S106 money not from Council Tax.

The Football Club House project is looking at how the clubhouse can be improved.

We are still looking to recruit a fundraiser in partnership with Totnes Town Council.

Cllr Lannin commented that we are also working with other parishes in the Erme catchment to look at how water quality and biodiversity can be improved.

22/4 Other reports: To consider any matters submitted to the meeting in writing by electors of this parish.

District Cllr V Abbott

Cllr Abbott read out the following report:

The work of the District Council

For those who voted for us, thank you, and here are your District Councillors: Nadine Dommett, and Matt Steele. Unfortunately, Pablo Munoz is unable to attend the meeting.

We will be implementing the manifesto on which we were elected and should you wish, you can find it on the South Hams Liberal Democrats website. For those who didn't vote for us, you may know we believe in Proportional Representation, whereby all voters and votes should be noticed. Today, at the first Full District Council, all parties and the Independent were allocated committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and other roles. The Green Party Leader and the Conservative Party leader were included on the Executive.

The last year, 2022-2023

There were four District Councillors. We were across two parties. You'll know Cllr Austen through the most successful, local Facebook site I've come across! Cllr Austen continues his work on the Town Council - as does Cllr Pringle, who along with Cllr Jones have lived their lives in Ivybridge and continue to work here and help where they can. My thanks for their contribution.

Much of the District Council work is not striking; responding to emails; helping out individuals for whom the system is opaque; participating as a Member of the Development Management Committee, and hence in the planning aspects of the proposed Aldi. Not everyone was happy with that decision. The argument was decided on planning grounds and we never did get to present the arguments on rising building costs, or the rationale of a District Council building a supermarket. I hope Aldi, or similar, will return to Ivybridge but to a more suitable location. As a Member, I attended the seven or so Full Councils; as an observer of some of the Executive meetings, and of Overview & Scrutiny.

District Councillors have had, and I hope will continue to have, small amounts of money which can support new ventures. It's not our money; we just facilitate supporting the local economy. It's not much: £100 or so at a time. I was able to forward money to 10 activities.

The new year, 2023-2024

We're grateful to voters in Ivybridge and across the District. If your principal reason in voting for us was to send a message to Westminster, I hope they listen and we can have cleaner waters, better treatment of the disadvantaged and better financial management. I hope you'll be content with our manifesto commitments which include truly affordable housing. After 25 years, it will be a slow start and the most likely place to have an immediate impact will be in Kingsbridge. We will be responding to the Climate and Ecological Emergency and will commit financial resources to the issue. We will support our Planners and Enforcement who are overworked; we will work to change anomalies in the housing system where we're permitted to do so by central government.

A contentious issue will be the Freeport. When we come to a review of the Joint Local Plan, I'd like the inclusion of the Southern Relief Road.

If you have a new venture, can District Councillors' Localities Funds support you?

How the District Council and the Town Council work together

We cannot be on Planning at both District & Town as we may not come to a conclusion until we're heard the full arguments at District. There are seven committees of the Town Council, Cllr Steele is on The Watermark Committee, and I'm on Parks & Open Spaces, and Personnel. Of 21 outside interests, there are three of us in the Erme Catchment Group, and I am working with the Dementia Friendly Community which will re-launch at the Town Council on Monday 26th June.

How the Council work spills out into community activity

As you walk around the Town, you may see some benches in a poor state of repair. It's a very slow job to get them replaced, mainly involving funding. Yet, one of the things is knowing where the benches are. Would you go and sit on one! With your smart phone, use the App 'What3Words' and send one of us its position. Even better, send us a photo too. I'm building a spreadsheet and I'll have them entered onto the District Council digital mapping system.

Finally, we were all 4 at the Sustainable South Hams River Erme meeting on Monday, "Wild about the Erme". 100 people contributed their time and expertise to future actions to improve water quality from the sources to the sea, i.e. along all the tributaries too. You'd be welcome to get involved too!

Jack Newton – Police Cadets

Mr Newton advised that he is 16 years old and is a member of lvybridge Volunteer Police Cadets. It is a nationally run scheme but they manage themselves independently and manage their own funds. Cllr Abbott has kindly helped out with his locality fund.

The Volunteer Police Cadets have helped out with the Ivybridge Christmas Festival and at Remembrance Sunday where they had to assist with clearing crowds to make way for an ambulance.

They are involved in charity fundraising and have collected more than 300 items of clothing for the YMCA and are fundraising for Veterans with Dogs. They also help with Race for Life and are working with security at Disney HQ in London.

They are working with the local police in lvybridge on the anti-social behaviour problem.

They meet on Thursdays at 6.30pm and cater for those aged between 13 and 17. Those older than 17 are welcome to become leaders.

They host talks with solicitors, councillors etc so members can learn about life as well as policing.

The Volunteer Police Cadets have 4 aims:

To promote a practical understanding of policing amongst all young people. To encourage a spirit of adventure and good citizenship.

To support local policing priorities through volunteering and give young people a chance to be heard.

To inspire young people to participate positively in their communities.

Please let them know if they can help with anything as they aim to be involved in the community.

Cllr Dredge commented that recently when he was at Middlemoor he saw Police preparing for their Passing Out and there were only 3 females. He asked what ratio there is in the cadets.

Mr Newton advised that the cadets are very diverse with any gender, race, sexuality etc welcome.

Dave Simpson – Ring & Ride

Mr Simpson introduced himself as Chairman of Ivybridge and District Community Transport Association.

He advised that they provide for the elderly and disabled in Ivybridge and the surrounding areas. They collect people from their homes and take them to various supermarkets then return them home. The driver will help carry their shopping. They also organise trips out to other towns and up on Dartmoor. This enables those who would otherwise be housebound to get out, meet friends and have days out.

They also have a team of volunteers who use their own car to take people to appointments.

Ivybridge Town Council have supported Ring & Ride for the past 25 years. The District Councillors have also helped out with their localities funding. He advised that since the pandemic they have lost a lot of volunteers and asked if anyone has free time their help would be welcomed.

Julie Nash – Ivybridge Defibrillators

Ms Nash advised that she put a defibrillator on her garage wall last year. It is the first privately funded defibrillator in Ivybridge. She thanked community groups and the Town Council for assisting with funding for her defibrillator. She went on to ask for the Town Council's help in producing a map showing where all the defibrillators in the town are, and which are behind closed doors and not available 24/7.

She also asked for the District Councillor's help in ensuring that a defibrillator is a prerequisite when new estates are being built.

The Town Clerk commented that he was under the impression that the ambulance service is aware of the location of all defibrillators and will advise. He voiced concerns that a map could go out of date or a defibrillator could already have been taken to use elsewhere.

Dr Paul Fletcher - Rotary Club

Dr Fletcher advised that they have organised for 24h accessible defibrillators to be sited on Friends Garage and Countrymaid and are about to have another installed at Woodlands vets. They also saw a need for CPR training, and have had over 450 people attend their training courses. He thanked Mr Edmonds for providing this training free of charge. Their next course is on Tuesday 6th June in the library.

The Mayor asked how frequently refresher courses should be held. Dr Fletcher advised that for the public every 2-3 years is advised, professionals have to do the course every year. Nick Harris – Skate South Devon

Mr Harris thanked the Town Council for their support on the Filham project. He went on to thank the District Councillors, Devon County Council and local businesses.

He advised that they are looking to develop a pump track at Filham and are hoping to transition from a CIC to a charity. They will be looking for trustees and volunteers.

He then showed the following slides:



What we delivered on this year

- Consistent advocacy on BBC Radio Devon, BBC Spotlight and various local news outlets for better alternative youth provision and the best wheeled sports facilities in the South Hams
- Engaged with the public through three significant community consultations
- Developed plans for a nationally significant facility at Filham
- Fully trained three coaches with SBGB and two with additional qualifications in safeguarding and first aid
- Community Member of SBGB and now the Concrete Jungle Foundation



What we delivered on this year

- Art workshops in partnership with the Clay Factory and talented local artists
- Successful UK premiere of an important skateboarding documentary - 'Made In Venice' at the Watermark
- Organised successful community workshops where young people created art installations at the current skate park
- Working with local businesses to develop positive returns for the community
- Agreed increased contributions of 165K (100K initially) from SHDC for a new skatepark as part of the Aldi scheme



Plans for the coming year



Ann Boyes – Ivybridge Caring

Ms Boyes advised that she is the Operations Coordinator for Ivybridge Caring. They support the elderly in Ivybridge and the surrounding villages by matching them to a volunteer who befriends them and pops round for a chat each week. She then showed the following slides:

Ivybridge Caring



- We offer up to 2 hours a week free of charge befriending for elderly, lonely or vulnerable people.
- 🕺 In 14 years nearly 400 people have been supported by an Ivybridge Caring Volunteer.
- 🕅 The areas we cover are Ivybridge, Lee Mill, Cornwood, Sparkwell, Lutton and Bittaford.



Ivybridge Caring



- M Easy referral process for professionals, families and self-referrals.
- At present we can offer befriending at home, shopping and local trips to coffee shops and garden centres.
- 🕅 Volunteers wanted Can you donate 2 hours a week to support a member of our community



Ivybridge Caring

MA fortnightly session at The Watermark for those living with Dementia or Alzheimer's.



Memory Café

Ivybridge Caring singing, gardening, art, seated exercise, local speakers and music performers.

M£3 a session which includes refreshments





Cllr Abbott – Accessible Ivybridge

Cllr Abbott advised that Accessible Ivybridge is an umbrella term starting with Dementia Friendly Ivybridge. He passed round yellow slips with the web address for a 5 minute video. He asked everyone to watch the video and through this become a dementia friend.

He commented that it was heartening when he delivered stickers around the town and heard so many personal stories.

Liz Scott – Inner Compass Guide

Ms Scott advised she runs a social enterprise called Inner Compass Guide CIC. Over the past 3.5 years she has worked in Ivybridge and online to train people to be wellbeing listeners. This is not listening to give advice, gather data, fix people or change their minds, it is heartfelt listening to each other in the community. They run subsidised training courses and would love for people to come along.

<u>Cluna Donnelly – South Hams CVS Community Connector and IvyFridge</u> Ms Donnelly advised that she has been in post as the Community Connector for almost a year. The role involves looking at health and wellbeing in a holistic way, connecting individuals and groups and looking at where there is a need.

With regard to the IvyFridge, this is about tackling food waste.



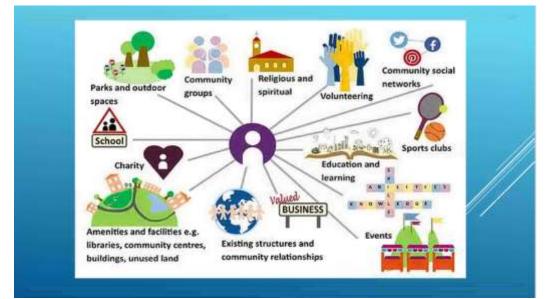
South Hams Community and Voluntary Services (CVS) helps local voluntary and community groups to flourish.

- We are a support and development charity, promoting and encouraging local voluntary and community activity.
- We do this by providing a range of services, often in partnership with other members of Devon Voluntary Action.
- The South Hams CVS team enables voluntary and community activity, supports groups in sharing knowledge and expertise, communities to find and deliver their own solutions - often in partnership - and individuals to access volunteering opportunities.

Our work includes:

- Bringing together Alliances for Health, Care, Education & Community organisations including the Erme & Yealm Caring Alliance.
- Other wellbeing collaborations.
- Social prescribing teams throughout the South Hams. In Ivybridge we work with local social prescribers.
- Home from hospital discharge support.
- Community development and the lvybridge community connector.





Working in partnership with South Hams District Council, local community groups and enterprises, we've offered support to Ukrainian families...





... around employment, accessing information, and access to agencies such as CAB with benefits advice.



Also, developing projects and partnering with community groups to support both hosts & guests.







Projects around wellbeing and friendship, creativity and health

Culture, history and belonging





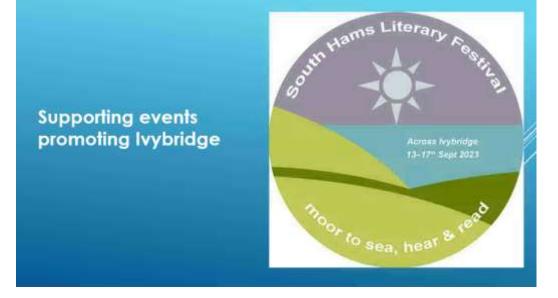


Celebrations including Independence Day and art share.



Community projects tackling real issues and needs - in collaboration with councillors and the community.









SOUTH

Δ

In development

Supporting the community to thrive, and addressing gaps and needs with:

- Compassionate cafes
- Supporting wellbeing
- Men's mental health groups
- Youth and cross generational work
- · Community transport.

What would you like from your Community Connector and South Hams CVS over the next year?

Steve Hitch – Ivybridge Tennis Centre

Mr Hitch advised that he is the President of the Tennis Centre. They are celebrating their 20th anniversary. During that time, they have supported a diverse range of people.

He wanted to invite everyone to their open day on Saturday where anyone can turn up and play free of charge, children up to 2pm, adults after 2pm and there will be a BBQ.

All sorts of activities take place at the Tennis Centre, not just Tennis. The latest one is girl's netball on a Sunday morning.

22/5 Written Questions: To consider any matters submitted to the meeting in writing by electors of this parish.

No questions were submitted to the meeting in writing.

- 22/6 Matters Arising: To consider any matters to be raised in person at the meeting by electors of this Parish.
 The Town Clerk advised that Abbeyfield is currently under consultation to potentially close. He has started making enquiries vis SHDC to see how best the Town Council can engage with this consultation. If the information is available, a response could be considered at the next meeting of the Town Council on 26th June.
- **22/7 Bus Users Forum:** To consider the feedback received to date regarding the public bus services and the setting up of an Ivybridge Bus Users Forum.

The Town Clerk showed the following slides:

Stagecoach position

"We discussed in detail the withdrawal of a small number of evening journeys on Service GOLD. Following the meeting, I have discussed this further with DCC, including a number of proposals for re-instating some journeys between Plymouth and Ivybridge during the evening.

These would require financial support and we will continue the discussions with DCC regarding this and I would hope to be able to provide any update in the coming weeks. I would stress that while we can not commit to providing additional evening journeys, we do have the resource available for this and therefore is financial support is forthcoming, then we will happily introduce these."

Stagecoach position

"In terms of the route change to Service GOLD to additionally serve Sherford, this is starting to see an increase in passenger demand, which is good news.

I have also had a look at our punctuality data since making the route change. It is fair to say that Service GOLD has suffered some significant delays in recent weeks, due to a number of sets of roadworks, primarily in the Totnes area. We have raised our concerns with the highways authority and have asked for an update."

Stagecoach position

"In terms of the additional journey time to operate via <u>Sherford</u>, this appears to be taking as little as an additional four minutes, however, it would be fair to say that the average additional time is six or seven minutes. While this is a couple of minutes longer than expected, the service remains the most direct and quickest service between lvybridge and Plymouth.

It is important to note that the additional passenger demand that the route change has generated, is helping to secure the long term commercial future for the service and we expect this to continue to grow.

We will be looking to make some minor timing changes in September 2023, which will be to improve the punctuality of the service, based on real time data from our tracking system." The Town Clerk advised that Stagecoach have made a business decision to cut the services. Devon County Council have the power to subsidise services but consider the need is low. Stagecoach will be having further discussions with Devon County Council. They will be revising the timetable further in September.

The Town Clerk asked whether anyone was interested in joining the Bus User's Forum. Cllr Lannin and Dredge indicated they would be.

A member of the public commented that they had to wait for 3 hours at Paignton for a bus back to Ivybridge and there was no information available as to when the bus would turn up.

The Town Clerk advised that reliability had come up during the meeting with Stagecoach.

Cllr Lannin commented that electronic boards with real time information would be helpful.

22/8 Plan for 2023 - 2024: What should the Town Council consider over the next year for inclusion in the Town Council Action Plan.

The Mayor asked for ideas.

Ms Nash – Defibrillators.

Cllr Abbott said that the grass verges are looking good.

Ms Nash suggested that the Town Council need to shout more loudly about the things they are doing.

The Mayor suggested engaging more with those who are not on social media. Mr Hosking advised that he is trying to include more stories from Ivybridge in the Ivybridge & South Brent Gazette and asked people to send stories to him. A member of the public commented that the area between Leonards Road car park and Erme Court is really dark. The Town Clerk advised that there is a light which needs to be repaired so hopefully that will help.

Cllr Hladkij commented that she would love to see a second bridge.

The Town Clerk said that anti-social behaviour and young people are hot topics.

Mr Harris commented that often the young people who want wheeled sports facilities are exactly those that youth work would want to target.

A member of the public asked about setting up a youth engagement group. Ms Donnelly suggested young people should be included in this group, giving them a space that they can own.

Cllr Hladkij commented that young people do not always want to be inside. Cllr Dommett suggested young people should be included in decisions.

Cllr Dommett went on to suggest a central location where people can find information about volunteering, it can be hard to find out what opportunities there are in the town.

Cllr Steele suggested that Chapel Place could be used better.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.