

- 21/045 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. The Deputy Mayor confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/046 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Bowden confirmed and Cllr Dredge seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/047 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 22nd June 2021 to 2nd August 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.
The Deputy Mayor highlighted the In Bloom judging and commented that it was a pleasure to walk around the town with the judge and to see the vast amount of work the Bloomers have done.
Cllr Lannin, on behalf of the Ivybridge Bloomers, thanked the town council for providing refreshments for the In Bloom judging.
- 21/048 **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** The vacancies on the Planning and Infrastructure Committee and the Parks Committee (copy previously circulated) were considered, following the election of Cllr Budd.
Cllr Budd confirmed that she was happy to become a member of both the Planning and Infrastructure Committee and the Parks Committee. Cllr Parsons proposed this, Cllr Bowden seconded and all were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm:
i. The membership of the Planning and Infrastructure Committee as Cllrs Jago, Bowden, Munro, T Rea, Spencer and Budd
ii. The membership of the Parks Committee as Cllrs Spencer, Lannin, Wilson, T Rea, L Rea and Budd.
- 21/049 **EXTERNAL AUDIT 2020-2021:** The information regarding the external audit (copy previously circulated) was considered.
The Town Clerk commented that this was fantastic news, that after a very difficult year we have maintained high standards. The next stage is for the notice of completion to be publicised on the website and notice boards.
Cllr Parsons thanked the staff for their hard work and proposed that this was accepted. Cllr Bowden seconded and all were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to agree to the publication of the notice of completion.
- 21/050 **TOWN CENTRE FORUM:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Deputy Mayor said that communication is the key to everything, at present we are possibly not communicating well enough with the Town Centre businesses.

The Town Clerk advised that this is all businesses, not just the shops.

Cllr Jago asked whether this is all businesses in Ivybridge or just those in the Town Centre.

The Town Clerk advised that it would be for any businesses, the idea is to get as many together as possible and build from there.

Cllr Budd suggested obtaining a list of all businesses in PL21 from Companies House and doing a mail shot to them.

Cllr T Rea queried whether primary schools should be included as well as the Community College.

Cllr Munro requested that any list of businesses be circulated to Councillors.

Cllr Jago queried whether schools should be on the list as they aren't traders.

The Deputy Mayor commented that this is also about businesses communicating with groups such as the Ivybridge Bloomers as at the moment organisations are perhaps not communicating with each other as well as they could.

Cllr Jago queried what the requirements are to be a member of the Chamber of Trade and commented that some details need to be worked through.

The Town Clerk advised that the Ivybridge Bloomers and So Social should be included as they are bringing people into the town. Perhaps schools do not need to be included.

Cllr Dredge suggested starting with a core group of businesses and building from there.

The Town Clerk said that we need that quick direct route into the businesses.

Cllr L Rea queried how much officer time this would require.

The Town Clerk advised that the meetings would not be fully minuted, more a list of ideas generated. He suggested 4 meetings a year each lasting a couple of hours. The hope is that the businesses would take the lead once it's up and running but the Town Council would manage the mailing list.

Cllr Jago asked what the risks would be of holding businesses data.

The Town Clerk advised that it would be held on a mailing list service (MailChimp). The reason for holding the information is to communicate with the businesses and they can remove themselves should they wish to.

Cllr Dredge commented that it may well be that not every business would wish to attend every meeting, depending on the topics discussed.

The Town Clerk advised there would be quarterly updates to include things like the Tour of Britain and other events, Christmas and discussions about what the businesses want to achieve. The Town Council would offer them a free room to meet in.

Cllr Parsons proposed restarting the Town Centre forum. Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the report and to restart the Town Centre forum.

21/051

TOUR OF BRITAIN 2021: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately there were only 4 attendees at the last meeting. Relying on social media and print for publicity – there will be an article in the Imag. There has been some success with the weeds – SHDC have agreed to clear the weeds from the roads on the route and adjoining roads.

Cllr Jago queried whether the weeds had been removed from the Town Clerk's request.

The Town Clerk advised that it was as a result of his correspondence with SHDC.

Cllr L Rea queried whether SHDC had taken responsibility for the weeds.

The Town Clerk advised that they had but were only clearing them due to the Tour of Britain.

Cllr Lannin volunteered to steward on the day.

Cllr Budd commented that there isn't the hype for this in the town centre, and asked whether posters could be displayed and something for the children, perhaps posters online which could be printed out and coloured in.

The Town Clerk advised that the decorated bikes would be appearing 2 weeks before the event. Posters were also coming and another meeting would be held this week. The library may be interested in putting on some children's events.

Cllr L Rea commented that it sounded like there are a lot of great activities happening, and asked whether there are any prizes available and whether we are funding this.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Croad had provided £1,000 and this Council had also added £1,000. Prizes may take the form of gift vouchers. Any suggestions of actual prizes would also be good.

Cllr Budd commented that she knows some cycle shops and could approach them for prizes.

The Town Clerk advised that he has also been writing to SHDC regarding the bins on Fore Street.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information in the report, and to formally write to DCC and SHDC regarding the vegetation.

21/052

UPDATE AND INFORMATION: Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge advised that he had been doing some DALC e-learning which covers a wide variety of different activities. These are usually 45 minutes of e-learning followed by a test at the end. He has completed a very interesting course which provided updates on legislation.

The Town Clerk advised that there is a training budget in case any councillors would like to take part in any courses or training.

Cllr Khong had attended the Ivybridge Caring AGM and thanked the Town Clerk for making the room available.

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

21/053 **BUTTERPARK:** The report and information (copy previously circulated) was considered. A discussion took place regarding what the Council's vision for the site was and it was agreed that there was still the desire to provide this facility for the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information in the report and for the Town Clerk to:

- Have a wrap up meeting with LiveWest to find out what their issues with the contract are;
- Investigate the covenants on the site including liaising with other housing providers and speaking to the County Councillor;
- Arrange a meeting with Devon County Council by the end of September; and
- Review the tender documents and share these with Councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed: Date: 20 September 2021

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 9 August 2021

Apologies: Cllr Pringle, Cllr Abbott

POLICE REPORT

The police were unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

There have been just over 30 Recorded Crimes for the area in month of July.

There are some that occur within the home or relationships that I will not comment upon. There are also some matters such as unwanted texts / messages that get recorded as communication offences.

In real terms, crime is still very low. There has, of course, been a slight rise due to the late night economy reopening with no restrictions and also shoplifting features in July with 5 reports.

We did see the arrival of a group of 5 persons begging in and around the shops at Ivybridge, some displaying signs stating they were hungry and homeless. These persons were part of an organised criminal gang of beggars and have been visiting all the towns in South Devon. We were robust in our dealings with them and hope that they will not return.

Fraud and Scams - We have seen a significant rise in this type of criminality. Recently text messages purporting to be The Post Office or HMRC and asking you to click a link to claim a tax rebate or have a parcel delivered. Just delete!

Pet scams have also featured, especially on Facebook. Persons allegedly selling small furrries will ask for a deposit, then if they get it will progress to ask for a further payment, promising delivery to the home address. There is very little chance of ever tracing the offenders or recovering funds as the crimes are taking place outside of the UK.

Sgt R Canning

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbott had given his apologies and provided the following report which had been circulated prior to the meeting:

My apologies for my absence.

There was some disagreement at the District's Full Council in July on the application for and awarding of ARG Grants. I have asked to speak to a member

of the DC's Executive but the original date was postponed and I hope to meet up in September.

Our Town Clerk has written at least twice about the weeds in the Town. I'm sorry I have no answers.

Waste and Recycling

The number of reported missed collections had reduced, and the team had been able to focus on communicating with our residents about individual service failures and how we will resolve them moving forward. However, the shortage of LGV/HGV drivers and the effects of Covid are having further impacts. Some brown bin collections are being postponed from fortnightly to monthly. We had asked the company to avoid missing the same residents twice. They did not do this and so some will have six weeks between collections. I know of one lady who's earlier missed collection will result in a gap of eight weeks.

There is a South Hams-manned additional team emptying the bins until 8pm on Saturday and Sunday evening. Our Localities teams will be able to direct these extra resources to any issues they encounter.

The **Localities Team** are patrolling 'hot' spots and monitoring the street cleansing. The team monitor litter bins, recycling banks, toilets and streets to ensure that they are being emptied and cleaned to the required standard. There are two Officers working in each of the five geographic patches during the week and two teams covering the district at weekends.

Fund title: Community Ownership Fund

Focus of fund/fund aims: Capital grants up to £250,000 to help community groups take ownership of community assets and amenities that would otherwise be lost. The Round 1 application deadline is the 13th of this month.

Fund description: The Community Ownership Fund is a new government programme with £150m over 4 years to support community groups to take ownership of assets that are at risk of being lost to the community. It will support a range of community ownership projects such as sports facilities, arts and music venues, museums and galleries, parks, pubs, post offices and shops.

For this fund, community ownership refers to the ownership and management of local community assets or amenities by a community organisation in order to deliver benefits for the community and place. To be eligible for investment, the terms of community ownership must be either the ownership of the freehold or a long-term leasehold of at least 25 years minimum (with no break clauses).

Funding may support the purchase and/or renovation costs of community assets and amenities. The Community Ownership Fund will provide up to 50% of total capital costs, matching other funds and resources raised by the applicant. In most cases, the maximum grant will be £250,000 although larger grants will be available in exceptional circumstances for sports clubs and sports facilities. Revenue grants of up to £50,000 are also available to help with project development.

Communities applying to the fund should have a strong vision for the long-term future of the asset, its purpose and potential in community life, and a plan for how the asset can thrive under community ownership. Projects must therefore be able to deliver the following outcomes:

- Protect a community asset or amenity that is at risk and preserve its community value
- Develop a sustainable operating model to secure the long-term future of the community asset in community ownership
- Safeguard and improve the use of community assets and associated local services or amenities

There will be at least 8 bidding rounds over the course of the programme. Note that the priority for the first round is to invest in projects that are ready to access capital funding and complete their projects within 6 months. Further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/community-ownership-fund-prospectus>

These **consultations** are currently open.

Co Cars: Local residents, businesses and community organisations are being asked for their views on establishing a community-led electric car and bike club for the South Hams via a short online survey. Closing 24 August 2021. Survey at <https://bit.ly/ElectricSHams>

Better Lives For All: Developing a new long-term strategic plan for the District. Looking to take every opportunity to support businesses and local people, the strategy outlines six core focus areas that will underpin the Council's work over the next 20 years. These are:

- Adapting and mitigating climate change and increasing biodiversity
- Improving homes
- Protecting, conserving and enhancing our built and natural environment
- Stimulating a thriving economy
- Strengthening community wellbeing
- Delivering quality Council services

What do you think of the focus areas? Is anything missing? It closes Wednesday 1 September 2021. Complete our formal survey at www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/betterlivesforall

As part of the consultation there are other ways to help shape the plan and tell us what you think about the South Hams.

- Take our **short surveys for residents, businesses and visitors**
www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/better-lives-for-all-survey
- Show us the South Hams you see in our **photo competition**
www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/photographycompetition

Regards,

Victor Abbott, 07757 262 919

Cllr Parsons commented that it is very disappointing to see that there are still problems with people's bins not being emptied. He voiced his concerns about SHDC going into confidential session to discuss these issues. He also felt SHDC should be challenging FCC about the way they treat their staff, not paying decent wages and how the staff have to lift heavy boxes which could cause injury and that the Town Council need to keep pressuring SHDC regarding this.

Cllr T Rea was concerned that Councillors were not allowed to look at the waste contract. He was also worried by comments regarding there not being enough drivers. Cllr Austen had previously mentioned that staff were on zero hour contracts, and he wondered what had happened to the other staff from those vehicles that had no drivers.

Cllr Jago agreed with the principle of wishing to see the contract however realistically we have to accept that it is not always possible to have access to this kind of information.

GENERAL

There were no members of the public present.

The public participation session closed at 7.06pm.