

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 12 December 2022 at 7.00pm

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

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr R Croad (Devon County Council)
2 Members of the Public

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.25pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

**1 Member of the Public left at 7.25pm*

**Cllr Budd arrived at 7.26pm*

**Cllr Croad and 1 Member of the Public left at 7.55pm*

**Cllr Reville left at 8.11pm*

- 22/079 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Dredge, Munro and Parsons.
- 22/080 **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.
- 22/081 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 31st October 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/082 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 17th October 2022 and 7th November 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr T Rea confirmed and Cllr Budd seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/083 **PARKS COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 20th October 2022 and 29th November 2022 (copies previously circulated)

were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

- 22/084 **THE WATERMARK COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr T Rea confirmed and Cllr K Reville seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/085 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Khong confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted
- 22/086 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November (copy previously circulated) were received. The Mayor confirmed and Cllr T Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/087 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 25th October 2022 to 6th December 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.
- 22/088 **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL:** The report on the Christmas Festival (copy previously circulated) was considered.
Cllr Wilson thanked the staff for all their hard work.
The Mayor commented that staff worked a very long day and thanked staff family members, Councillors and Police Cadets who helped with the event.
The Town Clerk advised that the price of having the lights switched on during the event would be £400 - £500. This is the cost of 2 entertainers.
Cllr Wilson commented that he had heard good feedback about the entertainers.
Cllr Wilson went on to say that the Community Christmas Tree Dressing would move to the Saturday in 2023 as due to health and safety it is getting too complicated for the preschools to bring children down to take part. That way they can attend with their parents.
The Mayor thanked Mrs Wilson for organising the Community Christmas Tree Dressing. She commented that it was really nice that the Community Choir took part in the event and hoped they might be able to attend again next year. She added that the Methodist Church are looking into running their advent market next year.
Cllr Budd commented that she felt it was more spread out this year.
The Town Clerk advised that there were less stalls in Glanvilles Mill this year, using Glanvilles Mill Car Park worked well.
Cllr Spencer commented that there was a great mix of stall holders. One local group had a stall, he wondered whether we could help more community stalls take part.
The Town Clerk advised that the money received from the stalls helps to offset the cost of the event.

Cllr L Rea queried the proposed date for the festival in 2023, feeling it was quite early.

The Town Clerk advised that it was only a day earlier than in 2022 and pushing it into December would make it too late – people have other commitments and more difficult to secure entertainers. Our date is still several weeks after Plymouth.

Cllr T Rea proposed that we proceed with planning the event for 24th November 2023 and engage Miss Ivy as in previous years. All were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i. Go ahead with the date of 24th November 2023 for the Christmas Festival; and
- ii. To engage with Miss Ivy.

22/089

BYELAWS: The Resolution to permit a cycling route across Filham Park (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Cllr Lannin proposed that the Resolution was accepted. Cllr Wilson seconded and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

For the purpose of Rule 5(i) of the Byelaws applicable to Filham Park, that access is set apart in Filham Park only (subject to a further resolution of the Town Council to terminate, suspend or amend such access for any reason) for the use of bicycles or tricycles (which shall include electrically assisted bicycles or tricycles) passing from point A to point B along the routes coloured orange on the attached plan subject to the following conditions:

1. Cyclists shall not exceed 5 miles per hour; and
2. Cyclists shall give way to pedestrians; and
3. Cyclists shall otherwise comply with the Highway Code, as updated from time to time.

22/090

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

Cllr Wilson commented that it is disappointing that Butterpark is still dragging on.

The Town Clerk advised that he was hoping to meet with Devon County Council on Friday.

Cllr Lannin queried whether there was any update on the meeting with Sir Gary Streeter regarding Active Travel.

Cllr Abbott advised that it was a very positive meeting. It was resolved that the County engineer was going to have a look. The Mayor commented that Sir Gary Streeter was fighting our corner.

The Town Clerk advised that no Officers from SHDC Planning were there. Another meeting will be held in the New Year.

Cllr T Rea advised that information about Warm Spaces has been included on the Town Council website. SHDC have also put out a lot of advice which we have linked to.

Cllr T Rea advised that he and Cllr Munro met with the Community Connector and Shirley Weeks to discuss the Community Fridge. The Community Connector has a pot of money to purchase the fridge and will apply for a grant from South Hams District Council.

Cllr Abbott advised that the water companies were gifted all their assets with no debts when they were set up. Now they have large debts and make large payouts to shareholders.

Cllr Wilson commented that they are likely to be in debt from rectifying mistakes from the past.

Cllr T Rea commented that this was mentioned at the meeting, Sir Gary Streeter said it would be rectified by 2050. He is happy to work with Cllr Abbott on a resolution for the next meeting.

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

22/091

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER: The proposal to co-fund a Community fundraiser with Totnes Town Council (copy previously circulated) was considered.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by Totnes Town Council. Prior to Covid they had a part time community fundraiser who had managed to bring in £500,000 funding in a year. ITC would need to budget £18,700 in order to buy in 15 hours per week from Totnes Town Council.

Cllr L Rea commented that we would need to ensure that the agreement would cover us for this time.

The Town Clerk advised that there would be a clear agreement of what we are expecting and monitoring of the time spend working on our projects. We could only agree funding the role until 31 March 2024.

Cllr Reville queried whether we need to agree priorities, where we would want to focus fundraising efforts.

The Town Clerk advised that at the moment Totnes are only asking if this is something that we want to be involved in.

Cllr Wilson proposed that in principle the role of a Community Fundraiser would be beneficial to this Town assuming for the next Council meeting an affordable fundraising pathway for that person's salary be found with no major impact on the precept.

Cllr Budd seconded this and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to seek an affordable funding pathway for the proposed shared community fundraiser in time for the next meeting of Full Council on 22 January 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.21pm.

Signed: Date: 23 January 2023

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 12th December 2022

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR CROAD

Cllr Croad attended the meeting and provided the following report.

Migration and Resettlement Statistics

Bridging Hotels (Syrian and Afghanistan) – Devon

Exeter: 37 people (26 adults, 11 children)
Exmouth: 84 people (44 adults, 40 children)

Homes for Ukraine (UK wide)

Total visa applications received 252,000 comprising:

- Ukraine Family Scheme 77,900
- Sponsorship Scheme 174,100

Total visas issued 204,900 comprising:

- Ukraine Family Scheme 60,300
- Sponsorship Scheme 144,600

Total arrivals 149,200 comprising:

- Ukraine Family Scheme 42,100
- Sponsorship Scheme 107,100

Homes for Ukraine (Devon)

- Sponsorship Scheme 1,673 arrivals
- Approx. 600 further visas issued and may arrive

There is an amount of movement of Ukrainians – quite a few returning to Ukraine to check on families and / or to see whether it is safe to return.

Hotels supporting asylum seekers in Devon (spot booked by the Home Office as emergency accommodation)

- Ilfracombe – approx. 140 people
- Exeter – 30 but a further 69 arriving tonight or tomorrow
- Exmouth – 100 likely but not stood up yet
- Tiverton – approx. 60

Asylum dispersal – planned regional response based on 1 asylum seeker per 200 local population

Devon's imposed target 542 beds by December 2023.

Covid in Devon

As of last Friday 1 in 50 (2% of the population) was diagnosed with Covid – that is decreasing from 1 in 40 the week before.

There were 75 patients with Covid in our three hospitals, 20 in Derriford, 44 in RD&E and 11 in NDDH. 60% went in for other matters and tested positive on routine testing, just 3 of that number were on mechanical ventilation.

There were 7 deaths with Covid mentioned on the death certificate.

Cllrs Lannin, Hladkij and T Rea queried Cllr Croad's comments about refugees and highlighted that Ivybridge Town Council welcomes all refugees.

Cllr Wilson asked whether there was any chance that the potholes in the town would be mended.

Cllr Croad advised that there is no budget for this and they keep changing the criteria.

The Mayor advised that there is a sinkhole on Cornwood Road near Pinehurst Way.

Cllr Croad advised that it's usually a collapsed drain which causes this and agreed that he would take a look at it on Tuesday.

Cllr Brown advised that South West Water have investigated the water leak on Langham Levels / Cornwood Road and identified a broken pipe on a storm drain which is not their responsibility. This has been passed back to Devon County Council who have placed warning signs but have advised that it is unlikely that any action will be taken until the next financial year.

Cllr Croad advised that he would investigate this.

Cllr Budd queried when Woolcombe Lane is gritted.

Cllr Croad advised that it is a secondary route and he had had notification that it has been gritted.

Cllr Budd queried why it is a secondary route, suggesting that it should be a primary route.

The Town Clerk advised that in order for it to be reclassified there needs to be evidence of over 1000 vehicle movements.

Cllr Croad advised that he would look at the traffic situation over the next few months.

Cllr T Rea thanked Cllr Croad for providing £500 from his localities budget towards the community fridge.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

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

Government funding to the South Hams

The Levelling-Up Department has awarded the South Hams £1,062,367 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). It is designed to put local authorities in control of the business and community support programmes delivered in their areas. The proposals include

- Active and Inclusive Travel at £152k (14% of total funding)
- Marine Economy and Decarbonisation at £400k (38% of total funding)
- Agritech and Regenerative Farming at £300k (28% of total funding)
- Business Consultancy and Support at £170k (16% of total funding)

The Plymouth Freeport has also been confirmed which will place funds with SHDC.

Severe Weather Emergency Protocol

This has been implemented and remains in place until 1st March. SHDC would be helped by information on rough sleepers and to contact a member of the Housing team on 01803 861234 (outside of office hours, 01803 867034). An outreach worker will contact them.

www.southhams.gov.uk/winter-fund

The deadline is Friday, 16 December. There are the two grants which are a part of our Cost-of-Living Response Plan:

- A total of £25,000 available for schemes directly responding to the cost of living – operation of warm hubs, provision of warm meals to vulnerable residents etc. Grants can be up to a maximum of £1,000.
- A total of £25,000 available for schemes that will support wider Health and Wellbeing – both physical and mental. Relevant applications will try something a little different and so, groups can apply for up to £2,500 from this fund.

Garden Waste Collections

Up from 1000 subscribers at the 4th November, there are now 2,912 households in the area signed up to the service (with 3,116 subscriptions sold). Those who sign up before 22nd January will receive a collection w/b 6th March. All residents will still be able to sign up after that date, but their first collection dates will likely be later.

Marketing

There is a new Facebook group page for town & parish councils to list their own event information: 'Events in the South Hams'.

Further, there is now an annual membership with Visit Devon to help promote the tourism sector: www.visitdevon.co.uk/whats-on/tell-us-about-your-event

Electric Vehicles

The Devon Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy aims to help all residents and visitors overcome barriers to EV adoption and increase access to suitable

infrastructure. There is a summary of the strategy and the full document at: devon.cc/ev-strategy-consultation. The consultation runs until 16th December.

Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest (PSDCF)

This is one of England's newest Community Forests and a partnership project between Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, West Devon Borough Council, National Trust and Woodland Trust. The project aims to deliver 500 hectares of new woodland by March 2025.

Cllr Abbott also provided the following report:

Accessible Ivybridge Report

I have a Steering Group of local volunteers, three of whom I met one evening in the Town Hall, a fourth later, and now also a 'Dementia Champion' (trained to do training) who offers help in our activities. I hope to meet the wider Steering Group again in January. I would meet with the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance on Thursday but I must report by email due to a clash with SHDC Full Council.

With a note duplicated by staff at the Council, I have visited 65 shops and businesses to raise awareness of our endeavour to become Dementia Friendly and to gain recognition by the Alzheimer's Society. Some of the NHS-related places are fully trained; others were enthusiastic to put up a "Forget-Me-Not" sticker but might have done this before undertaking the training; other places the sticker has not gone up but there are marketing reasons not to display a sticker for every charity.

I have written to two organisations requesting their agreement to appear on the Town Council's website as supporting those with dementia. The contacts with shops & businesses, and the advertising of our intention to work with others in being aware of and positive to those with dementia and their carers may be steppingstones to gaining Dementia Friendly status from the Alzheimer's Society.

However, the local representative wrote that the Alzheimer's Society is changing their system and is not accepting new applications at the moment, though I am already working to the ideas in that particular email. Further, the Chair of the Four Rivers Dementia Alliance wrote, "There is no requirement to be registered to the Alzheimer's Society (AS) as a dementia friendly community and you may feel that it's best to progress the group as you as a community want and get it going and then see if registering with the AS would be of benefit to you from the town council and community perspective."

For now, I will continue to progress with the earlier guidelines of the Alzheimer's Society (which have not been removed from their website). They seem a positive way to get started. It has been enlightening to meet so many owners, managers and staff of the shops & businesses, to hear of personal stories of involvement with family and friends with dementia, and to know there are places who have already undertaken training to be dementia friendly. The note I leave encourages

all staff to watch the five-minute video* and apply to be a Dementia Friend. I do not know the take up though contacts have all been positive. Should they follow it through, the Alzheimer's Society will see a cluster of new Friends around Ivybridge. The 'stickers' going up also attest to a willingness to join in – you'll see them around the Town.

I have started to work on content for the possible web page. Under an umbrella banner, "Accessible Ivybridge", this our first venture in support of carers and those with dementia might lead to a wider expression of support from the Council and people of Ivybridge. It is clear that dementia is one challenge amongst many and our Town can plan to support others, often with overlapping requirements such as:

- awareness, understanding, patience, willingness to help;
- notices with clear print on non-distracting paper;
- sure and safe streets, with welcoming facilities.

I have asked a volunteer for help to produce a questionnaire for wheelchair users and others on physical access within the Town Centre and within the Town's boundaries. Also, Graham Wilson of PL:21 is investigating the possibility of seeking Lottery money to fund removal of barriers to physical access. It will be helpful to have help on this from other councillors.

I have had an initial conversation with the charity "Changing Places" to work towards the provision of a better toilet for the disabled than we currently offer. The information on the disability friendly "Changing Places" toilet is at <https://www.changing-places.org/>

I hope you are satisfied with progress and remain supportive of the endeavour. It would be nice to think we as a Town will be able to work with all those needing access to our Town.

Victor Abbott

*That 5-minute Internet clip is at <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=join-options>. Please consider watching it and applying to be a Dementia Friend yourself.

Cllr T Rea thanked Cllr Abbott for providing £500 from his localities budget towards the community fridge.

GENERAL

The Mayor called Mr Narramore.

Mr Narramore wished to voice his concerns that traffic speed has increased along Western Road since the parking was removed. He said that he has almost been knocked down four times when trying to use the crossing.

Cllr T Rea commented that it is better than it was but is still dangerous and asked whether it would be possible to reduce the limits to 20mph.
Cllr Croad agreed to put a speed monitor on Western Road as any actions would require evidence of excessive speeds.

The Mayor called Mr Smith.
Mr Smith wished to thank the Town Council for the Christmas Festival which was a great success.

The public participation session closed at 7.25pm.