

COUNCIL - 24th JANUARY 2022

UPDATE AND INFORMATION

Councillor updates, conferences and events

Police & Crime Commissioner Budget 2022-2023 Consultation Meeting – Cllr Dredge – 10th January 2022

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

Forthcoming training/conferences/representation

DALC Board meeting – Cllr Dredge – 19th January 2022

Leonards Road Car Park site meeting with SHDC Regeneration Project Team – Cllr Hladkij & Assistant Town Clerk – 20th January 2022

General Information

SHDC Regeneration Project

The SHDC project team have advised that they hope to hold a meeting with the Full Council in February to update them on the project progress and share updates to plans.

Active Travel

PL:21 and Sustrans have gained funding to deliver 3 Big Bike Revival events on Sunday mornings based at The Watermark. The Watermark are supporting this by trialling opening on Sunday mornings for breakfast for the three dates – 23 January, 27 February and 20 March 2022.

Youth Activity

A meeting held with VOYC and representatives from the police, The Bridge Project, education, creative and other voluntary groups was held on Zoom to see how stakeholders and providers can come together to improve services for young people in Ivybridge. Lots of ideas are being considered including more mental health support, more evening activity and detached youth work. Various funding opportunities and partnerships were discussed and will be developed over the coming weeks and months.

Filham Park

The Filham Park Access Road and Phase 1 of the Masterplan agreed by Parks and Open Spaces and funded by Section 106 contributions are progressing. The Access Road will hopefully commence this summer and Phase 1 of the Masterplan is planned to be completed by the end of July.

Butterpark

The closing date for the current stage of the process – Consultation with the Market – is 14th February. Although no responses have been received to date, indications are that there will be a good number by the deadline.

IDALC

The minutes of the last IDALC meeting and AGM are attached for information.

Jonathan Parsons
Town Clerk

IVYBRIDGE & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held via Zoom at 2.30pm on 2 November 2021

Present:

Cllr Phillip Dredge (Chairman and Treasurer)	Ivybridge
Cllr Liz Hitchins	Brixton
Cllr Michael Wills	Brixton
Cllr Linda Osman	Cornwood
Cllr Phil Anderson	Kingston
Cllr Colin Taffurelli (Vice Chairman)	Shaugh Prior
Cllr Tom Holway	Ugborough
Cllr Glyn Richards	DALC/South Brent

In Attendance:

Mrs Julie Gilbert	Secretary
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1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Peter Hinchliffe Newton and Noss, George Beable, Ugborough, Lucy Bruckner, South Brent.

Approval of Minutes of last AGM

The minutes were proposed by Cllr Glyn Richards and seconded by Cllr Colin Taffurelli.

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

2. Matters Arising

IT WAS AGREED that there were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave his report.

I mentioned last year the surreal topsy-turvy world we were living in with a hope that normality would return sooner or later. We are trying to live as much as possible as if things are back to normal although soaring fuel prices, essential labour shortages and upsetting announcements such as the one about diesel fuel scarcity are leading to national panics. Despite all this there is a national focus on 'saving the planet' and I think that we are all trying to do our bit. Strangely enough, unless I have missed them, there have been no amendments

to government policies on council procurement and investment to reflect this. The basis continues to be value for taxpayers' money.

Certainly, remote meetings for non-council business 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 harsh economic times cost effectiveness is everything. However, I recently attended the 2021 annual GWR stakeholder convention which happened to be held in Cardiff with a live audience but was also as a remote meeting for those not wishing to travel. It was very successful and both elements of the audience were able to raise questions, either verbally or through the 'chatbox'.

At the present time we are continuing to hold remote IDALC meetings which are actually giving better attendance figures but perhaps closer to the event we can decide whether to hold the next AGM 'in person' or as a hybrid event.

4. Financial Report Funding Subscriptions

Financial

Invoicing of member council's fees had slipped slightly over the recent years and this meant that some fees which would normally have gone into last years' figures were received too late to be included. The accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis and therefore include membership fees at the point they are received rather than invoiced.

The upshot is that having now brought the invoicing, and therefore the majority of subsequent receipts up to date, this year's income has made up the shortfall experienced in receipts last year.

The net result is an income figure of £119.00, and, although this still doesn't quite match the secretary's honorarium, had a late payment of fees for the year been received earlier the deficit would have been just £17.00 rather than the published figure of £31.00

The bank balance at the end of the financial year was £351.74 which will stand us in good stead for a few years before we need to consider seeking a grant from DALC.

Since the year end two lots of membership fees have been received. I am pleased to note that they were electronic transfers, giving us a current cashbook/bank balance of £365.74

IT WAS AGREED that the report be received, and agreed by all members present that the subscriptions should remain at £7 for 2021/2022.

5. 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 Phil Anderson Seconded Cllr Linda Osman

6. Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Dredge advised that he would leave Council in 2023, consequently he will step down as Chairman at IDALC at the next AGM, therefore at the electing of Vice-Chairman they will need someone who is prepared to take as Chairman. Cllr Taffurelli advised that he would be willing to carry on as Vice-Chairman, but would not be prepared to take on the role of Chairman once Cllr Dredge has retired due to his age, and that the role should be assumed by a much younger person. It was suggested that during the year IDALC should have a round robin to all the parishes to see if anyone would like to take over from the Chair.

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

Proposed Cllr Phillip Dredge Seconded Cllr Glyn Richards

7. Election of Treasurer

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr Dredge be re-elected as Treasurer. Cllr Dredge advised that again next year he would be standing down.

Proposed Cllr Phillip Dredge Seconded Cllr Liz Hitchins

8. Appointment of Secretary and approval of honorarium

Mrs Julie Gilbert, Ivybridge Town Council, confirmed she was happy to remain as secretary. Cllr Dredge proposed that the honorarium remain at the sum of £150.

Proposed Cllr Colin Taffurelli Seconded Cllr Phillip Dredge

IT WAS AGREED that the report be received, and that Mrs Gilbert be appointed as Secretary, and the honorarium remain at £150.

9. Date of Next AGM

IT WAS AGREED that the next meeting be held on 25 October 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.44pm

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING

Held via Zoom on Wednesday 2 November 2021 following the AGM

Present:

Cllr Phillip Dredge (Chairman and Treasurer)	Ivybridge
Cllr Liz Hitchins	Brixton
Cllr Michael Wills	Brixton
Cllr Linda Osman	Cornwood
Cllr Phil Anderson	Kingston
Cllr Colin Taffurelli (Vice Chairman)	Shaugh Prior
Cllr Tom Holway	Ugborough
Cllr Glyn Richards	DALC/South Brent

In Attendance:

Mrs Julie Gilbert Secretary

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Chairman Peter Hinchliffe Newton and Noss, George Beable, Ugborough, Lucy Bruckner, South Brent.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

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.

Cllr Richards requested to bring forward his report as he needed to leave the meeting early

4. Presentation by Andrew Price, Ivybridge Town Council Parks Ranger / ParkLife

A presentation was given by Andrew Price, the Ivybridge Town Council Parks Ranger / ParkLife on his conservation work.

Andrew has been a Ranger for 15 years and worked for Hampshire County Council, and in various other locations having worked for ITC for 4 years as a Parks Ranger, and in addition and working for Park Life which is a Community Interest Company focussing on wildlife and conservation projects.

One of the large changes he tried to do when he joined Ivybridge was to change the role from a grounds maintenance role which in the past was

important to keep green spaces looking immaculate, and bring a different emphasis because of his background and was a lot more focussed on environmental issues, and also building up community interest in those green spaces. Having volunteers was paramount to some of the changes he wanted to introduce and the Council have supported this wholeheartedly which gave him the remit to improve on the spaces.

He used volunteer groups including children to undertake tree planting and sewing wildflower meadows on a highway verge with little capital costs but changing the whole feel of an area, and a small change to management has had a big impact to wildlife and with community involvement. Volunteering improves health and wellbeing getting people out and enjoying green spaces.

Andrew referred to a donation scheme for the planting of oak trees and disease resistant elms, where the people who donated were invited to help plant those trees. He also spoke of the planting of hundreds of whips through the Woodland Trust involving South Dartmoor Community Energy Group, again with lots of adults and children, and getting a community group together showed how quickly a new hedge was planted within a couple of hours.

Hedges are hugely important as wildlife corridors to link green spaces together and a great way to store carbon. A lot of our hedges are thin and in a poor state so doubling the depth of a hedgerow and once established laying it can extend the life of the hedge. Laying a hedge is a great traditional rural skill which is great to bring volunteers into, and also a good way of harvesting wood without damaging the plant whereas flailing and hedge-cutting can damage a hedge and keeps it in poor condition. Treating a hedge sympathetically aids biodiversity giving our insects that have been hugely in decline somewhere to thrive and live, and they are massively important pollinators.

He felt it was important on publicly owned land to try and create the best environment we can and use this as an education basis. Restoring our lands and hedges in our sites is paramount, but we are also doing that in an educational way. Bringing out volunteers, trying to do a weekly update on Facebook with just a little bit of extra knowledge about why we are doing what we are doing is so important.

The Town Council held a Bioblitz event in August. These became hugely popular about 5 years ago. On the day despite terrible weather we had almost 300 people attend, about 75 people alone attended for the bat walk in the evening. This gave a chance to engage with the public, and measure a little bit of the biodiversity of the site, but also to engage with educational opportunities. This included storytellers, pond dipping, a moth to flame exercise looking at recycling plastics, and moth trapping overnight. The numbers of moths that were trapped were low because numbers are down but they still trapped 75 different species, and only by maintaining that habitat and doing a Bioblitz again next year can they hopefully see these numbers increase.

Andrew had worked on Wembury Orchard and held an apple day with Wembury School. The orchard hasn't had any proper work done in it for 5 years, and rather than that space decline he was hoping to bring that back into better condition and involve the school with that. They had produced lots of apple juice on the day which is great for the kids to see how it's produced and take home a product.

Discussion

Cllr Dredge had unsuccessfully tried mats impregnated with wild flowers. Andrew confirmed that these had been used at Marsh Mills roundabout with quite good success, but timing, weather and ground conditions are essential. There are two good distinct times to do this, one this time of year before a good frost and the second is early spring.

Cllr Hitchins enquired where he obtained his wildflower seeds. He confirmed that in the past Boston Seeds but more recently Meadow Mania who produce a good bee and wildflower mix and he used this on the highway verge.

Cllr Taffurelli queried if Shaugh Prior's schedule to plant trees in January was suitable. Andrew confirmed that he would be planting trees any time from beginning of November to the end of February. If the ground is frozen in January keep the trees heeled in somewhere else as breaking up the ground is not good for the soil or the plant.

Cllr Hitchins enquired if a bat expert was used for the bat walk. Andrew confirmed that a local resident from an ecology group and her colleague led the walk. His ParkLife colleague has a bat licence and can run bat walks and he could provide their details, but he would also send Cllr Hitchin's details to the ecologist and ask them to make contact.

Andrew ended by advising that he would be happy to pop out to parishes and look at sites if anyone was interested.

Cllr Dredge thanked Andrew for an enjoyable and interesting talk and the parishes all agreed and also gave their thanks.

5. DALC Director's Report

Every year three members of the Board, which consists of nine Directors, are required to step down. Directors are elected to serve a term of three years to a maximum of nine consecutive years and can stand for re-election if eligible.

At the AGM three members of the Board, Me, Ken Browse and Teresa Bowers stood down. I was re-elected along with two new Directors, Brian Bailey from Exmouth TC and Colin Trudgeon from Bishops Clyst PC.

The AGM agreed an increase of 4% in subscription for 2022/23.

Along with my position on the Board, I also serve on the Human Resources Committee and Operations and Administration Working Group.

DALC has created the new post of Policy Office, to support the County Committee, and I am happy to say Mr Mark Clapham has been appointed to the post.

This brings the DALC staff team up to four. County Office (Cara), Member Services Officer (Rebecca), Training Officer (Elise) and Policy Officer (Mark).

Cllr Glyn Richards
DALC Board Member

6. Reports from Parishes

Cornwood Parish Council

Work on parish projects is gathering momentum again having stalled during the last 18 months for understandable reasons. In the last few months we have:

- Re-roofed the Lutton bus shelter, replaced the old rotten bench by it and installed a parish noticeboard
- Built a boardwalk over a boggy area on a permissive path so that the community orchard is once again accessible on footpaths rather than the main road. The stiles have been replaced by gates so that people with buggies and those who cannot climb over stiles can also enjoy the walk.
- Started work to turn the small area outside the public toilets into a butterfly garden
- Re-started talks with Devon Air Ambulance to get a night landing zone sited in the parish
- Put together a committee of interested parties to put together a schedule of events for the Platinum Jubilee
- Started a group of citizen scientists for the Yealm to Moor project, focusing on water quality.

Our plans to upgrade the Lutton playpark (currently closed) were severely hampered by the pandemic and it now seems that the project won't be completed until next year. Recently several bits of play equipment at the Cornwood playpark were found to be unsafe so the children of the parish are feeling a bit sad at the moment.

Our fledgling Speedwatch group has still not been trained and they are champing at the bit to tackle the perennial problem of speeding through the 20mph zones of the parish. We have also had several reports of cyclists whizzing through the 20mph zones at very high speed trying to improve their Strava times! That seems to have calmed down now that one of the councillors has flagged the relevant Strava segment as hazardous so that goals cannot easily be set for this stretch of road.

Talking of cycling, we had a wonderful day when the Tour of Britain swept through the parish, the route was decorated with painted bicycles and bunting, the pub put on a themed menu and we had some amazing Land Art in the school field produced by a couple of young residents which certainly caught the eye of Spotlight.

Our community-owned pub (of which the parish council is a shareholder) is settling down and the manager and chef are now running the Lunch Club for older residents providing a 3 course meal for £8 every fortnight. This used to be run by volunteers in the village hall but the team was struggling to cook and serve the food so having the pub step in is a blessing.

Some of the residents from Lutton are requesting permission & finance to paint the boring breeze block bus shelters having seen the sunflowers in Sparkwell and we are currently assessing the level of support for this venture, especially from those who live close by.

We are supporting the formation of a group of residents who are aiming to make Cornwood a Dementia Friendly Parish. We are not quite sure what that will entail as yet but are looking forward to finding out more.

All in all, it feels as though life is creeping slowly towards a new normal where people are happy to meet up with others and get involved, albeit at a slightly greater distance than in the past!

Cllr Linda Osman
Cornwood Parish Council

Discussion

If any other parishes have similar issues to those Cllr Osman had reported with cyclists improving their Strava times, then using the technique to flag that stretch as hazardous seems to be a very effective way of slowing them down, and she welcomed other parishes to get in touch with her if they required any further information.

With respect to replacing stiles with gates, Cllr Hitchins enquired how they negotiated with the landowners. Cllr Osman responded that the landowner is supportive of many of their initiatives. The Council was sympathetic to the field containing sheep so self-closing gates were installed to make sure no-one could leave them open inadvertently and signage installed to remind people to keep dogs on leads etc.

Cllr Taffurelli enquired about the elderly people's fortnightly meal on behalf of some of his parish members. Cllr Osman responded that it is held in the community owned pub, of which the parish council is a share-holder partly to enable social initiatives, one of those being hosting the lunch club. The lunch runs at a loss, but because it is a community owned pub they have agreed to sustain the loss so it doesn't become beyond people's reach. It has become

very popular because it's so affordable and based in the pub, therefore as the pub could not sustain the costs, going forward it will be restricted to people in the parish other than a couple of long standing attendees from Shaugh Prior who have been part of the lunch club for a number of years.

Brixton Parish Council

Brixton Parish Council have met a couple of times since the remote legislation ceased in May 2021. BPC have trialled a couple of venues, to ensure the safety of parishioners and councillors alike and unfortunately had to postpone their October meeting due to COVID 19. BPC would like DALC and NALC to continue lobbying the Government with regard to reinstating virtual meetings, with at least parish councils being given the option of which meeting format they would prefer.

Since the last meeting BPC have welcomed a new co-opted parish councillor.

BPC Traffic Management Working Group continues to meet remotely with DCC Highways Officer on a quarterly basis.

BPC are working in conjunction with DCC with regard the following projects:

- BPC are progressing a traffic calming project for Red Lion Hill / Stamps Hill. S106 funding from the Sherford development is available for this project.
- To provide safe access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders from Brixton Village to the footpath/cycle/ bridleway network at Sherford Country Park
- BPC have requested that the lanes to the north of the village are approved for a trial Quiet Lane Status.

There have been several new volunteers for Community Speedwatch who have undertaken specific training and are waiting for 'on the job' training

BPC have formed the River Yealm Water Quality working group and meet regularly with Wembury PC, Newton & Noss PC and Yealmpton PC, along with other interested parties to work with Environment Agency and South West Water to look at the quality of water in the River Yealm particularly relating to the discharge of sewage into the river at times of heavy rainfall. A Freedom of Information requests have been sent to both SWW and Environment Agency.

The restoration of the stone wall on FP26 is almost complete. This has been funded by s106.

BPC continue to work on their parcel of land at the head of Cofflete Creek on the site of the former Cofflete Mill and work is ongoing to clear the area with some trees being removed due to ash dieback and safety concerns. The aim is to create a community amenity space for the residents of Brixton Parish, through careful consideration of the significant historic and environmental

value of this piece of land to the community. An interpretation board is being designed to be located on the lower site along with benches.

BPC are looking at a replacement play tower for the Brixstix play space and discussions are ongoing regarding facilities for older children.

BPC Environment Policy has been updated and an action plan formulated which is being worked on by the Brixton Parish Environment Working Group who meet on a monthly basis.

Sherford has its own environmental working group with residents from the town and neighbouring Sherford Road creating the Sherford Community Park and Open Spaces Group, they have been planting wildflower starts, managing undergrowth and infestations of Ragwort and undertaking bluebell planting. The Brixton Bee Wild Group have visited Carrollsland and looked at the trees and flowers. An area has been identified for wildflower planting and the management company have been approached for approval.

Kirstie Aldridge
Clerk to Brixton Parish Council

Discussion

Cllr Hitchins announced that Brixton parish are really proud to have achieved the Gold Award from NALC for their governance.

Cllr Hitchins wrote to the DALC County Committee regarding the issue of reducing the speed in lanes. Coming off the A38 going into Sherford Main Street the speed limit is 30 mph and monitored by the police. Turning left to Brixton/Yealmpton the speed is up to 60mph and is very dangerous. This has been moved forward by the DALC County Committee. She stated that other parishes who are experiencing speeding need to be working together and bringing this to the attention of the County Committee.

The Four Rivers Dementia Alliance covers the area of IDALC and the east and the purpose is to promote and develop dementia friendly communities, and for all parish councils to take a lead on this. Cllr Hitchins contributed towards a booklet about this on the NALC website. The Alliance applied for an Awards for All grant for £10,000 and are now employing someone to visit parish and town councils to advise on how to become a Dementia Friendly Town or Parish. The funding will also promote the same signage in all village halls so that somebody living with dementia will be familiar with the signage. They also have a Four Rivers Dementia Alliance website.

Cornwood is interested in becoming a dementia friendly parish and the development worker has started to link up with them to look at what they might do. Every parish will be different there is no set model at all and it's important for people to take small steps to help their community becoming dementia friendly and reducing isolation, loneliness and stigma for people living with dementia.

Shaugh Prior Parish Council

The new bus shelter at Wotter village is finished and the residence are taking full advantage of it to stay dry through this atrocious weather.

The Defibrillator at Wotter village has now been moved to a better location from the Doctor's surgery to the telephone kiosk in the centre of the village, the telephone kiosk now has two functions as a successful library as well. There is an ongoing dispute about costs of supply of electricity with Western Power. We had to pay nearly £2000 to have the electricity cables put to it and Western Power are charging us 90p a day service charge and we use only 10p a day in electricity, and being a life-saving facility one would think that Western Electric would waiver the cost.

The Tungsten West Hemerdon mine has started operations and is under strict monitoring by the Environment Agency for noise levels and vibrations, which was a serious problem with Wolf Minerals. Tungsten West have applied for planning to extract secondary aggregate.

This in turn will mean 105 movements of 40 ton vehicles a day rising to 300 a day and what with the Aggregate company operating at Lee Moor having just been approved to increase their movement of vehicles to 105 a day bearing in mind the number is doubled because of empty vehicles returning we are anticipating this going to be a big issue with the local community.

They are using a route going across the moors using Gratton lane which is very narrow and the lorries are using it as a shortcut to the main Tavistock road and we've had 8 accidents there in the last year. In conjunction with other parishes in the area, Yelverton in particular, we are trying to get a weight restriction across that moorland road to Yelverton.

Speeding has been a big problem on the new Lee Moor Road B3417. Motorbikes are having regular speed trials causing a lot of exhaust noise and danger the other vehicles plus horse riders. There have been 8 serious accidents one fatal with speeding motorbikes. The police have decided to monitor the speed but stated the speed limit is 60mph, but are looking into unsocial behaviour and dangerous driving.

Planning has been approved for 2000 new houses east of Shaugh Prior in the village of Bickleigh, this is causing a lot of a concern about the extra traffic that could drive through the narrow lanes through Shaugh Prior and Wotter villages to Plympton, avoiding the congestion on the A386 to Plymouth. An application was put forward to Devon Highways to have a 20mph speed limit through Shaugh Prior Village the is on hold by Highways because of a Pilot Scheme taking place at Newton Abbot of 20mph restrictions the results should be known in 15 months so all applications are on hold, apparently the are many.

A Devon Energy Collective steering group has been appointed as regards the proposed Wind Turbines on Lee Moor this is in its early stages, discussions are ongoing. As this is a community project I can visualise lots of objections The Parish Council have appointed a steering group in conjunction with Climate Change group, a tree planting exercise has been arranged to start in the New Year, also arrangements for the celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

A person has been appointed a Broadband trouble shooter as requested by BT this person will be able to take all enquiries about slow broadband and Wifi problems direct to a representative of the BT so it can be resolved much quicker.

Cllr Colin Taffurelli
Shaugh Prior Parish Council

Discussion

Cllr Dredge enquired if there were economic benefits from the lorries. Cllr Taffurelli responded that John Hart, the DCC Leader attended the last Council meeting, and although the application is with South Hams it will be DCC who have the final decision, however they will be unable to stop the movement of lorries. The parish previously had financial benefits from Wolf, however this is a new operation with limited funds and they haven't starting thinking about helping the parish.

Cllr Holway stated that with minerals DCC become the Planning Authority, and they need to ask South Hams and Devon County Council for a traffic management plan, informing them which lanes these trucks should avoid, or indeed ask the company to provide road improvement to include passing places or widen it. Cllr Taffurelli confirmed that they approached Sir Gary Streeter but he is unable to do anything until licences have been agreed.

Cllr Hitchins highlighted the planning application for restoration of Steer Point quarry where there was a huge amount of lorries with no passing places going past a school and residential areas. A public group worked on an objection and a traffic management plan became one of the planning conditions, so it's a good idea to ask the applicant to do it and consult with the parish.

Ugborough Parish Council

We have had a councillor relocate a few months ago and as a result he felt the need to step down. He was responsible for drawing up our Emergency Plan so his expertise will be missed, but in his place on the council, we have been very fortunate to now have a retired accountant.

The Parish Council are delighted to learn the pre-school have identified a site in the school grounds and are making plans to build there, in order to relocate from the village hall.

Several years ago, the Parish Council was granted a licence by Devon County Council for the Ugborough Primary School field to be used by youngsters for recreational purposes in the evening, weekends and school holidays. Unfortunately, this agreement was lost sight of, and during the summer holidays it was of great concern that the gates were found to be locked, with the suggestion that it was because of dog fouling. With the management of the school currently in the process of being changed it has been a frustrating situation to resolve. On the plus side, some new play equipment has been added to the Bittaford Play Park by the Parish Council.

Having seen how successful the new roundabout has been at the junction of the A3121 and the A379 at Modbury Cross, we are still awaiting work to start on a similar roundabout at Kitterford Cross in our parish. There has been a lot of requests for the village of Ugborough to be a 20 mph zone and we await with interest the result of a trial of a 20 mph limit currently taking place in Newton Abbot. The Parish Council is also investing in a new 30 mph flashing warning sign, to complement the one that we already share with Yealmpton PC.

It is often difficult in light of the current concerns regarding environmental issues to draw a line between those who wish to allow nature to grow with very limited management and those who would prefer to see a more traditional tidy approach. The churchyard is closed for burials and so has been routinely cut by the South Hams DC, however this year it has had very little attention, with long grass covering the paths, and this has upset those who wish to attend the graves of loved ones. Thankfully it has recently been trimmed. The Parish Council owned burial ground has had a tidy up, with an overgrown spoil heap being removed and several parish councillors, our clerk plus a district councillor, helping to remove plastic items dumped there that were not compostable. The PC were concerned with the proposals that the Greener Ugborough group put forward regarding future management of the current empty part of the burial ground. It was felt that there was a need for the PC to have some control and to draw up some rules that bear in mind the sensitive nature of a burial ground. We hope that some compromise can be found.

Cllr George Beable
Ugborough Parish Council

Kingston Parish Council

KPC took great delight in holding our 1st official event in September, in the Reading room to welcome the 23 new residents who had moved into the village during this pandemic, especially as two of the new families have young children. It was a chance to see what the Parish Council duties are, and to give assistance if and when required. We also made a point of inviting the local groups to attend so they could be introduced to the other side of life in our community.

We also welcomed 5 new babies to our community which has taken place

during the pandemic. (That stork have been busy this way) and it feels that our village is growing with youth in the air.

Our Neighbourhood plan has also been made by SHDC and it has been used several times during various planning applications.

We have great news to report, that being we have a PUB BACK. A new landlord Shawn! moved in 5 weeks ago, 1st order of the day was to cleaning windows and deep cleaning of the kitchen and the pub itself. We now have great food and guest beers back on, with local foods and beers being sourced.

The recreational ground has had a major overhaul recently and now is back to the original state. It has been used by many during these recent 6 months and not just by our own community.

The Reading Room Committee are at present in talks with SHDC with regards to the increments of size required to accommodate the larger events we need to hold, as our present space is somewhat squashed by storage to chairs and tables etc.

Car parking is still a problem during the busy months, with some parishioners asking why we don't have a carpark, as KPC do not own any land, this problem will still be with us in the foreseeable future.

Lastly we still have on going issues with Devon Highways, we have regular meeting with our Highways Officer, but the works is deferred and not carried out. WE still await replacement white and give way signs, along with Slow signs, not to mention the re surfacing of many of our lanes.

Additional

Flooding is also becoming a problem with gulleys which haven't been cleaned for 3 years and so we are now trying to obtain some grant money from DALC if possible, or elsewhere. It's got to a stage where the tarmac is washing out and blocking the gulleys. The pub was flooded last weekend in the gale and a couple of instances with properties where the water has got very close.

Following the talk we are pleased to announce that Millhaven who have bought Langston on the approach to Kingston have turned it into a huge holiday home and have planted 7000 trees around the farm.

Cllr Phil Anderson
Kingston Parish Council

Ivybridge Town Council

In line with other councils we are recovering from the pandemic with all staff working from the office for all or part of the week.

One particular pandemic problem faced by councils with alternative streams of income is demonstrated by the effect on the Watermark. Any loss it makes affects our reserves; a large loss affects them greatly. Fortunately, partly owing to grants received, the position for the last financial year was much better than anticipated and we are now seeing ever increasing levels of business. We have recently appointed a new Watermark Manager and looking forward to see how he develops the business. However, a 'plan B' lockdown could be quite harmful, particularly if the government does not re-introduce the various grant schemes.

We have an amount of house-building in the town at the old paper mill site, but the council initiative Butterpark site is proving to be more problematical.

At times we have almost felt cut off by the amount of roadworks that appear to have surrounded us.

We have previously reported improvements to the leisure centre and that SHDC have approved plans for an Aldi store to be built in the existing town centre car park

GWR have increased the number of trains calling at Ivybridge and are doing a lot of track upgrading in the wider south west. However, staff shortages have made rail travel a little precarious in the short term.

Cllr Phillip Dredge
Ivybridge Town Council

Additional

There has been anti-social behaviour in some of the shops and groups generally making a nuisance of themselves in the evening and the police have stepped up their presence. Technically it's low level crime however it has an effect on the reputation of the town and affects the people living here.

Mrs Gilbert advised informed the meeting of the Christmas Festival planned for the end of November. The Town Council was changing the format this year and instead of a parade were working with Miss Ivy Events to introduce a larger festive market with music and children's entertainment. Hopefully it should be something nice for the community following the awful recent times, especially after not being able to hold an event last year, and they hoped for a good turnout.

7. Any Other Business

Cllr Hitchins enquired if other parishes were having the problems that Brixton had of returning to face to face meetings, their virtual meetings had worked well. Mrs Gilbert advised that they had one councillor who had chosen to shield due to a pulmonary disorder and didn't want to risk coming to meetings.

Cllr Osman confirmed that Cornwood councillors were delighted to return to face to face meetings because some felt conversations weren't as good using Zoom as they were face to face. She did however feel that it was wrong that the Government has carried on holding hybrid meetings but has forced parish councils, who are almost always made up of older people, to go back to face to face and not allowed them to make that choice.

Cllr Tom Holway agreed and suggested we need to go back through DALC and NALC and lobby. At Ugborough they have held their meetings in the main hall where there is plenty of space but it's always added expense. Cllr Hitchins stated that 3 members of IDALC were on DALC and this needs to be taken to County Committee as people don't want to attend because they don't feel safe.

IT WAS AGREED to raise the ability to hold hybrid meetings with DALC.

Following on from the AGM earlier when Cllr Dredge and others made their position clear about their future earlier, Cllr Hitchins suggested that the AGM be put on the agenda for the next IDALC meeting so that we could start looking for people who will fill these posts rather than wait for the next AGM.

IT WAS AGREED to place the AGM vacancies on the next ordinary business meeting agenda.

Cllr Anderson queried the possibility of holding the next IDALC meeting face to face. Cllr Osman suggested giving individuals the choice of how they wish to attend the next meeting, whether they would prefer face to face or Zoom.

IT WAS AGREED that when the papers are sent out for the next ordinary meeting the facility to have the meeting face to face or by remote attendance will be offered for people to choose which option they would prefer.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next ordinary business meeting will be held on 26 April 2022.

The meeting ended at 4.30 pm.