

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held remotely using Zoom, on Wednesday 5 May 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Town Mayor) Cllr K Pringle
Cllr T Bowden Cllr T Parsons
Cllr P Dredge Cllr T Lannin
Cllr R Jago Cllr A Rea
Cllr A Khong Cllr L Rea
Cllr A Laity Cllr A Spencer
Cllr T Munro Cllr R Wilson

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr V Abbott (South Hams District Council)
1 Member of the Public

The outgoing Mayor, Cllr Laity welcomed everyone to the meeting.

21/001 **ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR 2021-2022:** Members received the nomination (previously circulated) of Cllr Hladkij for the office of Town Mayor. Other nominations were invited but none were forthcoming.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Hladkij be elected as Town Mayor for 2021-22.

21/002 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** The Town Mayor duly signed this document which was then received by the Council.

21/003 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2021-2022:** Members received the nominations (previously circulated) of Cllrs Spencer and Jago for the office of Deputy Town Mayor. Other nominations were invited but none were forthcoming. A show of hands was in favour of Cllr Spencer, no objections to this were received.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Spencer be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2021-22.

21/004 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** The Deputy Town Mayor duly signed this document which was then received by the Council.

21/005 **VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYORAL OFFICE HOLDERS:** The Mayor thanked Cllr Laity for all her work over the

past two years. Particularly through the last year, Cllr Laity guided the Council through difficult times and it was sad that she hadn't had the opportunity to enjoy the other aspects of her role. Cllr Laity thanked Council for their support. The Mayor's Charity was the RNIB and a cheque for £1,600 had been presented to them earlier that day.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) record a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor
- ii) note and receive the remainder of the information.

21/006

ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR OUTSIDE

INTERESTS: Consideration was given to a list of current representatives for outside interests and whether any changes are required (copy previously circulated).

South Hams CVS: no nominations were received for this post. The Town Clerk advised that they had indicated that they did not require a representative at this time but someone could take on this role in the future.

IDALC: Cllr Dredge indicated that he was happy to continue in this role. Cllr Jago advised that following discussions with Cllr Dredge he was happy to withdraw his nomination and to shadow and work with Cllr Dredge over the coming two years.

DALC: Cllr Dredge currently held this position. Cllr T Rea had nominated himself for the position. He explained that he had self-nominated as he was not happy with how DALC is representing action on climate emergency. He felt that new blood would help them to move forward. Cllr Dredge advised that DALC is in the process of creating a new plan where one of the top priorities is climate emergency. He went on to explain that when a Councillor is elected to be the DALC representative it would normally be a 4 year stint which runs alongside the Council term and he would like to complete this period. He advised that he would be very happy to gradually work with and hand the role over gradually if Council agree to this. It was put to the vote and Council voted in favour of Cllr Dredge retaining this role.

Chamber of Trade: Cllr L Rea and Cllr Jago had both nominated for this position. Cllr L Rea advised that she was happy to work with Cllr Jago as a joint role. Cllr Jago was happy for this to be a joint role also. Therefore it was agreed that Cllr L Rea and Cllr Jago take on this role.

IEAG: It was agreed that Cllr Spencer would take on this role.

Harford Parish: It was agreed that Cllr Munro would take on this role.

Butterpark Project: Cllr Wilson asked how many representatives there should be on this. Cllr Laity advised that it is a historical group, she was involved due to her work with adults with learning disabilities. Now Butterpark issues are taken to the Policy and Resources Committee or to Council, not in separate meetings. Cllr T Rea commented that he volunteered for this as he is aware that the project had stalled over the last few years however if issues are to be discussed at Council in future, not the Policy and Resources Committee he would withdraw his nomination. The Mayor advised that previously this has come before Council and would be happy for future discussions to be taken to Full Council.

Town Centre Developments: Cllrs Jago, Bowden and T Rea had volunteered for this role. Cllr Wilson commented that as Cllr Jago had been appointed as representative for the Chamber of Trade, it would make him the logical candidate for this position. Cllr Jago commented that he would be happy to step down but was happy to do whatever Council decided. Cllr Bowden suggested that either he or Cllr T Rea would be a good candidate for the role due to their position on the Planning Committee, but as a lot of work will be involved it would be good if all three candidates could work together, particularly as they would bring their own views and experiences. Cllr T Rea agreed with Cllr Bowden, they would be dealing with more than Chamber of Trade issues but offered to stand down should Council feel that three were too many. The Mayor thought that the three candidates working together would be a good solution and asked if anyone had any objections. There were no objections so it was agreed that Cllrs Bowden, Jago and T Rea would take on this role.

Climate Action Working Group: Representation on this group is comprised of the Town Clerk, the Mayor and two Councillors. Currently Cllr Lannin and one vacancy. It was agreed that Cllr T Rea would take on this role.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The South Hams CVS role would remain vacant;
- ii) Cllr Dredge would continue in his role as representative for Ivybridge and District Association of Local Councils with Cllr Jago shadowing him with a view to taking on this role in 2 years;

- iii) Cllr Dredge would continue in his role as representative for Devon Association of Local Councils;
- iv) Cllrs L Rea and Jago be nominated as representative for Chamber of Trade;
- v) Cllr Spencer be nominated as representative for Ivybridge Environmental Action Group;
- vi) Cllr Munro be nominated as representative for Harford Parish;
- vii) The Butterpark Project Group is historic and issues relating to this will be taken to Full Council;
- viii) Cllrs Bowden, Jago and T Rea be nominated as representatives for Town Centre developments;
- ix) Cllr T Rea be nominated as an additional representative on the Climate Action Working Group; and
- x) All other nominations be approved as follows:

Ivybridge Community Association	Town Mayor
South Hams CVS Board of Trustees	Vacant
Home Start South Hams	Cllr S Hladkij
South Hams Childrens Centres	Cllr T Rea & Cllr S Hladkij
Children and Families	Cllr L Rea
IDALC	Cllr P Dredge
Devon Association of Local Councils	Cllr P Dredge
Ivybridge Rail Users Group/Rail Interests	Cllr L Rea
Parish Paths Partnership Co-ordinator	Cllr S Hladkij
Cycling Representative	Graham Wilson / Vacant
Ivybridge Chamber of Trade	Cllr R Jago & Cllr L Rea
PL21	Cllr T Lannin
IEAG	Cllr A Spencer
Ivybridge Caring	Cllr A Khong
Dementia Friendly Community	Cllr A Laity
Health/Beacon PPG	Cllr T Rea
Police and Crime Commissioner Cllr Advocate	Cllr P Dredge

Ivybridge RBL	Cllr R Wilson
Youth Projects	Cllr R Wilson
Snow Wardens/Emergency Committee	Parks Ranger (part time)
Honorary Tree Warden	Cllr S Hladkij
Harford Parish	Cllr T Munro

Local Representatives on Groups organised by the Town Council

Police Liaison	Town Mayor & Cllr P Dredge
Town Centre Developments	Cllr T Rea, Cllr R Jago & Cllr Bowden
Ivybridge Climate Action Working Group	Cllr T Lannin & Cllr T Rea

21/007 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES:** Consideration was given to Committee nominations and confirmed membership (nominations to date previously circulated).

Planning Committee: There were three vacancies and one nomination, Cllr Jago. Cllr Spencer also volunteered for this Committee. This left one vacancy on this committee. Cllr Bowden advised that he has been on the Planning Committee and would be happy to mentor any new members of this Committee.

Cllr L Rea commented that she would not be able to be on this Committee due to the frequency of the meetings, and wondered whether that puts members off. Cllr Munro agreed and said that the timing of the meetings, 6pm also makes it difficult for members who work.

The Mayor advised that these meetings do need to be held more frequently to allow comments to be made to South Hams District Council on a timely basis.

Cllr T Rea suggested that the timing and frequency of these meetings should be discussed with the Assistant Town Clerk.

Watermark Committee: There were two vacancies. Cllr Munro advised that he was happy to remain on this Committee but would withdraw his nomination for the Parks Committee, and Cllr T Rea volunteered to fill the other vacancy, withdrawing his nomination for the Personnel Committee.

Parks Committee: There were two vacancies. Cllr Munro had withdrawn his nomination. Cllr L Rea volunteered.

Personnel Committee: There were two vacancies and three nominees.

Cllr Pringle pointed out that this has to be a daytime meeting as staff may be involved.

It was not possible to come to an agreement over how to vote for this committee. Cllr Spencer suggested increasing the size of the committee to seven members. It was put to the vote and all were in favour of this.

Appeals Committee: Cllr Khong stepped down from this committee as he was accepted onto the Personnel Committee. Therefore Cllr L Rea's nomination as accepted.

Internal Audit Representatives: There were no vacancies but two nominees. Cllr Jago agreed to withdraw his nomination.

A discussion followed regarding this being a daytime appointment and Cllr L Rea withdrew her nomination. Therefore Cllrs Dredge and Pringle will continue in this role.

Cllr Dredge advised that next year he would be happy for another Councillor to shadow him with the view to their taking on the role in 2023.

It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 3y as the meeting was approaching 60 minutes

Policy and Resources Committee: The membership of this committee is to be finalised once the other committees have met and chairpersons appointed.

Cllr T Rea queried the mechanism of deciding the remaining members of this committee.

Cllr Jago said he didn't think that the nominees were restricted to past Mayors.

The Town Clerk advised that standing orders state that the Mayor would select the remaining members from Past Mayors.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- i) The Personnel Committee should be increased to seven members; and
- ii) nominations be approved as follows:

Committees May 2021	
<u>Planning and Infrastructure (6)</u> Tony Rea Tom Bowden Trevor Munro Ross Jago Alan Spencer <i>One vacancy</i>	<u>Parks & Open Spaces (6)</u> Ray Wilson Tony Rea Alan Spencer Tessa Lannin Louise Rea <i>One vacancy</i>
<u>The Watermark Committee (6)</u> Phillip Dredge Mike Cade Trevor Parsons Tom Bowden Tony Rea Trevor Munro	<u>Personnel Committee (7)</u> Trevor Parsons Phillip Dredge Karen Pringle Tom Bowden Ross Jago Anthony Khong Ann Laity
<u>Policy & Resources (7)</u> Mayor as Chairperson <i>Nominees as past Mayors: Ann Laity, Trevor Parsons and Karen Pringle</i> <i>(to be finalised once committee Chairpersons selected)</i>	<u>Appeals Committee</u> (3 members not on Personnel) Mayor Ray Wilson Louise Rea
<u>Internal Audit Representatives (2)</u> Philip Dredge Karen Pringle	

An adjournment followed from 8.08pm to 8.18pm to allow any questions, reports or representations by Members of the Public, the Police and District Councillors.

****1 Member of the Public left the meeting at 8.18pm***

21/008

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr Cade.

- 21/009 **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.
- 21/010 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 29th March 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Bowden seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/011 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 9th March 2021 and 30th March (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Bowden confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/012 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Laity commented that she was listed as present but had not attended the meeting. Cllr Parsons confirmed and Cllr Pringle seconded and the minutes were adopted with this amendment.
- 21/013 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 21/014 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 30th March 2021 to 4th May 2021 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 21/015 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:** The Calendar of Meetings (copy previously circulated) was considered.
- Cllr Spencer pointed out that the next Parks Committee falls after the next Council meeting. Cllr Wilson suggested moving the Parks Committee to 21 June 2021. There were no objections to this.
- It was **RESOLVED** to move the Parks Committee to 21 June 2021 and confirm the other meeting dates.
- 21/016 **REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS:** The Town Clerk explained that this was purely to note that throughout the year policies and other documents will, as necessary, be brought to Council to approve.
- It was **RESOLVED** to note this information.
- 21/017 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY:** The Investment Strategy (copy previously circulated) was considered.
- Cllr Dredge advised that a small amendment was required to change Public Finance to Public Works Loans Board.

Cllr Jago queried why it was stated that we do not have any non-financial assets.

Cllr Dredge explained that after the Icelandic Banks, some Councils invested in properties for a profit. That is not the case with The Watermark and Butterpark. The main purpose of these is to provide an asset to the Town rather than to make money for the Council.

Cllr T Rea commented that he did not think that the strategy contained enough about Climate Emergency so would abstain from the vote.

Cllr Lannin asked whether it was possible if security could be expanded to take into account climate emergency.

Cllr Dredge explained that it is not possible to do this as we have to follow government guidelines, it is still to get best value for money, climate emergency is not mentioned. He has taken this up with NALC who had advised that with the current situation with Covid there are more pressing things.

The Mayor suggested that Cllr Lannin could discuss this further with Cllr Dredge separately.

It was put to the vote and Councillors voted in favour of accepting the strategy.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Investment Strategy once the small amendment had been made.

- 21/018 **TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE POLICY:** The policy (copy previously circulated) was considered. The Town Clerk pointed out that the policy prioritises green travel.

It was put to the vote and all were in favour of adopting the Travel and Subsistence Policy.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Travel and Subsistence Policy.

- 21/019 **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR YEAR END 2020-2021:** The Internal Audit report (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Dredge commented that it was a brilliant report and thanked the finance team and the Town Clerk for all their hard work. The Mayor also commented that the Town Clerk had highlighted the good work of the finance team. Cllr Wilson proposed that the report was accepted. All were in favour and there were no objections.

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

- 21/020 **ANNUAL RETURN:** The Annual Return (copy previously circulated) was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the sign off by the Internal Auditor (copy attached and report considered at item 21/019 above);
- ii) Confirm “yes” to all the statements in Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement;
- iii) Note that the exercise of public rights will commence on 3rd June 2021 and will end on 14th July 2021; and
- iv) Approve the Accounting Statements in Section 2, noting the supplementary information which is required as part of the return and authorise the Mayor to sign off the accounts.

21/021 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** The accounts paid by BACS during April 2021 (copy previously circulated) was considered. All were in favour and there were no objections.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the BACS payment in the sum of £42,760.78.

21/022 **LOCAL AUTHORITY REMOTE MEETINGS CALL FOR EVIDENCE:** The Government's call for evidence with regard to remote meetings (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Members discussed the pros and cons of remote meetings, agreeing that there were benefits to both remote and face to face meetings.

Cllr Wilson said that in terms of Climate Emergency the good thing about remote meetings is that it reduces the heating and lighting requirements of the Town Hall. It also reduces car journeys.

Cllr Munro commented that some Planning Committee meetings are very quick and it would be better if these could be done as a remote meeting.

Cllr L Rea thought that remote meetings may be more accessible for Council members and the public particularly those with young children.

Cllr Spencer advised that both remote and face to face meetings have their own advantages and disadvantages. Remote meetings limit what the rest of the family can do in the house. If you are at a physical meeting there are less distractions.

Cllr Jago thinks we should be supporting further technology for meetings and queried that under current legislation in a meeting room, would we be able to offer members of the public the change to attend via a video link.

The Town Clerk advised that only Councillors would need to be there in person.

Cllr Hladkij commented that she found face to face meetings easier.

Cllr Bowden said that he would not have been able to attend any meetings over the past seven months if they were face to face due to his personal circumstances.

Cllr Laity said that she had found remote meetings easier to chair.

The Town Clerk advised that it is a government consultation and he would collate the responses. South Hams District Council are lobbying for the continuation of remote meetings and have asked for support.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would collate the responses and respond.

21/023 **CASUAL VACANCY:** The co-option application form (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that an election has been called, however members thoughts on the form would be appreciated so should a casual vacancy occur in the future, the form would not need to be brought before Council for approval again.

Cllr Jago commented that he was the last member to have filled in the form and the questions all seemed appropriate.

There were no objections to the form.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the co-option form in its current format.

20/151 **UPDATE AND INFORMATION:** Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr L Rea commented that the community has done a great job of setting up the town and supporting local shops as lockdown started to lift, it was busy and a really nice atmosphere. Hopes this continues and that the Council will continue to support where they can.

The Mayor congratulated the Ivybridge Bloomers on how nice the town centre is looking. The Town Clerk advised that the Bloomers have engaged a company to deal with the phone box and that should be worked on soon.

Cllr Munro thanked the Administration Officer for her work on the website.

Cllr Dredge mentioned that he attended a course on protecting your property and making it safer. The Mayor asked whether Cllr Dredge could investigate whether he could produce a summary to circulate.

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

The meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed Date June 2021

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021

GENERAL

The Mayor called Mr Harris to speak. He read out a statement regarding skateboarding and wheeled sport. He grew up using some of the early skate parks and in the street. These days, things have changed and the development of newer concrete skate parks has been a huge improvement. Skateboarding is now an Olympic sport and is not just limited to boys, a girl is on the GB Olympic team. The importance of skate parks parallels the importance of other sports under the definition of the Localism Act 2011. A pump track would be a fantastic addition to Ivybridge but skateboarding cannot be practiced properly on one of these. If skate park was removed without an adequate replacement it would constitute a loss of sports facilities and not just a youth space. The problem with the current skate park is that it is fairly unusable by a proportion of the community, makes entry and practice difficult for younger users. Those in Ashburton, Bovey Tracey and Newton Abbot are usually busy after school. He is happy to provide details of what the problems are with this installation separately from the meeting. He is aware that there are plans for a pump track and potentially a skate facility at Filham. He is concerned about the access particularly for younger children and the safety as it is outside the centre of the town. He wished to ask whether Council had considered other locations for a new skate park such as Macandrews Field. He will be meeting the disbanded Friends of Macandrews Field to discuss concerns such as noise and planting being respected early next week.

The Mayor thanked Mr Harris for his contribution and agreed she had had concerns about the new facility being further from the town centre. She would be interested to hear further discussions regarding Macandrews Field.

Cllr T Rea asked whether Mr Harris could attend a Parks Committee or a Town Centre Group meeting.

Cllr Jago agreed and queried with regard to Aldi whether anything could be drawn down from that development.

The Mayor agreed and advised that they would be in touch.

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 29 Recorded Crimes in the Town Council area over the last month. A significant amount of these 'Crimes' were neighbour disputes, often a 'He said – she said' type of dispute but if there is mention of it happening before and it is perceived as Harassment, or that foul language was involved, then it has

to be recorded. Although we recognise these matters can cause stress and anxiety to those involved, they are recorded as very low-level offences.

I am aware of damage being caused, once again, to the public toilets in the Leisure Centre Carpark and also the Play Park at Weatherdon Drive – Victoria Park has also been subject of complaints. The team aware and will patrol whenever possible.

The main emerging threat is Theft from Motor Vehicle and in particular, theft of Catalytic Converters as the price of precious metals continues to rise. Most thefts at this time have been from commercial premises but private vehicles have been targeted in other areas.

We have seen the arrival of at least two, potentially three homeless persons within the Glanvilles Mill area. These gentlemen can be found outside or near to the larger shops like the Coop or nearby Tesco. An emotive subject and whereas we will always endeavour to safeguard and signpost individuals towards support, we sometimes have to deal with other aspects and in this case, we are now receiving complaints of 'Begging' and on one or two occasions, the refusal to give money has apparently led to some verbal abuse from said 'Beggar'. We are patrolling the town frequently and have spoken to the gents on many occasions. It is a matter we are aware of and keeping an eye on.

Speeding.

Officers from Ivybridge conducted some speed enforcement work over the bank holiday weekend. In particular, they focused on Cornwood Rd and reported the following results.

17 x vehicles were stopped in total:

11 x drivers reported for excess speed (highest being 49MPH in a 30MPH).

1 x driver reported for no insurance.

5 x drivers issued WOA for various offences.

Sgt R Canning

Cllr Dredge commented that SHDC housing officer has spoken to the homeless persons.

Cllr Parsons commented that when challenged one of these individuals had been identified as a scammer, and had not been seen in the town since.

The Mayor wondered what the time frame for the speed enforcement work was.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbot was in attendance earlier in the meeting but had to leave due to a prior engagement. He provided the following report which was circulated to Councillors before the meeting:

Good evening Residents, Parish Councillors and our Officers. I've been glad to attend and report to Town Council Meetings over the year. My apologies over my inconsistent attendance this evening as I also attend Ugborough Parish Council and their AGM is also tonight.

South Hams District Council

The Council is on the brink of committing to its declaration of a Climate Change & Biodiversity Emergency. It has allocated funds at South Hams and at Ward level but little is yet spent.

We are all affected by the Waste collection changes. I have seen individual comments about the increased storage requirements, the amount of sorting required in the home, and missed collections but my overall impression is residents are glad to participate in the improved recycling. This is not true for everyone and my contact details are appended. From the Council side of things, the changeover is happening with only a few hiccups and these are being addressed.

The introduction of French-style '*Aires de Camping*' may be a boost to tourism but we'll need to keep an eye on their impact on the community.

South Hams District Council's Annual meeting is on the 20th May, in Tavistock (due to Covid restrictions).

Ivybridge District Councillors and I will co-host a visit to the Town of the Council's Chief Executive, Andy Bates, on the 28th May.

Residents of the Town

The District Council forwards money to projects in their Wards through the District Councillors. I have been able to support care for those with challenges, to the arts, and free parking at Christmas, together with computers for schools through the Rotary, and a grass spiking machine for the bowling green.

I have been glad to have been involved in the hand rail to the steps up from Godwell Lane to a Footpath in the neighbouring Parish. Many people are pleased with this addition and with the improvement to the steps themselves. I do hope something more may be achieved for a level route.

I have participated in and organised litter picks. I am grateful for the loan of the litter picking equipment. I am working with a resident and the Town's ranger to clean up a runnel and drainage on one of our own footpaths in the immediate future.

In 2021, I have been in direct contact with 20 residents by email and many more through face to face meetings. I am currently liaising over play park repairs (including park gate closings), unstable brick footpaths, building noise and dust, views up river from New Bridge to the Ivy Bridge, motor cycle and bicycle parking, and the Joint Local Plan.

I will be glad to answer questions or find out answers.

Cllr Victor Abbott

The public participation session closed at 7.15pm.

DRAFT