

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge  
held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 23 January 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr T Lannin  
Cllr V Abbott Cllr T Munro  
Cllr J Brown Cllr L Rea  
Cllr L Budd Cllr A Spencer  
Cllr P Dredge Cllr R Wilson  
Cllr A Khong

**In Attendance:** Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)  
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

*An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.18pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.*

*\*Cllr Budd arrived at 7.06pm*

22/092 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Cade, Parsons, Pringle, T Rea and Reville.

22/093 **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.

22/094 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/095 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Brown seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/096 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Munro seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/097 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy

Town Mayor for the period 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (previously circulated) were noted.

22/098

**POLICY UPDATES:** The policies (copies previously circulated) were considered.

- i. There were no changes to the Anti-Bribery Statement and Policy 2023. Cllr Wilson proposed and the Mayor seconded. All were in favour of adopting this policy.
- ii. There were no changes to the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy 2023. Cllr Wilson proposed and the Mayor seconded. All were in favour of adopting this policy.
- iii. The Town Clerk reminded Members that they can specify social wellbeing and environmental requirements in the specification for tenders. Cllr Dredge proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded. All were in favour of adopting the Procurement Policy 2023.
- iv. Cllr Dredge proposed and the Mayor seconded. All were in favour of adopting the Internal Audit Policy 2023.
- v. Cllr Dredge proposed and the Mayor seconded. All were in favour of adopting the Internal Audit System 2023.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Dredge and the Town Hall staff for their work on these policies

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Receive and adopt the Anti-Bribery Statement and Policy 2023
- ii. Receive and adopt the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy 2023
- iii. Receive and adopt the Procurement Policy 2023
- iv. Receive and adopt the Internal Audit Policy 2023
- v. Receive and adopt the Internal Audit System 2023.

22/099

**FINANCIAL RISK ASSESSMENT:** The financial risk assessment (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Councillor Wilson proposed this was accepted. Cllr Lannin seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept the Financial Risk Assessment 2023.

22/100

**ELECTIONS:** The potential activities to encourage residents to stand as a Town Councillor at the 2023 elections were discussed. The Town Clerk advised that Members who wish to stand again need to ensure they complete the paperwork, the deadline is on the email which he sent today. He knew a few Members will be stepping down at the next election and the Council need to be sure that the community are aware that nominations will be open. It is better coming from Members rather than the Clerk as they can share their experiences.

Cllr Wilson suggested sharing the process on social media and the local papers.

The Mayor suggested an article for the Imag.

Cllr L Rea advised that she is happy to write something – but the Clerk emphasised the need to ensure the article has the correct tone, encouraging the public to join the Council not promoting individual members. She went on to suggest an online meeting or a stall in the town on a Saturday morning.

Cllr Spencer suggested time before the next Council meeting for Councillors to mingle with members of the public.

The Town Clerk advised that he would need to check whether members can put their names or whether comments would need to be anonymous.

Cllr Budd advised that Totnes had a double page spread with speech bubbles for members comments. It would be good to get a copy of this to see if we could do something similar.

Cllr Wilson commented that we need to ensure prospective candidates understand the commitment, this should be included in the description of the role.

Cllr Budd suggested a simplified version of the role rather than a 5 page document.

Cllr L Rea said it would be useful to include how many hours people would need to commit and that it would be good to have a range of people from different backgrounds.

Cllr Budd said need to ensure that people know that working full time is not a barrier to being a councillor.

Cllr Spencer commented that if the Right to Roam / wild camping on Dartmoor is on the next agenda it might encourage residents to attend the meeting.

Cllr Budd agreed that it needs to be interesting, something to get people talking. E.g. the Parks renovation, active travel, skate park.

The Town Clerk listed the following proposed events:

- Face to face session before the next Council meeting on 6 March
- Stall in the town on a Saturday morning
- Video with testimonials

The Mayor suggested A4 posters.

The Town Clerk agreed – a poster to point people to events and video on the website.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk would

- investigate what Councillors can and cannot do in the run up to the election with a view to video clips or quotes;
- plan a face to face session before the next Council meeting on 6 March; and
- look into organising a stall in the town on a Saturday
- Issue posters or articles as appropriate

22/101

**ARTS PROJECT PROPOSAL:** The request for support from Ivybridge Community Arts (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr L Rea commented that the decorative kites would cost a lot of money when the Town Council already has bunting and thought

that the money could be better spent on other things. However, she did feel that it would be good to have a proper event for the Coronation.

Members all agreed that they did not want to support the Fore Street decorations, however they were interested to hear more information about the workshops and competitions before agreeing to support these.

It was **RESOLVED** to request further information and a cost breakdown for the workshops.

22/102

**BUTTERPARK:** The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. The Town Clerk advised that he and the Mayor had met with Devon County Council, a very useful meeting. They are aiming to meet next week to put everything in place so the tender can be issued. The tender is written and ready to go once the legal side is sorted out. Hoping that the tender will be released at the end of March.

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

22/103

**BUDGET AND PRECEPT:** The budget and precept for 2023-2024 (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Abbott queried what new things had been set out in the budget. The Town Clerk advised that the planned play area improvements were there, other things would hopefully be funded through the Community Funding Officer. There is also money to support Active Travel. Cllr Lannin commented that the budget document is the best one she has seen, clearly showing costs and options. She feels that the Community Fundraiser is something the Town Council should support, not only the Council but also community groups would benefit. Cllr L Rea agreed with the comments about the Community Fundraiser. She also felt that the boundary needs to be looked at in the next year, if all the houses in the Ivybridge area were actually in Ivybridge it would benefit the whole community. She commented that she understands why the precept has had to be increased but it is a difficult decision. The Mayor noted that the Community Fundraiser is only a 12 month position so if the Town Council are not getting value they are only tied in for one year. Cllr Dredge thanked the Senior Finance Officer for her work on the budget. Cllr Wilson proposed that the budget and precept be accepted. Cllr Dredge seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget and confirm the precept for 2023/24 in the sum of £563,696.

22/104

**UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Cllr Dredge commented that the theft of high voltage cables has led to a major investigation.

Cllr Dredge advised that the GWR meeting was well attended and successful with approximately 255 delegates.

The Mayor thanked Cllr and Mrs Wilson for their work on Christmas Day. The event was a great success and the attendees were all very grateful. She thanked the Town Council staff for their work too.

Cllr L Rea asked for more information about the Town Plan.

The Town Clerk advised that Ivybridge has become the pilot on this. They are going back over all the plans from the previous 10 years, looking at what is still valid and putting it into a plan of things that are achievable. There may be some things which stretch across other towns, for example the boundary review – Totnes and Dartmouth also want this.

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

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

Signed: ..... Date: 6 March 2023

## IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

### Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023

#### COUNTY COUNCILLOR

#### COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following reports which were circulated prior to the meeting:

#### DCC Kerbside Residual Waste Composition Analysis

Members may recall that I reported that the above analysis was taking place in November 2022 in that some 1600 residual waste bins was being analysed across Devon County Council administrative area.

The results are in and make some disturbing reading.

#### **Objectives**

Specific aims of the work were to:

- Understand the levels of waste being generated by each individual authority and Devon County as a whole.
- Evaluate the amount of specific materials collected in the residual bins that could be potentially be collected separately for recycling at the kerbside.
- Assess the amount of food being disposed of and the proportion deemed avoidable.
- Give information on levels of general packaging in the residual waste and the proportion qualifying as DRS compatible.

#### **Executive Summary of Findings**

- Weighted across all authorities, 78% of households sampled throughout Devon presented residual waste for collection.
- In terms of waste generation, households were setting out an average of 4.2kg per household per week (South Hams 4.9kg)
- **Food waste** was seen to be the major component of residual waste, forming 27% of the total (South Hams 25%). Of this food waste 79% is avoidable with 35% of all discarded food **still packaged**.
- **Paper** made up 10% of the residual waste (South Hams 10%); 38% of which was recyclable at the kerbside.
- **Cardboard** items made up 4% of the residual waste (South Hams 3%); 61% of this was recyclable at the kerbside.
- **Plastic** items made up 15.4% of the residual waste (South Hams 14.6%); 26% of this was recyclable at the kerbside.
- **Metal** items made up 3.2% of the residual waste (South Hams 3.7%); 56% was classified as recyclable.

- **Glass** made up 2.3% of the residual waste (South Hams 3%); 47% of this was classified as recyclable.
- **Textiles** made up 5% of the residual waste (South Hams 6%); 54% was classified as recyclable.
- 6.8% of residual waste was found to be **garden organics** (South Hams 9.5%).
- In total 41% of residual waste collected could have been recycled at the kerbside – 1.7kg per household per week.
- **Around 55% (or 2.3kg per household per week) of residual waste is potentially recyclable when compared with all materials collected separately by all Devon authorities.**

### **Packaging Content**

- An average of 0.8kg per household per week of total kerbside waste was due to packaging materials; 18.7% of the total.
- 56% of the packaging disposed of was formed of plastics.
- 1.5% of total kerbside waste was due to DRS drinks containers.

### **Councillor Roger Croad – Devon County Council**

**Date 23/01/2023**

#### **Households reminded of support available as new survey shows rise in food poverty in Devon**

**Families struggling to afford to eat healthily and keep warm this winter are being reminded that support is available through a number of schemes being delivered by Devon County Council (DCC) and its partners.**

The number of Devon households unable to access or afford the food that they need to ensure that they and their families stay healthy has increased by 70 per cent in 18 months according to the latest research. And more than a third (36 per cent) say that they had planned on switching off their heating altogether this winter to help make ends meet.

The [Independent Food and Fuel Insecurity Survey](#) commissioned by Public Health Devon, reveals that food insecurity amongst Devon's households has increased from 17 per cent in Spring 2021 to 29 per cent during Autumn last year. It compared a baseline study conducted in March and April 2021 with interviews of 1,206 households in September and October 2022.

The results show that 70 per cent of all households with an income of less than £16,190 and children have low food and fuel security, while 60 per cent of single adult households with children are affected.

High rates of food insecurity were also found in households where the main respondent is long-term sick or disabled (58 per cent); where at least one person

has a mental health condition (55 per cent); and where the main respondent is unemployed (55 per cent).

Additionally, the proportion of Devon households who have accessed emergency food support in the previous 30 days had more than doubled from two per cent to five per cent.

The study also looked at fuel insecurity and found that 36 per cent had planned to switch their heating off altogether and 15 per cent said they aimed to spend time 'somewhere else' to keep warm.

Sixteen per cent also said they would have to 'borrow' to pay their bills.

Councillor Roger Croad, DCC's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Communities and Equality, said:

"We know that people are struggling with rising costs of energy and food at a time when a lot of households have seen reductions in their incomes, meaning that some people in Devon are not eating properly or able heat their homes. This research helps us to better understand the extent of the problem locally.

"There are a variety of schemes on offer depending on your circumstances and I would encourage people to visit our [cost of living webpages](#) to find out more and access support where possible."

**Steve Brown, Devon's Director of Public Health, said:**

"This research gives us a fuller understanding of the extent and experience of food insecurity across Devon and how this has changed since 2021, how fuel and food insecurity interact with each other, and the impact of both on local people and their families. It will help us determine what local help and support is needed, and where to target that help to support Devon's residents during the current cost-of-living crisis."

Devon County Council is working with local partners, including local councils, the NHS and the voluntary and community sector, on ways to support communities. These include:

[Household Support Fund](#)

This fund is to support households that are struggling to pay for food, energy, water bills and other related essentials; especially those who may not be eligible for other Government support.

[Free School Meals](#) and [Free school meals holiday voucher scheme](#)

All children up to year two at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. From year 3 onwards, you may continue to qualify. You can check eligibility and apply on our [Free School Meals](#) page. Additionally, families in Devon on low incomes, whose children receive free school meals, also receive school meals holiday vouchers which are funded by the Household Support Fund. To see if your child is eligible for free school meals, or to apply, please [visit our website](#) or call our Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019

[Growing Communities Fund](#)



Devon County Council can award grants of £500 - £3,000 to groups or projects that:

- Address hardship such as food or fuel insecurity, offering warm safe spaces, something to eat and drink, and a place to work, learn or socialise.
- Building community resilience – e.g., guidance on budgeting, cooking low-cost nutritional meals.
- Tackling loneliness and isolation

### [Locality Budget](#)

An annual budget for each elected member to respond to local community issues, such as but not limited to hardship and poverty, loneliness, and isolation in their Division

### [Citizens Advice Devon](#)

Devon County Council continues to provide funding to Citizens Advice Devon to provide independent and impartial support and advice.

### [The HAF \(Holiday Activity & Food\) Programme](#)

This programme supports children to eat more healthily, be more active over the school holidays and have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition as well as be more engaged with school and other local [services](#).

### [Libraries for Life](#)

Libraries across Devon and Torbay are providing warm welcoming spaces, where people can use the free Wi-Fi and computers if they wish to access any of the available online support. Some libraries also have community fridge projects, that make surplus food from local supermarkets available to all for free. Contact your local library or email [home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk](mailto:home.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk) for more information.

For more information visit [our cost of living webpages](#).

You can [access the Food and Fuel Insecurity Survey on Public Health Devon's website](#).

Cllr L Rea commented that the waste report was interesting. She had had issues with wrapping paper not being collected with the recycling even though it was fully recyclable with all Sellotape removed.

The Mayor advised that she had emailed Cllr Croad about the water flowing down Cornwood Road. DCC had advised that nothing would be done before April – but there was no guarantee that anything would be done after that either.

Cllr Brown commented that surely they have a duty of care with the cold weather and the risk of ice.

The Mayor advised that they have put a sign up warning about ice.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

### **COUNCILLOR ABBOTT**

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

#### **Household Support Fund**

The Benefits team have made payments totalling £32,170 to 98 households, helping them with food, energy costs and other essential household items. They have also made payments of £300 to 192 households which receive Council Tax disabled band reduction.

#### **Garden Waste**

The collection rounds are being made up from today Monday

#### **Rough Sleepers**

The count was made overnight 14<sup>th</sup>/ 15<sup>th</sup> November. In the South Hams there have been 5 rough sleepers of whom two have been found long-term housing and the other 3 chose not to take up the offer. Contact continues. The work continues throughout the year and South Hams has had contacts with 12 people through 2022.

#### **Pre-Teens**

There are two more talks left in the series:

- on Tuesday (tomorrow), with the subjects Relationships, Exploitation, Pornography, Societal Stereotypes, and
- Tuesday week, with the subjects Physical risks, Safety planning, Mental health, Self-care.

#### **New Skills**

Following on from the success of previous free illegal money lending awareness talks held over the past couple of years, there is to be a series of talks on loan sharks and the wider issue throughout January, February and March.

#### **Stalking**

South Devon and Dartmoor Community Safety Partnership is working with Devon and Cornwall Police to provide professionals with a bitesize awareness session on stalking and harassment.

The partnership is really keen to increase professionals' knowledge around stalking, particularly helping improve understanding of the impact this can have within our communities.

#### **Ukrainian Refugees**

The Homes for Ukraine scheme is now in its tenth month with 213 in the South Hams and a further 43 visas granted for those yet to travel. They have been given help to settle with support to claim welfare benefits, open bank accounts, obtain national insurance numbers, apply for schooling, registering with health organisations and, once settled, to seek employment.

Central Government have announced an extension to the scheme taking it to 24 months from the date guests arrive. Until the end of December 2022, the

government associated each person with £10,500 to Devon County Council, of which SHDC received 60%. The overall grant changed at the start of 2023 to £5,900 per guest and SHDC have joined with Exeter and East Devon to lead Team Devon's approach to support. This includes but is not limited to:

- Continuing with English speaking lessons and ensuring all of our guests have access to attend
- Bespoke English lessons with a focus on specific work needs for highly skilled guests
- Working with the Jobcentre to support guests into appropriate employment
- Qualification recognition and statements of comparability to UK qualifications as required
- Working with organisations to provide CV Writing and Interview Skills coaching
- Developing networks of Ukrainian guests to encourage ownership of their time in our area
- Working with the schools to ensure they are obtaining the funding to support our guests as required
- Working with current and potential hosts to ensure an adequate supply of host accommodation is available in our area
- Providing housing advice and working with landlords to support guests into the private rental sector when required

#### Election, 4<sup>th</sup> May

Current Councillors will have a briefing on Voter ID on 2nd March

For the public, there is

- ✓ a briefing on, "Becoming a Councillor", on 16th March, 6.30 pm to 8 pm at Follaton House, and
- ✓ a briefing for Candidates and Agents on 13th April, 6.30 pm to 8 pm at Follaton House

#### Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) School at Exeter Road/ Rutt Lane

This was passed through the Development Management Committee (DMC) on Wednesday. No associated funds were forthcoming to support the local Active Travel plans.

The Mayor asked where the pre-teen talks had been advertised as she had only seen them in the Imag. She felt that it should have been well promoted, perhaps with posters too.

Cllr Abbott advised that it was shared on social media as well.

### **GENERAL**

Cllr Lannin read out the following report:

Many of you will have heard in the news about the legal action taken by a wealthy local landowner to remove the right of people to wild camp on Dartmoor. While Ivybridge (and therefore the direct remit of this council) is not included within Dartmoor National Park, I believe this change does impact both the residents of Ivybridge and visitors to Ivybridge, and so I wish to raise this

matter under public participation. Many Ivybridge residents have enjoyed the ability to legally camp out on Dartmoor, whether as teenagers training for the Ten Tors Challenge or DofE expeditions, families spending time together, friends having an adventure, or solo campers enjoying the solitude, peace and beauty of the moor. Wild campers come to Ivybridge because we are the "Gateway to the moor", and because the 2 Moors way runs through Ivybridge, which is a very popular walking route.

As someone who regularly wild camps on Dartmoor, leaving no trace, I have been following this case with concern, and was very saddened at the Judge's recent decision. While an agreement has now been made with some of the landowners for permissive access, this is not a good solution. A recreational right to enjoy the moor at night, allowing walking access to a wide area, has been removed, and replaced with a short-term financial agreement with significantly less land included, (especially less of the Erme Valley and South Moor closer to Ivybridge) and direct costs to an already cash starved Dartmoor National Park, which is funded by taxpayer's money.

The agreement is for permissive access only, and the agreement is only for a year. As we have seen with the removal of permissive parking at both New Waste and recently at Harford, this can be easily removed without any consultation with the public, if the Landowner changes their mind, or if the financial offer isn't of interest to the landowners. My concern is this agreement means that DNP will not appeal this decision.

As can be seen by the recent protest last weekend, I am not alone in my concerns, and many people, from a range of backgrounds share the sense of loss I feel. I do not know if I would have ventured onto the moor at night, especially alone if it had not been legal for me to do so. Wild camping on Dartmoor has given me joy and benefited my mental health. I wish to put on record my belief that this modern-day enclosure of common land should be appealed by DNP in the courts, and that if this is allowed to stand, it will be to the detriment of all our community.

Cllr Budd commented that she had heard that Ten Tors teams from further away have been talking about no longer attending due to this.

Cllr Dredge advised that he was happy to raise the issue with DALC.

The Town Clerk agreed to include this on the agenda for the next Full Council meeting.

The public participation session closed at 7.18pm.