

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge
held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 1 November 2021 at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Munro
Cllr L Budd Cllr T Parsons
Cllr P Dredge Cllr A Rea
Cllr R Jago Cllr L Rea
Cllr A Khong Cllr A Spencer
Cllr T Lannin Cllr R Wilson

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr R Croad (Devon County Council)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.30pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the Police, County and District Councillors.

**Cllr Croad left at 8.12pm*

- 21/069 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Bowden, Laity, L and Pringle, and District Councillors Austen and Abbott.
- 21/070 **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.
- 21/071 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 20th September 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr T Rea confirmed and Cllr R Jago seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/072 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 31st August, 27th September and 11th October 2021 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Jago confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/073 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st September 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

21/074 **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

21/075 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2021 (Deferred item 21/059 from previous Council meeting) and 5 October 2021 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr L Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted

21/076 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 15th September to 25th October 2021 (previously circulated) were noted. The Mayor advised that Cllr Spencer had also attended the In Bloom awards ceremony in Western Super Mare with the Ivybridge Bloomers on 7 October 2021.

21/077 **BUTTERPARK:** The update and advice received from the Council's solicitor (copy previously circulated) was considered. The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken to the solicitor since the report was written. The legal team from SHDC is not insured to provide us with advice however our own solicitor has a new member of their team who is experienced in procurement. They have advised that we need to be careful how we frame it, stage 1 cannot bias stage 2. It would be acceptable to run a 'Consultation with the market' which can then support the formation of a full procurement process. There is still work to be done on the Consultation document. The solicitor is happy in principle with this approach. Cllr Jago proposed the recommendation was accepted. Cllr Wilson seconded and all were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to

- i. delegate authority to refine and commence Stage 1 of the procurement process to the Town Clerk, using the services of the solicitor as required; and
- ii. delegate authority to the Town Clerk to commence work on Stage 2 which will require heads of terms and a draft contract to be prepared, to be reviewed at the Council meeting on 24th January 2022.

21/078 **FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Jago commented that South Hams District Council are pushing a campaign for people to shop local, and asked whether we could ask them to provide free parking in light of this. Cllr Parsons agreed that SHDC should be offering free parking.

Cllr Lannin asked whether there could be some incentive for people to use other means to come into the town such as cycling, walking. Cllr T Rea agreed with Cllr Lannin and commented that he felt we should be doing what we can to encourage people to use other means of transport.

Cllr L Rea asked whether it would be possible to provide a shuttle bus.

The Mayor commented that she liked Cllr L Rea's proposal but time is short to organise this for this year.

Cllr Jago proposed that the Mayor write to SHDC requesting that they provide free parking at the weekends in the run up to Christmas, in line with their campaign to shop local, and if this was unsuccessful then the Town Council would pay for this.

Cllr Parsons seconded this. The majority were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Mayor would write a letter to SHDC requesting that they provide free parking in Ivybridge at the weekends in the run up to Christmas, and that the Council would pay if this were not successful.

21/079

PLANNING COMMITTEE: The SHDC Planning Memorandum of Understanding, the proposed Terms of Reference amendments and the proposed change to the meeting calendar (copies previously circulated) were considered.

With regard to the Planning Memorandum of Understanding, Cllr Dredge commented that it seems like a sensible document.

Cllr Parsons proposed that this document was accepted. Cllr Jago seconded and all were in favour.

With regard to the Terms of Reference, Cllr Dredge had an issue with item 5. He advised that normally the Town Clerk is the receiver of items that come to Council and allocates these to the appropriate committees to discuss. This item appears to say it is the other way round and he queried what happens if the Clerk and Chair are not in agreement.

Cllr Jago advised that this is not about what goes on the agenda but about the timing. Some planning applications come on the agenda very early before the community have had an opportunity to provide their responses. By altering the timing, it would allow the Committee to consider resident's views.

The Town Clerk asked whether the wording in the Terms of Reference would be clearer if it read 'The Town Clerk will set the agenda for the Committee after consulting with the Chair and Vice Chair'.

The Mayor proposed that the Terms of Reference be accepted, with the amended wording the Town Clerk had provided, and that the amended Calendar of Meetings also be accepted. Cllr Jago seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to

- i. Accept the Planning Memorandum of Understanding

- ii. Accept the amended Calendar of Meetings and the Terms of Reference with the amendment to item 5 reading 'The Town Clerk will set the agenda for the Committee after consulting with the Chair and Vice Chair'.

21/080 **UPDATE AND INFORMATION:** Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor thanked Cllr T Rea for his report from the Beacon Medical Group Patient Participation Group.

Cllr Parsons queried why it is still taking so long for the surgery to answer their phones. Cllr Jago explained that there has been a 20% increase in people calling them. Cllr Parsons commented that he can see why A&E is full, with GPs refusing to see people face to face. Cllr Jago advised that demand is massive compared to last year.

Cllr Hladkij asked how they are going to promote the Patient Participation Group in toddler groups etc to get a wider range of members. Cllr T Rea advised that there is still work to be done and felt they would welcome partnership working to get the word out.

Cllr Dredge advised that there are links available for all of the sessions from the DALC conference and AGM. Cllr Spencer agreed to circulate these to all Councillors.

Cllr Dredge advised that the GWR conference was a great success and worked well having attendees both online and in person. They were looking at the future of large railway stations and were discussing using them as community hubs

Cllr T Rea queried why Harford Moor Gate has been closed.

Cllr Munro explained that it has been shut since the first lockdown due to erosion.

The Mayor commented that the area was getting jammed with cars during lockdown and it would be better if people could park in the train station car park. The parking at Harford Moor Gate has been removed from google maps.

The Town Clerk advised that Dartmoor National Park have erected a sign at the train station car park directing people to the moor access at Stowford Farm and David's Lane.

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

21/081 **IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY AWARDS:** Consideration was given to the list of nominations for the Citizen and Group of the Year 2021 (copies previously circulated).

A vote was taken for the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award.

A vote was then taken for the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year Award.

It was **RESOLVED** to award the:

- (i) David Britton Citizen of the Year to Malcolm Smith and Rosa Hansen.
- (ii) Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year jointly to the Ivybridge Foodbank and to So Social.

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Signed: Date: 13 December 2021

DRAFT

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 1 November 2021

Apologies: Cllr Pringle, Cllr Abbott and Cllr Austen

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

Activities within Ivybridge

A number of residents are out litter picking (and not making a fuss & dance about it!). I've also been out and I can say that within 36 hours in the car parks adjacent to the Town Hall, there's been sufficient fresh litter to replace everything we've picked up.

In response to a resident, I have started a discussion with our Town Clerk, SHDC's Localities and PL:21 about lighting along the footpath downstream from the Leisure Centre. The consensus from PL:21 is low level, shielded, time-constrained lighting would not affect bats. It would be a positive element of the cycle way all the way to (if I understand Graham Wilson correctly) the Ermington Road.

Personal Declaration - I am one of many with an interest in the Ivybridge Heritage and Archives Group.

You will have received two publications produced by IHAG. You, as a Town Council, have supported the work of this group but the archive is stored in two of the principals' own house with so much material as to overflow to space under their bed. South Brent has a Heritage Centre; Saltash has a three storey house. Ivybridge Town Council must have a vested interest in making this work. The archive is a stepping stone as it will enable further research and encouragement to others to donate. With a centre, locals will be able to join in the work of cataloguing and providing information. All this has been stymied for 8 years (with original offers of a building for a museum dating from (variously) March 2013 and January 2014). There was a forerunner in the Ivybridge & District Amenity Society (1975-1990) and a museum - but Ivybridge Town Council sold this house in Costly Street (and all the memorabilia disappeared).

The work carried out by the Heritage Group is invaluable but there's a worry for the near future. What will ITC do to secure a temporary storage and working area?

Items from SHDC

The District Council has declared a Housing Crisis.

- At the 2020 monitoring point there were planning permissions in place for 7,643 new homes in the South Hams. Of these, 7,116 homes had not yet started to be built.

- The visitor economy provides £260m into the local South Hams economy each year and is one of the largest employment sectors. As an example, if second homes in Salcombe that currently avoid council tax, were to switch back to council tax, it would raise an additional £655,000 (average band E property). Across the district, the same change would generate an additional £3.5million in council tax income collected, of which the District Council would get its share (8%) which could be pumped back into tackling the housing problem. This would require a change to Section 66 (2B) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

There's to be a review at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 4th November.

As a result of the pandemic, and of all forms of Local Authority, District Councils have had the hardest financial challenges. The budget of the 27th October gave us a framework with more detail expected; an SHDC "Teams" meeting is planned for the 18th November.

I visited the recycling sorting unit at Chelsea Meadow, now run by the company, Biffa. It was interesting to see the process and, as I have reported on social media, the frustrating pre-sort carried out by some of our residents (who then see their recycling co-mingled in a single lorry, has benefits at the processing plant. The quality of South Hams' co-mingled recycling is clean, appropriate and contributes to a better product in the recycling process. Garden Waste collections are suspended until Spring 2022.

The South Hams, Plymouth and West Devon Joint Local Plan is working well. If you have ideas for change, the review will commence in 2 years. The JLP team identify the benefits of a five year land supply, meeting the housing targets, consistent approaches to planning across boundaries and sound decision making. They themselves are considering the housing crisis, planning reforms, design codes and areas for growth.

On Climate Change, there's a 386 page document from the government, the County's Climate Assembly Report, and the District's declaration of a Climate & Biodiversity Emergency made in 2019 with the new Councillors. Locally, each Councillor has £3,000 to spend and I am supporting an SDCE (South Devon Community Energy) educational initiative and a PL:21 study into an Ivybridge/ Bittaford off road cycle route.

I have asked you before about the co-location of waste bins with particular reference to areas short of bins. An Officer has done considerable work on a website, which I would have shown you tonight (my apologies for my absence). Suffice to say 713 bins across the South Hams have been manually re-plotted to correct locations. There is an opportunity to add information to their location and I am interested in:

- categorisation in a rational manner (including ownership/ contract type);
- numbered in a rational order;
- colours which match the legend;
- live, so they can be interrogated;

At the very least, the current responsibilities split between the Town and District will enable the Town to serve its residents better by - should you choose to do so - moving duplicate bins to areas where they're scarce. There is no money for new bins; there is no money to increase the frequency of collection or to cope with collection rounds being more complicated; it will need the Town to take on the improvements necessary highlighted by the improved information.

Finally, the District Council is offering new posters branded to give focus to the Town through the hashtag #MyIvybridge

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad provided the following report which was circulated at the meeting.

Free special school

FOR SALE

Mixed Use/Employment Development Opportunity

Ivybridge: Land off Rutt Lane, PL21 0PL



Mixed use development land with outline planning permission

- Freehold
- Circa 2.6 ha (6.42 acres), sold separately subject to demand.
- Outline planning for mixed use including A1 retail, B1 & B8 employment, C2 care residential and D1 health centre (LPA Ref. 57/2472/14/0) and forming part of a larger development comprising approximately 198 no. dwellings, which has been sold separately.
- Established residential area to the east of the town centre with good access (with new road / services infrastructure to be installed) and close to park & ride rail station.

TaylorCook

January 2021

Contact:

Somerset House
18 Canynge Road
Clifton
Bristol BS8 3JX
T. 0117 923 9234

Lyall Kennedy
Direct Dial:
0117 946 4513
Mobile:
07836 385943
Email:
lyall.kennedy@htc.uk.com

Andrew Batchelor
Direct Dial:
0117 946 4510
Mobile:
07836 744015
Email:
andrew.batchelor@htc.uk.com

Will Botsford
Direct Dial:
0117 946 4519
Mobile:
07774 017218
Email:
william.botsford@htc.uk.com

SUBJECT TO CONTRACT

www.htc.uk.com

Cllr Croad advised that DCC had been approached to see whether they would be able to provide a site for this facility as Plymouth City Council were unable to. This would be to provide a school for SEN students. The site on the plan is the right size and location. It would require a change of planning as currently it is listed as employment land.

Cllr Jago commented that a lot of residents are concerned about the capacity of schools across Ivybridge and queried why a special school was required.

Cllr Croad advised that the site offers good links to Exeter.

Cllr Wilson commented that there is already a special unit at Manor school. Cllr Croad explained that this is for primary age students, this one would be for secondary students. ICC have always struggled with SEN students. This would provide a facility for the whole district.

Cllr T Rea commented that 120 SEN students would mean students would be coming from a wider area than just Ivybridge. He queried whether this would add to the argument for an Eastern slip road for the town.

Cllr Budd asked Cllr Croad to define what sort of special needs the students would have. Cllr Croad advised it would be those with autism and similar issues. Cllr Budd raised her concerns over bringing a number of troubled children into the town from other areas.

Cllr Croad commented that it may not happen, this is currently a preliminary exercise. At present all the information he has is that it would be a free special school for those with SEN, the rough timeline would be to go for planning in the spring with a view to the school opening in 2024.

Cllr Lannin commented that she is aware of a number of parents locally who would value a small school that would cater for their children's needs.

Cllr Jago pointed out that this area of land is in Ugborough not Ivybridge and does not have the best access to shops etc. He voiced his concerns over there being no other services at this end of Ivybridge and potentially losing the land that had been earmarked for services.

Cllr Spencer asked how many children from Ivybridge get taxied out to other schools. Cllr Croad advised that he is aware of 2 who are taxied to Exeter. Cllr Spencer commented that it would be helpful to know the actual numbers.

Cllr Hladkij commented that it sounds like a good proposition but Cllr Budd raised some good points. Some young people are classed as having emotional needs but they are actually just difficult. She then went on to query whether a health centre could be located here. Cllr Croad advised that the health centre is a business and have advised that they have no money for this – if there was the slightest chance of a health centre being located here he would not allow plans for the school to progress.

Cllr L Rea voiced her concerns that it would not provide employment for local people and was not sure that this is the right thing for that piece of land.

GWR 'turnback' facility (Plymouth – Ivybridge)

Cllr Croad explained that the aim would be to use Plymouth – Ivybridge and back as an hourly service. A regular service such as this could mean that it could be used as a park and ride. GWR are investigating to see whether this could be done.

Contain Outbreak Management Fund

Cllr Croad advised that £20m was provided. Of this £12m has been used including for community testing. The remaining £8m will be used to support schools (£3m), further education (£1.8m), youth (£300k), care sector (£1.5m), housing rough sleepers (£240k).

Household Support Fund

Cllr Croad advised that DCC have secured just over £5m which needs to be spent by March. 50% must be used to support households with children. The District has also £880k of hardship funds for households, can provide things such as cookers, blankets etc. 9.84% of South Hams households rely on Universal Credit.

Cllr T Rea commented that this requires a structured way of bringing it to people's attention. Cllr Croad advised he is aware that Ivybridge residents take very little from the hardship fund.

Cllr Lannin commented that people do not like asking for money. Perhaps work could be done with the CAB to support these households. Cllr Croad advised that a chunk of money is going to the CAB for this process, they are aware of the money which the District has.

Covid – latest figures

Cllr Croad provided the following report:

Here are the latest figures to be published. The numbers show a flattening of confirmed cases in all four local authority areas over previous recent weeks – this could be because of half term – the previous rise was almost entirely down to increasing cases in educational settings with the highest numbers at secondary school years 7 to 10. Of the 8,493 number of cases in the Peninsula, 1238 were over 60, around 14% - that is rising and could be an early indication that vaccine protection is waning before the booster jab.

- Confirmed cases – in the week preceding 30th October: Devon 4,001 (403.5 cases per 100,000); Torbay 681 (499.9); Plymouth 1,319 (501.8); Cornwall 2,492 (425.3); England 246,400 (435.7); South Hams 374 (425.3).
- Deaths – there were 17 Covid-related deaths; 7 in Devon, 1 in Torbay; 2 in Plymouth and 7 in Cornwall.
- Devon hospitalisations – there are 122 (10 in ICU) patients in Devon's four main hospitals with Covid-related illnesses. That is just about 4% of total capacity.
- Cases across Devon by age group:

0-19	1,031.2	(South Hams 877)
20-39	350.8	(319.6)
40-59	531.1	(466.2)
60-79	249.6	(225.7)
80+	112.5	(10)

- Vaccinations – 12 to 15 year olds can now be vaccinated at vaccination centres which should speed up jab rate – target date for completion end November. The school age immunisation service is run by VirginCare who will manage any queries and can be contacted on 0300 247 0082 or vcl.immunisations@nhs.net.

Afghan Refugees

Cllr Croad advised that there are 156 Afghan refugees in the county. 74 are in a hotel in Exmouth, the rest are in Exeter. At present none in the South Hams.

The public participation session closed at 7.30pm.

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