

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee
Held at the Town Hall on Monday 25th July 2022 at 7pm.**

Present: Cllr S Hladkij (Chairman)
Cllr P Dredge
Cllr T Rea
Cllr A Spencer
Cllr R Wilson

In attendance: Mr Jonathan Parsons, Town Clerk

PR22/001 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr Munro & Cllr Parsons.

PR22/002 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** The Chairman invited the declaration of any interests. No interests were declared.

PR21/003 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** Members considered the accounts for payment for April and May 2022, plus June 2022 (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge went through the larger and more unusual one off payments in the report, such as the grave digging costs, a strimmer purchase, Erme Court costs and Jubilee celebration expenses. In report PR22/003b he highlighted a correction payment of £567.50 due to an administration error which had been resolved. Members considered the list of Direct Debts for June 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the list for payments for April and May 2022 in the sum of £158,816.43, plus June 2022 in the sum £98,696.54 and approved the list of Direct Debts.

PR22/004 **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS:** Consideration was given to a report on the accounts for the period to 30th June 2022 (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge explained to Members that most figures were inline with the budget with approximately 25% expenditure as expected at month 3. Most Council expenses are fairly even throughout the year, with some exceptions, including the Watermark. With regard to the DALC subscription expenditure, Cllr Dredge informed the committee that DALC were looking at how subs were calculated for individual Councils.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the accounts for the period to 30th June 2022.

PR22/005 **DEBTORS UPDATE:** The Committee considered the aged debtors report (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge informed members that the Finance Officer had chased any outstanding debts and there were no debts of concern. Cllr Wilson commented that this was a short list which was good news.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the debtors update.

PR22/006 **HEALTH AND SAFETY:** The Committee considered the regular update from the Assistant Town Clerk. With regard to grass verges, the Town Clerk clarified that our Health and Safety obligations are being met as we are cutting to the specification set by Devon County Highways with regard to grass verge visibility splays (report previously circulated).

PR22/007 **INSURANCE RENEWAL:** The Town Clerk has met with the broker and the renewal costs will soon be known but were not available for the meeting. The broker the Council uses is a market leader for Local Council insurance and tender a huge volume of Local Councils in one go to get the best policy value across the board.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Town Clerk to renew the policy from 1st September 2022

PR22/008 **RETROFIT LED LIGHTING AT THE WATERMARK:** The Town Clerk introduced his report on the fitting of LED lighting across The Watermark building. The lowest quote had offered good value in his opinion, along with a good saving of energy with an expected overall saving of around £7,500 per year. The Libraries estates team have agreed to contribute 40% of the costs in order to share the savings, reducing the net cost to the Council to around £14,000.

Members discussed their concerns at how much difference there was between the cheapest quote and the other two. The Clerk assured the members that all three were given the same specification. Cllr Wilson explained in his experience there were 3 savings to be made - energy use, maintenance and via smart lighting/sensors. Cllr Wilson stated that he would like to see more automation, and sensors. He also wanted more reassurance about the specification of the cheapest quote including the brand of fittings used, warranty, lux levels and making good costs.

The Town Clerk explained he was confident the cheapest quote was achievable and met with the specifications and requirements he felt were sufficient for the building. And the cheapest proposal would achieve the significant energy savings at an affordable cost to implement.

The committee agreed that further verification of the cheapest quote was required and that the Town Clerk should supply further information to Councillors before the order was placed.

The Town Clerk agreed to provide the further reassurance on the cheapest quote to the committee and once they were satisfied he would be able to go ahead with the net expenditure of £14,143.20 from 9103/901 Climate Action Initiatives.

PR22/009 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Youth Work - The Town Clerk explained the difficulty in getting the detached Youth Work project going due to lack of partners able to work with the Town Council. He had taken advice from VOYC and will

investigate how other towns given as good examples have brought projects forward.

The Mayor explained how Friday nights at the Bridge would be closed over the summer but would open again later in the summer.

The Mayor also explained how the Street Pastor service had ended and she had heard from the PCSOs that they have noticed a difference since.

Cllr Rea suggested there were things for young people to do, but at a cost so maybe these funds could subsidise those activities.

VOYC had suggested issuing the agreed budget as grants to existing organisations and it was suggested the Town Clerk should put this out on social media to see what interest there is.

Erme Court – The Town Clerk explained that he had not been able to speak to the owners about the proposals to change the parking regime, but all the leaseholders were forming the same opinion and want to discuss the options and postpone any changes. He explained the Town Council paid around 54% of the service charges for Erme Court, split between the Town Hall and Watermark. Cllr Spencer enquired if it would be for sale but the Town Clerk thought unlikely as it is linked to other properties. The Committee agreed that the Town Clerk should work with the other tenants to achieve an outcome that suited all parties.

Support for Ukrainian Guests – Cllr Rea explained how popular the English classes have been with over 40 people in attendance each session. There was a clash with rooms on a Monday evening and Cllr Wilson suggested a swap for the lessons to Tuesday evening. The child sessions were to be held at The Bridge during the summer as there were some fun activities they could do there while learning. Cllr Wilson added that The Sportsman’s Inn had raised money to help So Social provide days out etc. Cllr Rea added that there was also a job fair coming up to support the guests in finding work.

The meeting closed at 8.18pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....