

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 24 January 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Munro
Cllr L Budd Cllr T Parsons
Cllr M Cade Cllr A Rea
Cllr P Dredge 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)
1 Member of the Public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.32pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

** Mrs Rea left the meeting at 7.22pm*

** Cllr Croad left the meeting at 7.43pm*

- 21/098 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Bowden and Cllr Jago.
- 21/099 **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.
- 21/100 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 13th December 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/101 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 29th November and 20th December 2021 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

- 21/102 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Lannin confirmed and Cllr L Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/103 **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 21/104 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 8th December 2021 to 17th January 2022 (previously circulated) were noted. The Mayor commented that the Memory Café lunch at The Watermark was very enjoyable.
- 21/105 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT:** The budget and report (copy previously circulated) was considered.
There was a discussion about how the Personnel Committee sat within the budgeting process.
Cllr Budd queried what the £2,000 for climate emergency was for and commented that it would be helpful to have a bit more rationale about what things are for.
The Town Clerk explained that the budget is based on historical performance plus cost increases. The £2,000 under Climate Emergency was to hold another possible futures fair, one was held just before the Covid 19 pandemic and was very successful.
Cllr A Rea commented that Ivybridge residents are facing an increase in energy costs, national insurance and the highest inflation in 30 years. Due to this he does not support the Council raising the precept. More houses on the west side of the town should mean more income. He feels that surplus and reserves should be used instead of raising the precept.
He went on to propose that the precept should not be increased but this money be taken from the reserves.
Cllr L Rea seconded this and commented that conversations about the boundary to the eastern side of the town need to be held.
Cllr Lannin felt it would be hard to foresee the income for The Watermark over the coming year. She queried how much it would cost to cover the increase in precept from reserves.
The Town Clerk advised that it would be in the region of £14,842.
- Cllr Dredge advised that some councils do not have a commercial liability, however the Town Council does in the shape of The Watermark. Last year we received a six figure grant due to the Covid 19 pandemic. This year there has been very little support available and it is not possible to predict whether support will be required or available next year. The reserves may be needed to support The Watermark. He also noted that if the precept is not increased for the coming year, it may need to be increased substantially the following

year and residents will not remember that they had a year with no increase.

The Town Clerk advised that the precept is going up by £3.78 per year for a band D property. The Watermark performance over the next 3 months is an unknown and once reserves are gone, they are gone. There are big projects coming up at Filham Park and energy cost increases to bear in mind.

Cllr A Rea's proposal to not increase the precept but to take the money from the reserves, which was seconded by Cllr L Rea was then voted on and the majority were against this proposal.

Councillors then voted on whether to accept the budget and the majority were in favour.

A brief discussion regarding social media marketing and communications strategy followed.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and confirm the precept for 2021/22 in the sum of £530,215.

21/106 **INTERNAL AUDIT POLICY:** The Internal Audit Policy (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Dredge explained that our internal auditor has to approve this document, and it was taken from a larger document which was written by the internal auditor, therefore it felt sensible to keep the numbering the same as the source document.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Dredge and the Admin Officer for their time working on this policy.

All were in favour of adopting the policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Internal Audit Policy.

21/107 **THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Wilson advised that the possibility of lighting a beacon was being explored. A search light would work out too expensive; quotes had been received that were in excess of £2,000. However, a purpose made gas beacon to put on the flat roof of The Watermark could be an option, with some form of activity taking place in the Erme Court car park.

It was suggested that The Watermark could show the national events on the big screen all day for people to watch, perhaps free entry but potential to sell food and drink.

Also looking at encouraging local street parties, perhaps a souvenir programme including all the events happening in the town, which could include advertising to make it self-funding.

Other ideas include trying to get the arts community involved and to produce a mug or a pin badge. It would be nice if we could locate photos of Ivybridge during the Coronation or previous jubilees.

Green Canopy and the Woodland Trust are planting trees.

The Rugby Club are planning a street party, traditional stalls and live music over the weekend.

Cllr A Rea advised that Beacon Medical are also thinking of doing something. He agreed to pass the details to Cllr Wilson.

Cllr Wilson went on to say it would be nice to light the chimney at Stowford Mill but unsure about permissions and how this would be funded.

Cllr Cade queried whether the military could provide a searchlight. Cllr Dredge queried what the implications of using a searchlight would be with regard to the A38. Cllr Wilson advised that permissions would need to be sought.

Cllr L Rea asked whether a street party could be held in Glanvilles Mill if closing Fore Street would cause issues. Cllr Wilson explained that the problem with a big street party is that it would still need marshals.

Cllr L Rea asked whether the schools have been engaged. The Town Clerk advised that it is during half term but they would be contacted. Cllr Wilson advised that youth groups such as the cadets and scouts would also be contacted.

Cllr Dredge suggested that it would be a good idea to pool thoughts with other Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the proposals for the weekend.

21/108

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: The Christmas Festival report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Mayor thanked the Town Hall staff and volunteers for all their hard work which made the 2021 Christmas Festival a success.

Cllr L Rea asked whether the intention was to follow the same format as last year. The Town Clerk advised that this was the intention.

Cllr Wilson commented that this format had worked better than in previous years.

Cllr Lannin commented that if the lights were to be switched on at installation rather than there being a switch on event this needs to be communicated. The Town Clerk advised that the concern was that if there was a switch on, people would only turn up for this rather than there being a spread across the afternoon and evening.

The Mayor commented that the lights switch on has always been a really big thing and missed this last year, however she felt that the event went really well. She noted that the market was quiet early on so would support the amended start time.

Cllr Lannin pointed out that events like Paw Patrol taking place throughout the evening give a new focus rather than just the lights being switched on.

Cllr L Rea said that if the new format is kept going forward people will get used to it and not expect the parade etc.

Cllr Wilson proposed that the recommendations were accepted. Cllr A Rea seconded and all were in favour of accepting the recommendations in the report.

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

- i. Continue with the festive market theme and entertainment;
- ii. Engage Miss Ivy events to run the 2022 festival; and
- iii. For the lights to be switched on at installation.

21/109

UPDATE AND INFORMATION: Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge advised that his meeting regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner Budget was more of a consultation. Cllr Dredge went on to advise that at the DALC board meeting there was a presentation from Clear Utility Solutions, a company who save customers on average £1.300 on their energy bills. They also have some green credentials. However, they do charge for a consultation. He also noted that there is a remote meeting regarding the Devon Climate Emergency on 27 January and asked if any Councillors would like to attend, they should contact the Admin Officer for a link to the site.

Cllr A Rea advised that the PPG minutes had arrived too late to be included on the agenda but he has emailed them round to councillors and requested that any queries be emailed to him.

Cllr A Rea asked when the next Youth meeting is due to take place. The Town Clerk advised that this would be in early March.

Cllr L Rea asked what the next steps are with regard to Butterpark. The Town Clerk advised that the full tender should be advertised by the end of March with a closing date of the end of June. The contact at SHDC is still assisting with the process.

The Mayor asked whether the Big Bike Revival guided ride had been well attended. Cllr Lannin advised that it was a success and that there were approximately 27 attendees.

The Mayor advised that Cllr Laity has resigned from the council and she wished to thank her for all her hard work during her time as a councillor, and to wish her all the very best for the future.

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

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed: Date: 7 March 2022

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 24 January 2022

GENERAL

1 member of the public, Mrs Rea, was present. She had provided the following report which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Friday 14th January 2022 approx 19:00 hours

I walked from Erme Road to Ivybridge Leisure Centre passing the Co-op, over the footbridge, past the public toilets, the Bridge Youth Club and the children's playground. There were a lot of young people hanging around, many in the playground, most in small groups chatting. As I walked down the path towards the Leisure Centre a group of young people headed towards me up the path pushing a supermarket trolley. In the trolley was sat a girl, holding a large red & white traffic cone.

14/01/22 Approx 19:10

I was in the 'spin' class in the Leisure Centre when another of the regular Friday night spinners ('L') arrived. L is a long-time Ivybridge resident, she is around 40 and has learning difficulties. L was very agitated and told everyone that the 'kids' had been shouting at her.

Saturday 15th January

I walked over the bridge from the Co-op to the carpark and noticed a supermarket trolley in the river. There was also a large red & white cone under the footbridge.

Friday 21st January 2022 approx 19:00 hours

I walked to Ivybridge Leisure Centre. I passed the Co-op but when I reached the footbridge I was unable to cross over as there were 2 large groups of young people on the footbridge. Each group had a supermarket trolley and they were crashing the trolleys together in the middle of the footbridge making it unsafe for members of the public to cross.

After a couple of minutes one group ran off into the car park with their trolley, shoving it to and fro at each other in amongst the parked cars.

The second group shouted to the girl with the other trolley to 'throw it in the water'. There was one dissenting voice who said 'No, don't, I will lose my £2'. The girl pushed the trolley off the end of the footbridge, turned right and manoeuvred the trolley in between the short fence and the bench. She appeared to be lining it up to push it in the river. At this point I was two-thirds of the way across the bridge, watching what was unfolding as I made my way towards the Leisure Centre. I leaned over the bridge and shouted 'Stop! Don't do that'. The girl looked at me and hesitated. I shouted 'Don't pollute the river' at which point

she pulled the trolley away. The girls she was with shouted 'What you looking at?' at me.

I walked past groups of teenagers standing by the toilets and under the arch and into the Bridge Youth Club. There were approx. 20 young people inside. I briefly explained what was going on outside to the staff behind the counter and asked if there was a Youth Worker in the building who could talk to the young people who were running amok in the car park. I was told there was no Youth Worker. However, a man walked over and asked if he could help me. We stood in the doorway of the youth club and I started to explain, but then 4 girls, including the one who was pushing the trolley, came around the corner towards us. I told the man 'These are the girls and that is the one who was pushing the trolley'. The girls then started shouting at me 'What have you reported us for, we ain't done nuffin wrong'. I walked past the girls and one made to follow me but was restrained by her friends.

I walked to the Leisure Centre past a very large group of young people, 50+, in the children's playground. I did my spin class, however, I was very nervous about walking past the park and through the carpark to go home and so I asked someone from the class if they would mind walking with me as far as the Co-op. There were a lot of young people hanging around the car park, by the public toilets, under the arch by the entrance to the youth club and near the footbridge.

21/01/2022 20:05

I walked past the Co-op towards Fore Street where I bumped into a friend, J, a man in his 60s. He told me he had just walked up Fore Street past a large group of young men who were shouting sexist abuse at a woman on the other side of the road. He seemed anxious. He said he felt he should have intervened, but he was on his own and it was a large group of youngsters. He thought they had been drinking.

Saturday 22/01/2022

I went to see if I could speak to someone in The Bridge Youth Club but it is closed on Saturdays.

However, I spoke to the Duty Manager in the Co-op about the incidents on Friday evening. I wondered if it might be a good idea to take the supermarket trolleys into the building on a Friday night. The Duty Manager told me that she had been working on Friday evening. She didn't know what was happening with the trolleys on the footbridge or in the carpark. The Co-op CCTV doesn't cover as far as the footbridge. She said that Friday night was very busy as there were large groups of young people roaming around in the store stealing sweets, crisps and alcohol. She told me in exasperation 'I have no idea how much money the store lost through shoplifting last night'. Co-op management instructions are that if staff see shoplifting taking place either via the in-store CCTV or right in front of them they are not to challenge perpetrators.

She also told me that Poundland and other shops in the town have been having a lot of problems with shoplifting by groups of young people.

The **'Girl with the trolley'** I would estimate was around 12-13 years old. She was short, maybe around 5ft, and had very dark black hair cut in a sort of bob with a heavy fringe. The man in the Bridge Youth Club knew her name.

Her 3 friends were all a bit taller. One of them had glasses and very long auburn hair which she wore loose.

Mrs Rea advised that her report gives an example of anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and theft all happening on Friday evenings in the town. It's a widespread problem and she feels that someone should bring together a group of interested parties to discuss issues and how to take this forward. She had suggested to the Coop manager that perhaps trollies would be safer kept inside the store on a Friday evening. A good result was achieved by The Watermark from publicising a photo on social media, this is the sort of thing that could be shared with other businesses. Is there anything we can learn from other towns?

The Mayor commented that the idea of meeting with the managers of the Coop and Poundland is a good idea.

The Town Clerk advised that he has spoken to the manager of Poundland.

Cllr Cade advised that in the early days there was a clear need for the Street Pastors in the town. Later on there was less and less for them to do and more of the interaction was with youths rather than adults – but this then dwindled and the need seemed to have disappeared. During the early days there was a better dialogue with the police, in later years the police had other priorities and fewer police and community officers were seen.

The Mayor added that the Ascension Trust was requesting £1,000 in subs per year and as a religious organisation the Street Pastors were unable to approach the Town Council to ask for a grant to help with this.

Cllr Dredge commented that in parts of Bristol where there has been a lot of vandalism the teenagers have been involved in and given ownership of projects.

The Mayor advised that she had attended a zoom meeting with the police, Ellis Norton, Youth Genesis, a representative from the College and others with a view to seeing how this could be applied. Shirley Weeks suggested a graffiti wall. Discussions are still taking place and they are aware of the incidents which have been happening in the town.

The Youth Venue has changed its opening times, focusing on school years 6-8 from 6.30pm to 8pm, then school years 9-13 from 8.30pm to 10pm which has caused a few teething problems. Because of the numbers in the youth venue there has to be a certain ratio of adults to children so the youth worker is not able to go out on the street. Working with Youth Genesis to try to get a youth worker out on the streets.

Most of the troublesome youngsters are not from Ivybridge, they come in from South Brent and Lee Mill.

Cllr Budd suggested a week or 2 week crackdown on this and requested that a meeting be set up with the police and other agencies.

The Town Clerk explained that the police have advised that they are dealing with a core of 5 children surrounded by approximately 15 others. They do take them home to their parents but unfortunately they come straight back out again.

The Mayor commented that if people feel threatened they should be calling 999 or 101.

Cllr Budd queried whether we could put something on the community group on facebook asking residents to call 101 if they have any concerns.

The Mayor commented that youth leisure nights are starting up again and the school is looking at giving support to children who may not be able to afford to go along. She then thanked Mrs Rea for bringing these issues to Council.

POLICE REPORT

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

Although we have seen some criminal damage to furniture outside of the Watermark, in general, there has been a decrease in overall ASB. This is due to a combination of things including formal police action and ASB escalation letters from SHDC. The two youths who damaged the parasol at The Watermark were given Community Resolutions, they wrote letters of apology and contributed towards the cost of the damage. Another male has been given a CR for arson in the public toilets, another young male is about to receive a CR for causing damage at the same toilets. We are still a little way from where I would like to be so we will be keeping up the pressure on this group. I am aware the Ivybridge Council used its social media to post pictures of the Watermark offenders which resulted in a quick response – I think this was a very good use of social media.

There have been a few crimes recorded at the ICC which on the crime stats show as violence – these are in general very low level school boy disputes that some years ago would never have been ‘recorded’. Given the size of the ICC, we have far fewer issues than I have experienced at other, smaller schools – this is no doubt down to a very good leadership team and the dedicated safeguarding department at the school with whom we work very closely.

Just last night, the 21st, we saw an arson attack at Mill Meadow. Several wheelie bins were set alight. This is the first such crime that I am aware of at this location and something I will keep an eye on.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

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

Covid

As of Saturday 22nd January confirmed cases in the SW Peninsular has fallen from the peak of two weeks ago but has risen slightly just recently due to several cases in Primary schools. Hospital admissions are largely flatlining around the 200 mark in Devon's main hospitals but fewer in intensive care. Covid-related deaths also relatively stable. Several cases in care homes putting pressure on hospitals (so called 'bed blocking') because affected care homes are not taking new residents.

Confirmed cases week preceding 22nd January 2022:

Devon 6,812 (840 per 100,000); Torbay 1,628 (1,195); Plymouth 2,664 (1,013); Cornwall 3,992 (696); England 550,401 (973); **South Hams 701 (797)**. Teignbridge currently has the highest number in Devon with 950 per 100,000.

Devon cases by age group (per 100,000): **0-19** = 1,571 (South Hams 1,498); **20-39** = 1,139 (1,138); **40-59** = 748 (775); **60-79** = 266 (272); **80+** = 221 (295). **Vaccinations** – Approx. % of age group received booster or 3rd jab: **80+** 91%; **75-79** 100%; **70-74** 92%; **65-69** 92%; **60-64** 91%; **55-59** 88%; **50-54** 83% **45-49** 74%; **40-44** 73%; **35-39** 63%; **30-34** 54%; **25-29** 44%; **18-24** 42%.

Hospitalisation in Devon – 212 (9 in ICU) Covid-related patients in our four hospitals (about 6% of overall capacity).

2022/2023 Proposed DCC Budget

'Proposed' because this is DCC Cabinet recommendation yet to be ratified by Full Council on February 17th following input and comments by the three scrutiny committees.

The recommendation will include a 2% rise in DCC share of Council Tax with an extra 1% ring fenced for social care (1% equals around £3.3million). Adult Care and Children's Services (both legal provision) account for some 76% of the total investment in services provided by DCC (for about 3% of Devon's population).

Recommended budgeted spending as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Adult Care & Health | £312,928 million – a rise of 10.5% |
| Children Services | £176,148 million – a rise of 10.8% |
| Communities, Public Health | £ 41,243 million – a rise of 2.4% |
| Corporate Services | £ 41,719 million – a rise of 1.9% |
| Highways, Infrastructure | £ 57,324 million – a rise of 0.4% |
| A total spend on services of 2021/22 | £629,362 million – a rise of 8.4% over FY |

NB. DCC share of Council Tax brings in about 83% of the above - £440.442 million.

The Direct Schools Grant (DSG) is ring fenced for education and is funded by government – this is however up to a point, where we have to top up any shortfall

and, as we know, it isn't enough with matters not helped by our young people getting less money for education than the majority of other local authorities.

Cllr Spencer queried whether Cllr Croad is involved in policing and if he is aware of any projects in other areas which could be relevant to the town.

Cllr Croad advised that anti-social behaviour comes and goes over the years but feels that the behaviour we are seeing does require police intervention.

Cllr A Rea commented that he felt it doesn't do people any favours by playing things down. The Coop policy is not to report things to the police but youngsters are stealing alcohol, that is not anti-social behaviour, it's theft.

Cllr Budd queried how much the DSG is being topped up.

Cllr Croad advised he was unsure but he is aware that it is underfunded. It is the worst budget on record and the County Council have had to use £23 million of their reserves to balance it. He is also concerned about the shortfall on SEND.

The public participation session closed at 7.32pm.