

COUNCIL - 11th January 2021

UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Councillor updates, conferences and events

Cllr Dredge chaired the Ivybridge and District Association of Local Councils (IDALC) meeting and AGM. He was reappointed as chair and treasurer, and Julie Gilbert acts as secretary. Minutes attached.

If any Councillors wish to update Council on activities they have undertaken on behalf of the Town Council then these please submit these in advance.

Forthcoming training/conferences/representation

Cllr Dredge will attend the Devon County Council LGPS Annual Employers Meeting on 19th January 2021.

General Information

Covid-19:

Beacon Medical Group have been contacted to see if they require space at The Watermark to deliver the vaccination programme and advised them that we would prioritise them as much possible.

At the time of writing the national lockdown has just begun. Thanks to our planning and strong Covid-19 secure procedures implemented during the last year, work should continue as normal through a combination of home working and planned solo office use when necessary. Outdoor work will continue with the necessary precautions also.

The Watermark will be closed to the public. Any legally exempt activity eg for essential health or education reasons will be facilitated and the library will be operating within the guidelines for their sector too.

Communications:

An article will be placed in the next edition of the Ivybridge Magazine celebrating the success of the Christmas Day hamper delivery and social visits coordinated by the Council staff, Jessica Shipp (Community Connector) and Shirley Weeks (So Social Ivybridge) in place of the normal joint lunch. We will also take the opportunity to update and celebrate other matters including work to promote shopping in the town centre before Christmas and the appointment of a new Town

Clerk. Any items for inclusion should be emailed to me by 13/01/2021. Space will be limited.

Sustainable Transport:

Graham Wilson has confirmed the final signage design for the Emergency Active Travel funded interventions. These have now been approved by DCC, SHDC and the Police and will be installed as soon as possible by us.

We have also been suggesting locations for increased cycle parking provision to DCC's Partnership Consultant WSP and investigating possible opportunities with Plymouth City Council and the Transforming Cities Fund: Workplace Travel Grant



Website:

The website should be switched over to the new provider this month. It will initially be a copy of the existing content, with a view to making the significant content and accessibility improvements over the coming months. Any Councillor wishing to suggest or contribute content, please do speak to the Clerk. The new system will allow those with a specific interest, eg local history, wildlife or walking, to log in and update specific sections of the website, which should add to the vibrancy and interest of the site.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

IVYBRIDGE & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held via Zoom at 2.30pm on Tuesday 17 November 2020

Present:

Cllr Phillip Dredge (Chairman and Treasurer)	Ivybridge
Mr Ian Bramble	Bigbury
Cllr Helen Deas Williams	Brixton
Cllr Liz Hitchins	Brixton
Cllr Linda Osman	Cornwood
Cllr Phil Anderson	Kingston
Ms Sally Smale	Modbury
Cllr Phillip Parry-Smith	Newton and Noss
Cllr Colin Tafurelli (Vice Chairman)	Shaugh Prior
Ms Dawn Johnson	Sparkwell
Cllr Dermod Drought	Wembury
Cllr George Beable	Ugborough
Cllr Glyn Richards	DALC

In Attendance:

Mrs Julie Gilbert	Secretary
Mr Jonathan Parsons	Ivybridge

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Wills, Brixton and Ms Teresa Drew, Ermington.

2. Approval of Minutes of last AGM

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Deas Williams and seconded by Cllr Anderson.

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the last AGM be approved.

3. Matters Arising

IT WAS AGREED that there were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report.

Although we are living in a surreal topsy-turvy world at the moment normality will return at some time, hopefully sooner rather than later with the promised vaccines, but will it be the normality we knew less than twelve months ago?

Certainly, remote meetings are here to stay; they avoid travel, they can be held at times which otherwise may be inconvenient to attendees and they can be used to impart knowledge and training in an economic and efficient way. But yet they lack something. They lack the intimacy of physical meetings and to extent the camaraderie, but in these economic harsh times cost effectiveness is everything.

One unfortunate side effect of the pandemic on councils at all levels is that the greater the investment a council has made in public services, the greater they rely on income from that service and the greater the financial loss they are experiencing at present.

Ivybridge Town Council is suffering from the loss of Watermark income, another town council in Devon is in extreme financial difficulties with the loss of income from a number of services it has provided the town and yet another is suffering no ill consequences because it has made no or very little investment in such services.

However times will improve particularly if the newly announced vaccines are successful and a crisis always brings the best out in people as shown by how communities and local councils have pulled together during the pandemic.

**5. Financial Report
Funding
Subscriptions**

The accounts for the year to 31st March this year have been presented in a summary form as a number of the annual subscriptions were received after the 31st of March and to list those received before would be pointless,

However, all subscriptions have now been received and the bank balance stands at £431.74 with the secretary's honorarium to be deducted from this figure.

Cllr Dredge advised that IDALC is still not in a position to seek a grant from DALC.

They were asked earlier this year to include DALC's bank details on membership fee invoices in order to facilitate electronic payment and this they will do.

Cllr Richards queried what level of reserves IDALC needed to go down to in order to be eligible for the DALC grant. Cllr Dredge responded that it was not easy to say as previously with a very healthy bank balance IDALC did not need it, and it would now be difficult to claim it currently as the main expenditure is the honorarium. He wished to defer the discussion on subscriptions until Item 9. Secretary's Honorarium was discussed.

6. Election of Chairman

Mrs Julie Gilbert took the Chair to invite nominations for the post of Chairman.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Dredge be re-elected as Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Tafurelli Seconded Cllr Anderson

7. Election of Vice Chairman

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Tafurelli be re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Proposed Cllr Richards Seconded Cllr Beable

8. Election of Treasurer

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Dredge be re-elected as Treasurer.

Proposed Cllr Tafurelli Seconded Cllr Deas Williams

9. Appointment of Secretary and approval of honorarium

Mrs Julie Gilbert, Ivybridge Town Council, confirmed she was happy to remain as secretary.

Proposed Cllr Tafurelli Seconded Cllr Dredge

Mrs Gilbert did however feel it was inappropriate to continue receiving the secretary's honorarium as the meetings are now conducted during her working day, whereas traditionally they were held in the evenings. Cllr Tafurelli opposed this proposal as he considered it acceptable for the honorarium to remain due to the admin work still required for the role in addition to attending the meetings. He suggested that once the honorarium is lost it will be difficult for it to be reintroduced, and should therefore remain and continue currently at the sum of £150.

Proposed Cllr Tafurelli Seconded Cllr Deas Williams

The subscriptions currently stand at £7 and they do not need to increase these, and could carry on with the downward trajectory, at some point going back to DALC. The bank balance currently stands at £431.74 with the secretary's honorarium to be deducted from that figure, so once that has gone they will be down to £281.

Cllr Tafurelli proposed that as the funds were running low that the subs be increased to £10, which he did not consider a great deal to increase but would act as a backup. Cllr Hitchins queried what the parish councils would be receiving for the additional £3. Cllr Dredge advised that as they are currently

unable to meet to pay for speakers or contribute towards refreshments therefore the only expenditure is the secretary's honorarium.

Cllr Parry-Smith stated that Newton and Noss are looking at their budget. Bearing in mind there may be a reduction in their precept, with more demands on resources and their Council Tax support grant being abolished, unless he could see something from the association which he felt was worth contributing to, he could not recommend paying the subscription in the first place. He felt that as well as the information from South Hams and DALC, this was another layer of bureaucracy which has to justify itself. If this association can support itself for another year then after that is the time to look at increasing the subscription.

Cllr Dredge responded that IDALC is a forum for the parishes to exchange ideas and swap information.

IT WAS AGREED that the report be received, and that the subscriptions should remain at £7 for 2020/2021.

10. Date of Next AGM

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 2.49pm

Circulation – Parish Councils of Bigbury, Brixton, Cornwood, Ermington, Harford, Kingston, Modbury, Newton & Noss, Shaugh Prior, Sparkwell, Ugborough, Wembury, Yealmpton, and Town Council of Ivybridge

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING

Held via Zoom on Tuesday 17 November 2020 following the AGM

Present:

Cllr Phillip Dredge (Chairman and Treasurer)	Ivybridge
Mr Ian Bramble	Bigbury
Cllr Helen Deas Williams	Brixton
Cllr Liz Hitchins	Brixton
Cllr Linda Osman	Cornwood
Cllr Phil Anderson	Kingston
Ms Sally Smale	Modbury
Cllr Phillip Parry-Smith	Newton and Noss
Cllr Colin Tafurelli (Vice Chairman)	Shaugh Prior
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Cllr Dermod Drought	Wembury
Cllr George Beable	Ugborough
Cllr Glyn Richards	DALC

In Attendance:

Mrs Julie Gilbert	Secretary
Mr Jonathan Parsons	Ivybridge

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Wills, Brixton and Teresa Drew, Ermington.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Beable and seconded by Cllr Anderson.

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meeting not covered elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from Parishes

Ivybridge Town Council

First of all I am very sad to have to advise you that our Town Clerk Lesley Hughes will be retiring shortly. Lesley has led the Town Council for many years not only employing her formidable professional skills but also her flair and drive for initiating and seeing through projects such as the Watermark for

the benefit of the town. It is also worth noting that through the efforts of Lesley we were judged to be the National Association of Town Councils' Town Council of the Year just a few years ago.

However, I am pleased to advise you that following a vigorous recruitment process Jonathan Parsons our Business Manager who has worked wonders with the Watermark has now been appointed to succeed Lesley.

In common with other councils, the Covid-19 pandemic has not spared us. Although most of the Town Hall staff have been able to come into work adhering to social distance guidelines, it is a different story with the Watermark which has again been forced to close through government edict. The government dining-out scheme helped enormously in the summer and the coffee shop did good business in September and October but that is only one part of the overall business. The business floor is still in use and the building has been used by the Ivybridge College for pupil's sitting exams but there is little prospect of live entertainment or films being shown in the near future.

House building is carrying on apace on the outskirts of Ivybridge but very little of it is within the town's boundaries.

The Leisure centre is now open with its unique to this country sliding roof over the swimming pool. Plans are continuing for the introduction of an Aldi budget supermarket near the centre of the town but there are fears about car parking capacity and landscaping. It is not clear the effect that the new store will have on existing traders, whether they will prosper or lose business.

Discussion

Mr Jonathan Parsons introduced himself, advising that he had been running the Watermark since 2012 and is really looking forward to the challenge of his new role as Town Clerk. He also looked forward to hearing the discussion from other parishes and would be interested to hear how the parishes will be tackling the shared challenges ahead, and welcomed any ideas and invited other parishes to get in touch with Ivybridge.

Bigbury Parish Council

Mr Bramble advised that as a new incumbent he had very little to report as had recently taken over as the new clerk. The main issue has been the sheer volume of holiday and tourist traffic due to Covid. This has had a significant effect on local roads, creating congestion to the extent that they have involved their County Councillor to make County aware, specifically to keeping the roads well maintained and where possible planning to eliminate pinch points in a number of important routes. This is long term, the County have very little money, but the problem has been logged.

Brixton Parish Council

During that last 6 months Brixton Parish Council have welcomed two new councillors and are in the process of advertising for a third.

Over the last 6 months Brixton Parish Council have used the zoom platform to conduct their monthly parish council meetings, this has been working well and we continue to be joined by several parishioners each month.

During the COVID pandemic BPC have produced a Business Continuity Plan to ensure the smooth running of the parish council during the pandemic. Prescriptions and shopping were obtained on behalf of shielding parishioners during the first lockdown, with local leaders being identified in each road within the village who were looking out for signs of distress and being a point of contact in an emergency.

The new town of Sherford and Planning remain major items on our agendas., with representatives from the Parish Council attending regular zoom Sherford Liaison Meetings. The Parish Council is part of the consultation arrangement by South Hams District Council for reserved matters for planning applications for Sherford.

Brixton Parish Council have nominated a Sherford resident to be their director on Sherford Community Land Trust Ltd. This is important in formative years after which the Trust will be run by residents of the new town. Communication with residents of Sherford is very important to Brixton Parish Council and the Director of the Sherford Community Land Trust and Chair of the Residents Association are invited to each parish council meeting to update in the Open Forum.

Brixton Parish Council have also recently re-forged links with Carrollsland, and again a representative attends the monthly parish council meeting to update on matters.

The Brixton Parish Neighbourhood Plan was made (adopted) by SHDC in January 2020 and is the culmination of many years of hard work.

As part of Brixton Sport and Recreation Plan, 3 projects plans have been developed and are currently in progress. Improvements to Footpath 26, changing Monkey Lane in to a pedestrian/ cycle, bridle way access to Sherford Community Park and an outdoor gym at Elliot's Hill.

The Traffic Plan Management Group representing local people meets quarterly, via zoom, to address issues affecting the safety of pedestrians, road users and environmental matters relating to traffic and the roads. Community Speed Watch have recently obtained several new volunteers but this has unfortunately been suspended due to COVID-19. Brixton Parish Council are in discussions with DCC regarding 'Quiet Lane' status, the plan of the lanes

involved has been approved by Nick Colton, DCC Highways Officer and signs and costing are being investigated.

Brixton Parish Council have purchased land at the former site of the Old Mill at Cofflete from SHDC and are working hard to turn this into an amenity area for all parishioners.

Brixton Parish Council continue to produce a quarterly news bulletin as well as an annual newsletter to keep parishioners up to date. This is in addition to the Chair's annual report. During the first lockdown Brixton Parish Council produced a weekly newsletter for all parishioners.

The Parish is continuing in its goal to become part of the 'Plastic Free Coastline Community' and are in negotiations with local artists to work with Brixton St Mary School and Sherford Primary to produce art work promoting this. BPC are also working alongside fellow parishes in the newly formed 'The Yealm Climate and Environment Action Network - 'Steering Group'

The Parish Council is working towards the Gold application of the Local Council Award Scheme to NALC.

Discussion

Cllr Dredge queried if the police are involved regarding the Quiet Lane status, however Cllr Deas Williams confirmed that motorists are not currently breaking the law so there is no police engagement unless there is a 30 mph limit. Cllr Dredge stated that when Ivybridge had an issue with motorists using the wrong lane on the roundabout off the slip road, although they were not breaking the law, the police got involved with their conversations with County Council.

Cllr Drought commented that getting speed limits onto lanes would prove a very lengthy and expensive business because it has to go through the courts. Wembury Parish tried to get a speed limit through the village of Down Thomas, and the only advice that the police were able to give was that if an accident occurs at speed in the lane causing injury or damage then that driver will come in for a much higher penalty than normal because it will be considered dangerous driving.

Cornwood Parish Council

COVID 19

Like many local councils, we put a lot of effort in to setting up a scheme to support people who were self-isolating or shielding during the first lockdown, which is paying dividends now we are in second lockdown. Our scheme is based on the Good Neighbour Groups idea and we have ~80 volunteers across the parish who each look out for 10 – 15 households in their road or area. This means that most people know the volunteer supporting them and

is working out very well. The volunteers shop, collect prescriptions, dog walk etc as needed.

Our small shop stayed open during the first lockdown even though the owner had to isolate – a rota of volunteers was quickly drawn-up to make sure that the locals could buy just about everything they needed in the village rather than travelling further afield. One of the volunteers (now a councillor), Preston de Mendonca, who is also instrumental in the Good Neighbour scheme, will have a train named after him for all his work during the pandemic after being nominated and then selected as a BBC Radio / GWR Make A Difference superstar.

Our village hall is available to people who are working from home but need to get out of the house, it has 6 socially distanced tables with power and free WiFi.

The Parish Council provided lunch boxes during half-term for children who have free school meals at Cornwood School. This isn't something we would normally do but with families struggling financially due to the pandemic it felt like the right thing to do. We would have organised something similar for Christmas if the government hadn't changed its mind and agreed to provide support for these children. Instead of providing food over Christmas, we are teaming up with other parish organisations to provide a little gift for every child at the school in recognition of this horrible year.

Community Plan

We are still working hard on projects that came out our Community Plan.

- Lutton play park: we have selected a supplier, the layout has been agreed (with input from local children) and have raised ~75% of the money required through various grants. Given the difficulty in raising the rest through local fund raising in the current climate, we have applied to the Public Works Loan Board for a loan of ~£5k to make up the difference and will get started as soon as that comes through
- Footpaths & bridleways: we now have a team of people walking the rights of way and reporting problems. We have joined the Parish Paths Partnership to access funding for maintenance. Our biggest project is a permissive path that runs from Cornwood to the community orchard which is unusable at the moment due to very boggy ground, dangerous stiles and an unsafe bridge. We are working with Dartmoor National Park who is providing the materials for us to replace the bridge and also replace the stiles with self-closing gates. Volunteers will do the work and will also build an aggregate causeway across the boggy ground to make the path accessible once again.
- Speeding: this problem never goes away! After 3 years of waiting Cornwood finally got its 20mph roundels painted on the road, but

Lutton was missed out by accident. Our chair has started up a Speedwatch group which hopes to get going early in the New Year.

- Website: we have decided to develop a new website due to problems complying with accessibility regulations plus a very clunky updating process. This is being done with the support of a local expert to make sure that we have a useful, simple to use, simple to maintain website for the future.

Other Projects

- Affordable Housing. We are planning to build ~ 10 affordable homes for rent plus 3 or 4 open market homes. Land has been identified; planning discussions started and we have selected a partner to build and manage the scheme. Progress has been delayed due to the pandemic and the timeline is not clear at the moment.
- Cornwood Inn: the pub was bought by Cornwood Inn Action Group using emergency loans last September to save it from auction. Since then, CIAG has raised the money through selling community shares and grants to pay back the loans so the pub is now safe for the future. A pub manager and chef have been employed and it opened last month after a year of being closed. It had to close again after just 3 weeks due to the lockdown so is now providing takeaways.
- Emergency Plan: this is proving harder to crack than anticipated, mainly because the councillor who was heading up the project has had to resign for personal reasons. Another councillor has stepped up to lead and is now getting to grips with the process. One of the actions from the plan is to provide a night landing site for Devon Air Ambulance. This is going well: the site has been identified and agreed with the landowner; site survey has been carried out and we are awaiting final costs for installing the required lighting system.
- Volunteer Road Wardens: we now have 4 trained road wardens who have carried out a variety of tasks including clearing culverts and gullies, removing overhanging vegetation and clearing pavements and roadsides of weeds. The biggest problem is disposing of the waste generated which cannot be taken to the recycling centre and Highways has been unable to suggest an alternative. Van loads of vegetation have had to be burned by locals and spread across their gardens / fields. This is not the right way to deal with it so until a better solution has been found, clearing has been put on hold. This is extremely frustrating given we have trained volunteers who now cannot carry out the activities they have been trained for!

We have lost our much loved chair Terry Brown who died aged 82 just before Christmas 2019. Although he had been struggling with his health for a little while, Terry never missed a meeting and everyone was shocked and saddened when he passed away. Terry left a

fantastic legacy in terms of a thriving and active Parish Council focused on the needs of its community and he will not be forgotten.

Discussion

Cllr Osman also added that the pub in Luton had been closed for approximately 7 years and has been sold to a private buyer who has opened it back up as a pub again so the community are very happy.

Cllr Drought highlighted a pub in Down Thomas that is concerning his parish, and they would be interested in taking it over as a community project. Cllr Osman responded that the Cornwood Inn Action Group who purchased the pub are a very professional group of people who have done an amazing job of raising the funding and getting the pub back on its feet, and are happy to talk to anyone else who needs support. The team includes a commercial lawyer and the legal support was fantastic. She advised Wembury parish council to get the pub registered as an asset of community value in the first instance, as this gives a layer of protection so the pub cannot be sold without the parish council being alerted, and given the opportunity to act. The owner's agreement is not required to register it.

Kingston Parish Council

After coming out of the 1st lockdown fairly unscathed, we find ourselves once again in a lock down situation but unfortunately this time we have had one Covid parishioner among our midst, but thankfully no hospital treatment needed. We wish him a speedy recovery. Our emergency plans to cope with this situation have worked very well, there has been plenty of help from all around the village, picking and dropping off shopping along with the collection of prescriptions as and where needed.

Our summer was as busy and normal with our holiday homes and pub garden full. Alas we lost our landlord earlier in the year and we find ourselves with a Management Company running our pub for the moment, we have fears that this might soon end and our beloved pub closed. We are all doing what we can to prevent this happening. KPC have applied for our village pub, The Dolphin Inn, to be registered as an Asset to the Community. The current registration runs out in February 2021.

The Recreation ground is presently having a make-over with new stepping posts, and the zip wire replaced. This has been a welcomed venue for our children after we had to close it during the 1st lock down.

We have now submitted our Neighbourhood Plan which is at the stage of Regulation 16 and is presently with the independent Inspector. We await with bated breath to see how that goes. We owe a massive thanks to the whole team who have worked on this.

We still have an outstanding planning application from VPL with regards to their housing building program within the middle of our village. We are still waiting for the outcome, for which there is zero support.

We now have our refreshed Emergency Plan ready for our Parish Councillors to put to the test. This I'm sure will be done in not the too distance future, where we can test our response to all eventualities'.

We are in the process of asking villagers to be aware of their speed through the village with some signage around the area. This was brought to our attention after we had a few speeding cars through our village during the diversionary works at St Anne's Chapel. We have been made aware that as our village has no speed restrictions apart from common sense, to action a 20mph speed limit, would mean the introduction of streetlights and possibly speed humps. None of which would be welcome.

We sadly lost one of our parishioners a few weeks ago, Judy Wurr who was a past Parish Clerk and Councillor along with a very long list of committees she helped with. She will be sadly missed, as Judy left our village for the last time, the Bells rung out for her from St James the Less as she passed by. We know this would have put a smile on her face as she was part of the Bell Ringing team.

The Reading room has now been closed for over 9 months to nearly all parishioners, Plans are a-foot to rectify this and put the Christmas market back in there for our local producers to sell their wares and to rekindle the village life once more. With 2021 just round the corner, let us hope we can get back to a sense of normality and get to see and hug our friends once again.

Kingston highlighted the new bin collections causing some issues. The village is quite unique with respect to bin collections as they are at the end of two rounds, so one end of the village can be a row of houses with one house having a different day to the rest. Some people are happy as they can recycle and operate the black bin system every week.

Modbury Parish Council

Ms Sally Smale informed the meeting she had taken over as the new Parish Clerk.

Modbury set up a large emergency support group during the first lockdown and had massive support from volunteers. Since then there has not been a need for such a big project for the second lockdown.

Speeding and traffic congestion has been a huge issue, and there are particular traffic problems outside the primary school where there are no footpaths.

They are in the process of purchasing a VAS camera and had a lot of support from Cllrs Gilbert and Taylor, and the Council has been monitoring speed.

They are tendering for a new play park using S106 money from the Bloor Homes Development, and the MARS pavilion is being extended and work done on that.

They are just about to come out of a second consultation period on the Neighbourhood Plan as a result of a muddle, not caused by the parish, but this has created a lot of interesting debate.

Newton and Noss

Cllr Parry-Smith advised that within 24 hours of the first lockdown the parish council set up coordinators and volunteers, and this operated successfully. This has been reactivated and seems to be continuing to work well.

There has been an increase in visitors, walkers and river users and a massive increase in parking problems. They have carried out a village survey, and one of the results is a lot of support for parking enforcement. The double yellow lines are very often not visited, so largely ignored and they are attempting to address this.

The parish is suffering from people speeding in and out of the village so they are trying to obtain wig wags outside of the school and VAS on the approach.

They have managed to refurbish Noss Mayo play park which was done for the summer and has been heavily used.

A new landing light for the air ambulance has been introduced and put on the map.

They have an active environment group in the parish and attempting for Construction Management Plans to be taken more seriously by the builders, architects and planners. They recommend that a good CMP is lodged with South Hams for every application considered, and have been meeting with them to try and improve the enforcement of these so that when breaches are alleged they are dealt with immediately. Large planning applications have been submitted, and the parish are pushing for environmental improvements where properties are being redeveloped.

Wildflower seeds and bulbs are being planted.

Newton toilets have been saved and the next step is to try and improve the toilets, and for both sets to be kept open because of visitor numbers increasing.

A community land trust site has been earmarked within the parish for houses to rent, and that is quite a high level of development, so they are looking forward to that.

Shaugh Prior Parish Council

Shaugh Prior has been very active during the Covid-19. They formed a group of volunteers who were able to deliver shopping and prescriptions to the people in the three villages, and are proceeding to do that again.

Sadly they lost their past Chairman, Malcolm Norman, after a long illness. Also a couple of members have retired so the council is short by nearly a third of its members, and they are finding it difficult to recruit people.

The parish received notification from the police that there will no longer be a police officer covering Shaugh Prior, Wotter or Lee Moor, therefore the police will come out from Ivybridge. One of the main problems experienced is speed, and a speed information camera has been installed along Wotter bypass.

The parish lost their bus shelter after it crumbled. They have had to fund a new one which is in the process of being built.

There is a lot of speeding on the new road between Lee Moor and Plympton which was built by Wolf Minerals, the company which collapsed. It is a circular road therefore all the motorbikes congregate at the weekends and do speed runs. As it is a 60 mph limit the police are unable to do much about it, but there have been many complaints about this to the police but no action is being taken, and sadly this is the case until there are fatalities.

The installation of all play areas at Wotter and Lee Moor have been finished and are being used quite extensively.

Cllr Tafurelli ended by commenting how nice it was to see the Zoom IDALC meeting so well attended.

South Brent

Cllr Richards advised that a fellow member of his parish, Cllr Granados, is an elected member of the County Committee, and he understood she was endeavouring to get South Brent Parish to re-join IDALC. Cllr Richards asked Julie Gilbert if she could contact the clerk to ask if their membership could be reinstated.

Sparkwell

This year we have sadly lost two long standing Councillors; Cllr Small passed away in the summer and Cllr Taylor has just retired. We have however managed to recruit three new Councillors, which is excellent news, and means that we now have 8 councillors with 3 vacancies.

Pandemic

Our individual villages responded amazingly and almost immediately set up their own support network. The role of the PC was more of a body to collect and circulate information; signpost to services and help those who fell through the net. We set up an emergency grant scheme and a delegation scheme so the business of the Council could proceed.

After a short break in meetings, these resumed in July using Zoom.

Hemerdon Mine

The exploratory work continues and we have now set up monthly informal liaison meetings and continue to ensure that the mine operates within its existing permissions and safeguard the interests of the local residents should further permissions be applied for. We have established a good working relationship at this stage.

We have had issues regarding footpath destruction but the footpath has now been reinstated. We are dealing with a lot of complaints from residents/walkers about the destruction of wildlife in the area.

Broadband

One of our Councillors worked hard on a bid for community fibre which was successful. The works for this are now taking place and it is hoped that the ultra fast broadband is hoped to be live in Spring 2021.

Lengthsman

After the last IDALC meeting we engaged the services of the Lengthsman used by others. This has been very well received locally and has already proved invaluable to the local area.

Climate Change

In September 2020, the PC approved a climate change statement which supports Devon County Council's target to reduce Devon's carbon emissions to net-zero by 2050. We have been looking at projects under this which include tree planting and a wildlife initiative. We have received Locality Funding from DCC for the Wildlife Initiative and several Cllrs and residents are busy planting and circulating bulbs and seeds. We are also looking at a tree planting project.

Discussion

Cllr Dredge queried the situation regarding the zoo due to the pandemic. Dawn Johnson responded that one of the senior management is a councillor,

and that the situation had been pretty devastating for them, however they have done a lot to raise money during the last few months.

Ugborough Parish Council

Firstly, the highways and bye ways. The much-heralded improvements to the A3121 road that runs between Wrangaton and the A379 junction at Modbury Cross, have begun in the parish, although with a break because of the Covid 19 lockdown. The south east junction to Ugborough has had work done on it, and work has also been completed at Well Cross, adjacent to Ugborough Garage. Currently road widening is taking place on the Wrangaton junction to Kitterford Cross section. We were not happy with the original plans for Kitterford Cross and are now very pleased to learn that it is likely that some extra money has been found for the creation of a roundabout, which we always felt to be the safer option.

Ugborough PC set up an ipetition to get support for work to be carried out on the B3196. This road is between Kitterford Cross, Loddiswell and Kingsbridge and has several pinch points which cause major delays at times. The online petition unfortunately was launched shortly before the lockdown and has been followed by a similar one on the Devon CC web site. Our Chairman has subsequently made a presentation to members of the County Council with the petition. Due to the importance of the B3196 to the local communities in its vicinity, DCC have subsequently said that they will undertake a study during the next financial year to look at the feasibility of improving the route. This will provide an important insight into its current usage as well as indicating the extent of other constraints such as the land ownership and environmental impacts.

Speeding continues to be considered to be a problem in Ugborough village and also on the side roads at Wrangaton and although, as yet, we have not been able to get the speed limits reduced to twenty mph we have purchased and erected some “Twenty’s Plenty” signs. They look similar to the conventional Thirty mph signs except they are in green with a white background instead of red and white.

A flood prevention scheme is currently being put into place by the Devon CC around the southern and eastern edges of Ugborough village and the scheme will finally be completed at the north east edge of the village when work is carried there out by a private landowner.

Following the Ivybridge PL21 Transition initiative, consideration is currently being given regarding a safe cycle route through the village of Bittaford

With developers, Wain Homes, Taylor Wimpey and Bloor all looking to build on the western part of our parish, we continue to be frustrated about the lack of any significant improvements to the infrastructure and particularly another access to the A38 as well as safety improvements to the B3123 road to the east through Bittaford and Wrangaton. An increase in the number of heavy lorries travelling through Bittaford has been noticed by the residents since the

Bloor Homes development site work has recently started. No 106-funding earmarked for a pre-school in Ugborough is also an ongoing gripe. At a time of a Climate Crises, we were interested in a presentation to by the South Dartmoor Community Energy Group to build 30 passivhaus homes on the western end of the parish. Their proposals seem so much more acceptable than the standard estate "boxes".

A small amount of 106 monies from minor developments in the parish are in the process of being used to renovate a rather sad play park in Ugborough village.

Like so many other communities, the good people of Ugborough and Bittaford have really pulled together in amazing ways to ensure that the older and more vulnerable residents are well looked after during the current Covid 19 pandemic. WhatsApp groups have been setup in both villages, and also Facebook sites.

Finally, in May Cllr George Beable stood down as Chairman of Ugborough PC after nine years in office and Cllr Joan Fletcher has replaced him and in doing so has made history by being the very first lady to take the Chair.

Wembury

Wembury, like most other parishes, have done a lot of work with wild flowering the edges and trying to keep them clear. They abandoned having a lengthsman as the parish is too big for the time a lengthsman could provide. There was a general deterioration in the appearance and upkeep of the parish, so they now employ an odd job man who is extremely effective. He will tender for any problems and if they can afford to have it done they get him to undertake the works.

There is a section of road travelling into Wembury which is deeply pitted due to flooding and badly in need of repair and dangerous as motorists tend to swerve away from it and towards oncoming traffic. They obtained permission from the landowner, and as a result of the parish being willing to do work to the land side, clear the drain and get the water flowing away has resulted in Highways confirming they will repair the road free of charge. Cllr Drought highlighted that these are the benefits of employing their odd job man, as they consider him far more effective than the lengthsman used to be.

Sparkwell confirmed they were using the same lengthsman as Ugborough and he was very good.

5. DALC (Devon Association of Parish Councils) Update

Cllr Richards informed the meeting that the board was elected last month and the first meeting elected Liz Brookes-Hocking as Chairman of the Board, David Chalmers was elected vice Chairman of the Board and then the allocated appointments to areas of Member Services, Voice Representation Leadership and Partnership Working, Operational Management of

Administration, Financial Management and Human Resources. Prior to that board meeting there was an urgent situation requiring recruitment of a training officer, and they have now been appointed following an advertising and recruitment process.

Cllr Richards has been a parish councillor for 25 years and been with DALC through the AGM for over 20 years and the County Committee for over 10 years.

Cllr Hitchins advised that she is new to the board. As this is a new organisation there is a lot of work to do, but there are a variety of skills to offer. She is particularly interested in human resources, and also keen to improve the image of parish councils. She is also very keen to improve the standards for parish councils and provide support as often parish councils can feel isolated and struggling with recruitment and funding, and DALC can help to improve what they are trying to do in our communities.

6. Any other Business

Cllr Hitchins wished to raise two items:

Dementia Friendly Communities.

She hoped everyone had received through NALC earlier in the year a questionnaire asking how dementia friendly their parishes were, and the issues that were faced in becoming dementia friendly. As a result of that, NALC, along with Ian Sherriff, Academic Lead for Dementia Plymouth University, and Cllr Hitchins, as chair of Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm, produced the guidance that has just come to all councils via the NALC website about dementia friendly communities. She wanted to make sure everyone was aware that this document was on the NALC site.

Four Rivers Dementia Alliance

The Four Rivers Dementia Alliance organisation covers Ivybridge and the 19 surrounding parish councils around Ivybridge. Cllr Hitchins has been working for a few years to promote dementia friendly communities in our parishes. She has written to those councils asking for a representative to attend the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance meetings, and offered to send the Zoom link to anyone interested in attending one scheduled for later that week.

Cllr Hitchins advised they had been awarded a grant from Awards for All to employ somebody to visit all parish councils to talk about how they can become dementia friendly. Each parish is different, and needs to think about what they need to do to become dementia friendly. Unfortunately, since obtaining the grant there has been lockdown so all visits have been suspended, but as soon as they can get together they aim to support parishes to achieve this.

Covid-19 Information

Cllr Parry Smith enquired if other parishes were experiencing the extra work involved due to the pandemic. Their parish clerk had put a lot of extra hours in, and they are inundated with information that has to be passed on. He asked if there was any advice on cutting down the clerk's time at the moment because it's difficult to keep up with the normal administration, plus all the extra work created through Covid. Cllr Dredge stated that everyone was becoming fatigued with so many organisations saying the same things, and it was suggested that the information needs to be streamlined.

Cllr Hitchins advised that their clerk had a huge amount of work with Sherford coming on and had increased their clerk's hours. Wembury had a similar problem, their clerk has limited hours to cope with the workload and they are considering getting her an assistant to do some of the routine work.

Bickleigh and Cornwood

Cllr Tafurelli Shaugh Prior, Lee Moor and Wotter have now lost their identity and now come under the umbrella of Bickleigh and Cornwood so are very disappointed that they are now non-existent. They are still functioning but in the future Shaugh Prior Parish Council could be disbanded.

Yealm Community Energy

Brixton Parish Council has submitted a letter to their MP using a template provided by Yealm Community Energy. COP26 talks are taking place in 2021, and a private members bill is being heard in the Commons, postponed from November to January about companies discharging raw sewage into our rivers. Cllr Deas Williams advised she would forward the letter template should parishes wish to submit a reply.

Councillor Advocates

Cllr Dredge mentioned that councillor advocates are a link between people, councils and the commissioner for police and crime. They have been building up the numbers and there are now 300 for Devon and Cornwall. They are still looking for parishes to nominate someone as a councillor advocate. Any information Cllr Dredge receives is sent on to all the parish clerks who are part of IDALC.

IDALC Meeting Attendance

Cllr Richards has been involved in IDALC for a long time and commented how fantastic to see his screen so full of parishes. Cllr Dredge suggested Zoom is the future way forward for IDALC meetings.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in April 2021, date to be confirmed. Cllr Tafurelli advised he will not be available and gave his apologies in advance.

The meeting ended at 3.51 pm.