

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 6 March 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Mayor) Cllr A Rea
Cllr V Abbott Cllr L Rea
Cllr L Budd Cllr K Reville
Cllr P Dredge Cllr A Spencer
Cllr A Khong Cllr R Wilson
Cllr T Lannin

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
PC Wills
2 Members of the Public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.21pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

**PC Wills and 1 member of the public left at 7.21pm*

**1 member of the public left at 8.53 pm*

22/105 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Brown, Cade, Munro, Parsons and Pringle. The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Parsons has been unable to attend Council meetings due to ill health and asked Councillors to approve this absence. Cllr A Rea proposed and Cllr Wilson seconded. All were in favour.
The Mayor commented that Cllr Parsons has been a valued member of the Council for many years.

22/106 **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.

22/107 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 23rd January 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/108 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 9th January 2023 and 30th January 2023 (copies previously circulated) were received.
Cllr A Rea advised that the committee works in several different ways, reacting to regular planning applications received from South

Hams District Council, looking at bigger issues like the proposed special school which can be referred to Council if necessary and taking the initiative to build relations with others, for example water quality and trees. Cllr Hladkij has been an honorary tree warden for many years.

Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Budd seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/109 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th January (copy previously circulated) were received.

The Town Clerk advised that the Watermark's 15th anniversary is approaching.

Cllr L Rea queried whether any events are planned as it could be a good marketing opportunity. She went on to ask whether, with the change in staffing, there would be any changes in the marketing strategy.

The Town Clerk advised that there was not a lot of interest in the 10th anniversary. The team will continue to monitor the success of events and keep trying new things. For example, the science workshop was a great success.

Cllr L Rea commented that the pantomime was very well attended.

Cllr Lannin advised that people really appreciated the staff dressing up for World Book Day.

Cllr Budd queried whether anything was planned for when the teachers strike on 15 – 16 March.

The Town Clerk advised that he would check what is on.

Cllr Dredge confirmed and The Mayor seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/110 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/111 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th February (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr A Rea asked whether it would be more appropriate for officers to present the accounts and other financial matters rather than Cllr Dredge so Councillors could scrutinise the figures at the meeting.

The Town Clerk commented that all Councillors should be reviewing the figures.

Cllr A Rea commented that he would prefer it if Cllr Dredge questioned the accounts during the meeting rather than before.

The Town Clerk advised that any Councillor could ask for information in advance, any concerns or areas could be looked through and responded to at the meeting. Questions could be answered at the meeting but it is easier if they are received beforehand to allow time to research.

Cllr Abbott asked whether Councillors should attend other meetings.

The Town Clerk advised that standing orders can be suspended at a meeting to allow a Councillor to speak if they are not on that committee. Alternatively, they could speak to the Chair or member of the committee prior to the meeting to ask them to raise an issue.

Cllr L Rea asked whether there is a forecast for closing yet.

The Town Clerk advised that it is close to break even due to increased fuel and food costs at The Watermark.

Cllr L Rea queried staff costs.

The Town Clerk advised that reducing management by 25% has helped.

Cllr Khong asked what the Emotional Logic Centre is.

The Town Clerk advised that it is a local charity supporting children's mental health.

Cllr Wilson proposed and Cllr A Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/112 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 17th January 2023 to 28th February 2023 (previously circulated) were noted.

22/113 **HEDGEHOG HIGHWAYS:** The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Abbott commented that this seems like quite a simple thing to build into new properties.

The Town Clerk suggested that this be picked up by the Planning Committee.

The Mayor advised that they are asking us to buy a box of surrounds to sell on to residents at cost price.

Cllr Lannin commented that she would support this, it's a good way of raising awareness.

The Town Clerk advised that there was some funding available in the biodiversity pot. Any profit made could be ringfenced to be spent on biodiversity projects.

Cllr Lannin proposed that Council support the Hedgehog Highways Initiative and Cllr Wilson seconded. All were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the Hedgehog Highways Initiative.

22/114 **THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2023:** The Keep Britain Tidy initiative (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk explained that this is about supporting and promoting the idea of a time to go and pick litter and to raise the profile on this. Councillors will need to be mindful of the purdah period.

Cllr Lannin queried where we stand on insurance.

The Town Clerk explained that groups such as school groups or Brownies would have their own insurance. Families would not require insurance. Organised groups of individuals need to be more careful.

Cllr Abbott advised that his group are informed that there is no group insurance and they go out at their own risk.

The Mayor advised that Cllr Abbott will be doing a litter pick on Friday and she will go along.

The Town Clerk advised that we can promote that we have the equipment for people to borrow.

All were in favour of supporting the Great British Spring Clean 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** to support The Great British Spring Clean 2023

22/115

STANDING ORDERS: The proposed changes to Standing Orders (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Cllr Dredge advised that the Internal Auditor thought that the £25,000 had become £30,000. We thought that the £30,000 included VAT. The Internal Auditor has not come back to us on this.

The Town Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor is Stuart Pollard and he is from an external company which covers a large number of councils across southern England. The Internal Audit

Representatives meet with the Internal Auditor during his visit.

Cllr Dredge proposed the amendments to the Standing Orders. Cllr Wilson seconded and the majority were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to amend the Standing Orders as follows:

Standing order 20

Para c – replace:

A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant statutory thresholds is subject to Regulations 109-114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include a requirement on the Council to advertise the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website regardless of what other means it uses to advertise the opportunity.

With:

A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £25,000 but less than the relevant thresholds referred to in standing order 20(f) is subject to the “light touch” arrangement under Regulations 109 – 114 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 unless it proposes to use an existing list of approved suppliers (framework agreement)

Para f replace:

In a procurement exercise the Council will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or any replacement or update of them, in accordance with the Council’s Procurement Policy and Financial Regulations.

With:

Where the value of a contract is likely to exceed the threshold specified by the Office of Government Commerce from time to time,

the Council must consider whether the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016 apply to the contract and, if either of those Regulations apply, the Council must comply with procurement rules. NALC's procurement guidance contains further details.

22/116

CAMPING ON DARTMOOR: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that he had hoped to have more information on this but it is still in the early stages. He had been advised that a letter of support would be welcome. The Dartmoor Preservation Association have set up a crowdfunder to support Dartmoor National Park's appeal.

Cllr Lannin commented that the Dartmoor Preservation Association's website is very well set out and this would be a good thing to promote. She went on to say that the Scouts are not able to camp at Harford any more, it is now too great a distance for them to walk to a part of the moor where they can camp.

Cllr Lannin proposed the Council write a letter of support to DNPA and promote the crowdfunder on social media. Cllr L Rea seconded this and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to write a letter of support to DNPA and promote the crowdfunder on social media.

22/117

CORONATION: The report (copy previously circulated) was considered.

- i. Cllr L Rea commented that the bunting looked good last year. Cllr Wilson proposed Council agree to put bunting up in Fore Street. Cllr L Rea seconded and all were in favour.

- ii. Cllr L Rea asked whether there would be any cost for the event in The Watermark.

The Town Clerk advised that the cost would be for the food. People will be seated at long or round tables and tickets are now available.

- iii. The Town Clerk explained that as requested by Council previously, Ivybridge Community Arts have provided more detail about the funding required for kite making workshops. They had submitted several different options with different costs.

Cllr A Rea asked what material the kites would be made from.

The Town Clerk advised that they are not plastic

Cllr Budd commented that 60 places is very few for the number of children who would benefit from this.

Cllr Wilson commented that he felt families should contribute to this.

Cllr Abbott was concerned that this may exclude those families on low income.

Cllr Budd suggested liaising with schools could identify the children who would benefit. She then voiced concerns about

the Beacon Room being very small for a group of 20 children.

The Town Clerk explained that Ivybridge Community Arts were hoping to hold a free event for as many children as possible.

Cllr Wilson felt that this is a lot of money to benefit only a small number of children.

Cllr Wilson proposed that this was not supported. Cllr Reville seconded and the majority voted to not support this.

Cllr Budd suggested looking at providing commemorative pencils for all primary school children.

The Town Clerk advised that there is £900 left in the budget.

Cllr Spencer suggested a Kites for the King competition where the room, either the Stowford Hall or the Beeson Suite, would be offered for free and people bring their own recycled materials to make a kite.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Put up bunting in Fore Street
- ii. Note the event in The Watermark
- iii. Not support the Kites for the King competition but to offer free room space if required and to investigate providing commemorative pencils to all primary school children.

22/118

BUTTERPARK: The Town Clerk provided a verbal update.

The Town Clerk advised that by Wednesday the agreement with Devon County Council should be ready to sign. The tender should be out by the end of March then 8-12 weeks for offers to come in. The next stage would be dependent on planning.

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

22/119

HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY: The Health and Safety Policy 2023 (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr A Rea asked who wrote the policy.

The Town Clerk advised it is produced by the Town Council's Health & Safety advisor.

Cllr Lannin voiced concerns about the wording of the document.

Cllr A Rea also voiced concerns about the wording of the document.

The Town Clerk asked Councillors to forward their comments on to him so the policy could be amended.

It was **RESOLVED** to refer the policy back to Council once the requested amendments have been made.

22/120

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

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

In view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it was advisable that the public and press be invited to withdraw.

IN COMMITTEE

22/121 **IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY AWARDS:** The nominations for the Citizen and Community Group of the Year Awards (copy previously circulated) were considered.

A vote was taken for the David Britton Citizen of the Year Award.

A vote was then taken for the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year Award

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Award the David Britton Citizen of the Year to Andy Edmonds.
- ii. Award the Nick Cummins Community Group of the Year to Ivybridge Brewing.

The meeting closed at 8.59pm.

Signed: Date: 17 April 2023

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 6th March 2023

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

The committees continue to run and I was out on site visits and at the Development Management Committee since the last Town Council. Yet, my report on the work of the District Council is sparse this time.

Waste Disposal and Recycling

Owners with private vans using the Recycling Centre need a permit since last Wednesday. The permits are free.

Residents can check their garden waste collection day by visiting www.southhams.gov.uk/findmycollectionday

The coming elections

The pre-election period runs from Thursday 23 March 2023 to Thursday 4 May 2023 inclusive, constraining comment and funding distribution from the District Council.

The deadline for Localities Funds disbursement is this Friday.

Photo ID is now required when voting at polling stations. If residents don't have photo ID they can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate, which is a free voter ID document. Residents can make an appointment with SHDC to receive help in making an application. Tel: 01803 861434 You will need your national insurance number and date of birth.

Postal Voters do not require Photo ID and you can make a free application to the District Council for a Postal Vote.

There is:

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

- *Register to vote by 11:59pm on Monday 17th April*
- *Apply for a postal vote by 5pm on Tuesday 18th April*
- *Apply for a Voter Authority Certificate by Tuesday 25th April*

I'm pleased to say I went out again with a Mobile Localities Officer. In Ivybridge, he inspected Play Parks for safety and keeps an eye on standards; he also worked on litter and fly-tipping; we visited Sherford and saw some issues local to that new area. We completed the day by following up on fly-tipping north of Plympton and towards Warleigh Point.

Following the support the Town received from the Police Cadets at the Christmas Fair, I've had a first visit to their weekly meetings. The topic was police dog handlers and I was able to see dog handlers at work. As you can imagine, it was fascinating.

After the election (if it's still appropriate), I hope to return to talk about the work of the Town and District Councils. If you have issues you'd like highlighted, please let me know.

The Mayor commented that she had heard some information about photo ID being required to vote would be being sent out with the new Council Tax information.

Cllr A Rea commented that he had opted in to have his brown bin collected and had received a sticker for it. Today was the first day his bin was collected but the bin had been left in the middle of the pavement. He asked what the guidance was. Cllr Abbott advised that they are supposed to put the bins back on the edge of the property and he would raise this.

POLICE

Sgt Canning had provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

Although significantly better, youth ASB is still rearing its head from time to time. Just recently this has manifested in a series of shoplifting offences. PC Perry has managed to secure the CCTV and statements for these offences and will be interviewing a number of young persons in the near future.

We have suffered a reoccurrence of anti-Semitic graffiti, this time in the underpass beneath the A38 as you walk towards the Fire station. The Ivybridge team are aware and checking the area regularly.

There were 67 calls for service via 101 / 999 in the town council area for the month of February.

Op Langstone is the name given to our response and investigation into the series of power cable thefts we have experienced around the outskirts of Ivybridge. This is an incredibly high risk type of theft whereby a person sends a battery operated angle grinder up on an insulated pole and cuts live power cables down from the network. Some of the cables carry 33,000Volts. We have now had 11 such thefts so we would like to remind residents, if they see any suspicious activity around power lines, please call 999 immediately.

Cllr Budd queried whether those involved in youth ASB are a core group or whether the group is getting bigger.

PC Wills advised that it is a core group but a new generation as older youths move on into jobs or further education.

Cllr Budd queried whether Tesco and Coop's policy of not prosecuting shoplifters has continued.

PC Wills advised that they really do need every incident to be reported as resources are allocated depending on need and need is worked out by looking at the number of reported incidents.

The Mayor thanked PC Wills for attending the meeting.

GENERAL

Mr Steele advised that he would be standing for election to South Hams District Council.

Ms Dommatt advised that she would be standing for election to South Hams District Council and thanked the Mayor for the letter of condolence her mother had received.

Cllr A Rea advised that he would be standing for election to South Hams District Council.

Cllr Abbott advised that he would be standing for election to South Hams District Council.

Cllr Wilson commented that prior to Covid, Cllr Croad was looking at painting double yellow lines on Exeter Road by the school as parked cars make it dangerous at school drop off and pick up times, and asked whether there was any update on this.

The Town Clerk advised that Devon County Council had decided not to go ahead with this.

Cllr Budd commented that traffic queues will only get worse when the new special school opens.

Cllr Dredge commented that there has to be a serious accident to make change happen.

Cllr A Rea asked whether Cllr Croad could be invited to the next meeting to speak about parking on Exeter Road.

The Mayor raised a concern that the Gold Bus will be going through Sherford from April not straight into Plymouth which will lead to a longer journey time and it won't go to Sainsburys any more.

The public participation session closed at 7.21pm.