

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held remotely using Zoom, on Monday 7 December 2020 at 7.00pm

<b>Present:</b> Cllr A Laity (Town Mayor)	Cllr T Munro
Cllr T Bowden	Cllr A Rea
Cllr M Cade	Cllr L Rea
Cllr P Dredge	Cllr A Spencer
Cllr S Hladkij	Cllr E Silsbury
Cllr R Jago	Cllr A Spencer
Cllr A Khong	Cllr R Wilson

**In Attendance:** Mrs Lesley Hughes (Town Clerk)  
Mr J Parsons (Business Manager)  
Mrs J Gilbert (Minute Secretary)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

***An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.03pm to include a minute's silence for District Councillor David May, and to allow any questions, reports or representations by the Police, County and District Councillor.***

- 20/107     **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr K Pringle and Cllr T Parsons.
- 20/108     **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.
- 20/109     **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 20/110     **PLANNING COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> October and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Hladkij confirmed and Cllr Silsbury seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 20/111     **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Laity confirmed and Cllr Hladkij seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/112 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/113 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Laity confirmed and Cllr Silsbury seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/114 **WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Bowden confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/115 **EXTERNAL AUDITOR REPORT:** The Annual Return (copy previously circulated) was considered.

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

20/116 **INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN CONSULTATION:** The background information (previously circulated) was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would provide its own press release, and also promote the consultation onto the Council's Facebook page.

20/117 **PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS - ALCOHOL:** The Consultation on Public Space Protection Orders (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Public Space Protection Orders are being reviewed and the Town Clerk had attached the list of where these orders already exist. She advised that if people are drinking with permission it will not stop that happening, for example an event. The orders are for the purpose of inappropriate drinking without permissions. Pubs that wanted to serve drink outside their premises within those areas would still be considered as appropriate. Cllr Cade queried how well publicised the orders are. The Town Clerk responded that they used to be displayed on signage in parks, but these would be removed unofficially. The most important factor is the police being aware of these areas as they have the powers to enforce it. Cllr Lannin was unsure how well enforced the rules are currently as there is a lot of litter in the parks, and she suggested that the Council supports the measures but would like to see greater emphasis on them, especially in the parks. Cllr Jago queried what was deemed appropriate drinking, giving an example of casual drinking in the park whilst watching the cricket and whether this would be permitted. The Town Clerk confirmed that it would only be deemed inappropriate if there was also anti-social behaviour displayed alongside.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council would respond formally to the Public Space Protection Orders consultation, stating that they support the measures but would like to see greater enforcement of them, especially in the parks.

20/118

**SUPPORT FOR TOWN CENTRE RETAIL:** The actions taken by the Town Council to provide free car parking in SHDC car parks at weekends in the lead up to Christmas and the campaign being undertaken by South Hams District Council (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Cllr Silsbury advised that the Town Council has been working with the Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce to try and encourage people to shop locally and safely, and support the town centre businesses. To this end there is free parking in South Hams car parks on the weekends in the run up to Christmas, and there are market stalls on the Saturday and the Sunday leading up to Christmas, and many of the shops will be open on Sundays as well. Cllr Silsbury confirmed that the previous Saturday had been very busy and hoped this would continue up to Christmas and beyond as well.

Cllr Wilson stated that he was disappointed with the market on Sunday, there were only four market stalls and three shops open so the campaign may not achieve the trader support they were hoping for.

Cllr Hladkij wished to take the opportunity to thank Cllr Silsbury for all her hard work in getting the free parking, because there had been some opposition and Cllr Silsbury battled her way through and achieved this. Cllr Hladkij had observed that the car park was full which bears out all the hard work, and the market and all around was buzzing on the Saturday and had a really good feel about it. Cllr Lannin also wished to thank Cllr Silsbury for all the effort and for persevering, commenting that it was a great idea and seemed very successful on the Saturday.

It was **RESOLVED** to record the Town Council's thanks and appreciation to Cllr Silsbury for all her hard work and effort in obtaining the free parking in SHDC car parks at weekends in the lead up to Christmas and the shopping locally campaign.

20/119

**UPDATE AND INFORMATION:** Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr Laity confirmed that she had not yet received a response from Beacon Medical Group following issues raised at the last meeting, but suspected they could be busy organising the vaccinations.

The Town Clerk requested for any representatives who wished to attend the DCC annual budget meeting in addition to Cllr Dredge to please let her know.

Cllr Hladkij wished to highlight the new Citizens Advice video booth available on a Wednesday. At the moment no-one has taken advantage of it, but it is very early days and the readvertising and promotion of it is still taking place. It is open in the morning for referrals for Citizens Advice, but in the afternoon the Foodbank is operating the technical side, so if any of their clients feel it could be of help to them they are able to signpost them to take advantage of it. Cllr Hladkij suggested that this could be a very good initiative and would be of great use to the community.

Cllr Spencer raised Graham Wilson's email with respect to a Government document 'Connecting Rural Towns and Communities. He felt it was important to take a balanced approach rather than focussing on one particular aspect, and was unsure of the definition of a rural town and whether this defined Ivybridge or referred more to a remote Dartmoor hamlet. Cllr Lannin suggested councillors may wish to feed into this as individuals. She had noticed with the lead up to the Christmas and Covid a huge amount of delivery vans and lorries around the town. She suggested that in the future we need to think about how make those deliveries green as they become more and more part of everyday life. If people have an interest to feed into the consultation it would be really useful.

Cllr Bowden suggested that there should be provision of more electric car charging points, particularly outside The Watermark as there are only two in the town.

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

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

Signed ..... Date January 2021

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2020

#### POLICE

The police were unable to attend the meeting but provided the following statement.

We are generally working as normal and seeing an increase in mental health issues. As you will have seen we have been busy over the last 2 weeks with a high risk missing person that is believed to have been in the area. Sadly he has not been found yet but efforts are being continued to locate him. There will have been a lot of activity around the town and Longtimber woods with the helicopter and Dartmoor rescue group assisting with searches. We are also being called to a lot of covid breaches and having to deal with those as well.

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- **Free School Meals holiday voucher scheme**

**I announced this on Friday morning on BBC Radio Devon** - During the December school holidays, families of primary, secondary and sixth form college pupils who currently receive free school meals will be able to buy food with supermarket vouchers. DCC has obtained £2.042million to provide food over the Christmas period and also half term and up to and including the Easter holidays 2021.

An electronic voucher that can be emailed to parents/carers and spent in six major supermarkets is the quickest and easiest way to do this given the very short time frame available. Arrangements are also in place for families who cannot access the internet or cannot get to a supermarket. Full details, including eligibility, are available on the DCC website. Vouchers are being emailed to 10,000 families starting tomorrow, if we have your email you do not need to do anything. We are liaising with all schools, including Academies, to ensure that everyone gets this offer, those who do not have email will be sent a letter.

This is a very rapid response, so if you think you are eligible and haven't received a voucher get in touch by email or by contacting the DCC Customer Service Centre 0345 155 1019

- **Devon Carbon Plan (interim) Consultation** – starting last Friday running through to February 15<sup>th</sup>, **please see attachment to this email.**

- **Covid-19 latest (as of 5 December)**

Devon laboratory confirmed cases fall again – 574 (76.9 per 100,000 residents); Torbay – 68 (49.9); Plymouth – 157 (59.9); South Hams 37 (42.5). Devon's figures held up by Care Home cases in East Devon part of 158 cases (108) and Torridge 72 (105).

By age grouping in Devon: 0-19 = 56.3 per 100,000 (South Hams 64.9); 20-39 = 93.3 (South Hams 40.8); 40-59 = 84.9 (South Hams 63.1); 60-79 = 42.9 (South Hams 11.9); 80plus = 180 (South Hams 31.8). The only noticeable rise is in the 80plus population which is almost entirely down to Care Home spread in East Devon and Torridge.

- **Western Road** – scheduled to commence the move towards pavement widening January 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

### **COUNCILLOR ABBOTT**

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

I attended a briefing on the Preston model which promotes cooperation between local business and consumers (Google 'Preston Model' and see, for example, <https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/1339/What-is-Preston-Model->). There's to be another meeting this week - to question whether we can encourage an application and benefits to Ivybridge and the South Hams.

I attended a virtual meeting of the 4 Rivers Dementia Alliance. This tends to be a briefing on progress by active individuals. However, progress has been severely hampered by Covid and this was the first meeting for quite some time.

SHDC have moved over from Skype to Microsoft Teams. It's all very similar.

Whereas I don't say much here about my involvement in the eastern part of the Lucerne Fields, it being in Ugborough Parish, Footpath #16 terminates in steps down from New Green Street onto Godwell Lane in Ivybridge Parish. The steps here are muddy and losing their form. Ugborough Parish is pursuing the erection of a handrail, to which I can support with some Localities money.

I had a site visit with the Ugborough Parish Clerk and she identified a possible route on the flat but this will need to be investigated for ownership. It would make access by wheelchair possible and significantly ease the adventure of getting a child's buggy down the steps.

I've talked with SHDC's new Head of Placemaking and I hope she'll facilitate a meeting with businesses in the new year.

I've talked with SHDC's new Head of Assets about the relocation of the Skate Park to clarify the original intention, and the consequential access for young people, especially from the western top of the Town.

The public participation session closed at 7.03pm.

DRAFT