

22/004 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** The co-opted member, Jason (Jay) Brown, duly signed this document which was then received by the Council.

22/005 **ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR 2022-2023:** The Mayor invited members to make their nominations for office of Deputy Town Mayor. Cllr T Rea nominated Cllr Spencer. Cllr Lannin seconded this. Other nominations were invited but none were forthcoming. All voted in favour of electing Cllr Spencer as Deputy Town Mayor for 2022-23.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr Spencer be elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 2022-23.

22/006 **DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE:** The Deputy Town Mayor duly signed this document which was then received by the Council.

22/007 **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).

Cllr Dredge commented that he is stepping down as the Chairman for IDALC in October which would be the ideal time for someone else to take over. They hold 2 meetings per year which take approx. 2-2.5 hours. The role involves agreeing the agenda, writing the Chairman's report and a report on what is happening in Ivybridge. These meetings have better attendance if conducted as remote meetings which take place during the afternoon – as parish meetings are held in the evenings. Cllr Hladkij asked if members were happy to speak to Cllr Dredge about the role in a more informal discussion and look at this again in the future. All were in agreement.

Cllr Lannin commented that although Graham Wilson is the main contact for cycling, it would be good if someone from the Council could also take on this role. Cllr Brown agreed to become the cycling representative. All were in agreement.

Cllr Abbott commented that he already attends the Dementia Alliance so is happy to be the representative for this. All were in agreement.

Cllr A Rea commented that the Snow Warden / Emergency Committee is now the Community Resilience Group which he is a part of. He advised that it would be good if another Councillor would also take on this role. The Mayor advised that she would like to be included on this. All were in agreement.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

- i. The South Hams CVS role would remain vacant;
- ii. The IDALC role would be left for now;
- iii. Cllr Brown be nominated as cycling representative alongside Graham Wilson;
- iv. Cllr V Abbott be nominated as the Dementia Friendly representative;
- v. The Snow Warden / Emergency Committee be renamed Community Resilience Group, and Cllr T Rea and the Mayor be nominated as Community Resilience Group representatives; and
- vi. All 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 | G Wilson / Cllr J Brown |
| Ivybridge Chamber of Trade | Cllr L Rea |
| PL21 | Cllr T Lannin |
| IEAG | Cllr A Spencer |
| Ivybridge Caring | Cllr A Khong |
| Dementia Friendly Community | Cllr V Abbott |
| 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 |
| Community Resilience Group (including Snow Wardens) | Parks Officers (part time) / Cllr A Rea / Cllr S Hladkij |
| 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,
 Ivybridge Climate Action Working Group Cllr T Lannin & Cllr T Rea

21/008 **ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES:** Consideration was given to Committee nominations and confirmed membership (nominations to date previously circulated).

Cllr Brown advised that he was happy to join the Planning and Infrastructure Committee. Cllr Spencer proposed this and Cllr Munro seconded. All were in agreement.

Cllrs Lannin and Pringle advised they were happy to join the Personnel Committee. Cllr T Rea proposed this and Cllr Munro seconded. All were in favour.

It was noted that although there are still vacancies on the Planning and Infrastructure Committee, the Watermark Committee and the Personnel Committee, there is still a vacancy on the Town Council.

It was **RESOLVED** that:nominations be approved as follows:

| Committees May 2022 | |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Planning and Infrastructure (6)</u></p> <p>Lynda Budd Jay Brown Trevor Munro Tony Rea Alan Spencer One vacancy</p> | <p><u>Parks & Open Spaces (6)</u></p> <p>Lynda Budd Tessa Lannin Louise Rea Tony Rea Alan Spencer Ray Wilson</p> |
| <p><u>The Watermark Committee (6)</u></p> <p>Mike Cade Phillip Dredge Trevor Munro Trevor Parsons Tony Rea One vacancy</p> | <p><u>Personnel Committee (6)</u></p> <p>Phillip Dredge Anthony Khong Tessa Lannin Trevor Parsons Karen Pringle One vacancy</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><u>Policy & Resources (7)</u></p> <p>Mayor as Chairperson</p> <p><i>(to be finalised once committee Chairpersons selected)</i></p> | <p><u>Appeals Committee</u> (3 members not on Personnel)</p> <p>Mayor Ray Wilson Louise Rea</p> |
| <p><u>Internal Audit Representatives (2)</u></p> <p>Philip Dredge Karen Pringle</p> | |

An adjournment followed from 7.20pm to 8.07pm to allow for the presentations and any questions, reports or representations by the public, Police, County and District Councillors.

- 22/009 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Parsons and Wilson.
- 22/010 **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.
- 22/011 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 11th April 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/012 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 4th April and 25th April 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Munro confirmed and Cllr T Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/013 **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and the Mayor seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/014 **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr Lannin seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/015 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and the Mayor seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.

22/016 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor for the period 5th April to 17th May 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

22/017 **REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS:** The Town Clerk explained that this was purely to note that throughout the year policies and other documents will, as necessary, need to be approved by this Council.

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

22/018 **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS:** The Calendar of Meetings (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Spencer pointed out that out that 30 May 2023 is during the school holidays and asked whether the Parks Committee could be moved to 22 May. All were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Calendar of Meetings once the date of the Parks Committee had been amended from 30 May 2023 to 22 May 2023.

22/019 **INVESTMENT STRATEGY:** The Investment Strategy was considered (copy previously circulated). Cllr Dredge commented that there was only one small alteration which was highlighted in yellow. There were no further comments. It was put to the vote, 11 were in favour and 2 abstained. Therefore it was agreed to adopt the Investment Strategy.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and adopt the Investment Strategy.

22/020 **POLICY UPDATES:** The following policies were considered (copies previously circulated).

- a. Stress Policy
- b. Training Policy
- c. Equality and Diversity Policy

Cllr T Rea commented that he was surprised that formally raising a grievance came so early on in the process in the Stress Policy. The Town Clerk advised that the policy was provided by our advisor.

Cllr Dredge commented that this was not noted at the Personnel Committee.

Cllr L Rea said she was surprised that no mediation was suggested prior to raising a grievance – tools that could be used before this stage. Want to support staff and detect stress early.

Cllr Dredge suggested that the Stress Policy be referred back to the Personnel Committee and members provide their amendments.

Cllr Dredge commented that the Training Policy had been updated. The Administration Officer and the Assistant Town Clerk had both contributed to these updates.

Cllr Lannin commented that with regard to paragraph 4, she felt that members should take responsibility for their own training, although it would be good if available courses could be highlighted.

The Mayor agreed that the wording of this paragraph sounds very managed.

Cllr T Rea commented that he understands that custom and practice has seen that councillors' training comes under the Personnel Committee however he finds this strange. He understands why staff training would but councillor training is different. Perhaps this could be looked at when the Terms of Reference are looked at again.

Cllr Munro queried what it meant on the new starter checklist where it says 'add to spreadsheet'.

The Town Clerk advised that this is the payroll spreadsheet.

The Mayor asked if members could provide their suggested amendments and this policy could be referred back to the next Council meeting.

Cllr Dredge advised that the latest NALC Equality and Diversity Policy was used to produce the Town Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

Cllr L Rea commented that this is fine for employees but should there be a separate policy for members?

The Mayor proposed that if all were happy with the existing document for staff, a separate one could be considered for councillors.

Cllr Cade seconded this and all were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- a. Refer the Stress Policy back to the Personnel Committee for amendments;
- b. Amend the Training Policy and refer to the next Full Council meeting; and
- c. Accept the Equality and Diversity Policy for staff and work to consider a separate policy for councillors.

22/021

MOTION: The motion from Cllr T Rea (copy previously circulated), proposing that the Town Council write to Brunel requesting that they divest from fossil fuel companies and carbon-heavy industries was considered.

Cllr T Rea advised that this relates to the climate emergency statement and how the pension fund is invested.

Cllr V Abbott advised that SHDC use the same pension provider.

Cllr T Rea advised that this would not be putting stakeholder pensions at risk. He is proposing that the Town Council write to Brunel to ask them to act now. He felt that if the Town Council do not do this it would:

- Tell the people of Ivybridge that Ivybridge Town Council is impotent;
- That it does not take climate emergency seriously; and
- That it does not care about futures.

Cllr Lannin seconded this.

The Mayor asked whether Cllr T Rea had spoken to Town Council employees before raising this motion. Cllr T Rea confirmed that he had not.

Cllr Dredge commented that although he agrees with the sentiment, he was unsure whether writing to Brunel would actually achieve anything and suggested that writing to Peninsular Pensions would be a better idea.

Cllr T Rea asked whether Cllr Dredge was proposing an amendment to his motion, for the Town Council to write to both Brunel and Peninsular Pensions requesting they divest from fossil fuel companies and carbon-heavy industries.

Cllr Dredge confirmed that it was.

Cllr T Rea was happy to accept this amendment,

Cllr Lannin seconded.

It was put to the vote and all were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- refer to the Town Clerk to write to Brunel fund managers and Peninsula pensions calling for them to divest from fossil fuel companies and carbon-heavy industries; and
- delegate to the Town Clerk to contact the Leader and senior executive at Devon County Council urging them to do the same.

22/022

PLANNING: The planning application 1059/22/FUL Delivery of a new A1 food retail store circa. 1950m² (shell only), associated 2-tiered carpark, highway works, pedestrian, cyclist and public realm enhancements was considered (copy previously circulated).

The Mayor advised that the Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk had put together a comprehensive report and some amendments had been circulated. Cllr Abbott noted a small amendment was required on the first page, to change unanimous to majority.

Cllr Lannin thanked officers for putting together the report and went on to voice her concerns regarding the planning application. She felt that there are currently not enough improvements. The street design study is missing, cycle parking is not adequate, there is no provision for cargo bikes. It should also be about the town centre where there is not enough cycle provision also for example locked cycle storage. There are no improvements to the pedestrian crossing, no clear plan of how this will link with the rest of Ivybridge. The Assistant Town Clerk confirmed she would be happy to work with Cllr Lannin to include these concerns in the Council's response.

Cllr Spencer advised that he was in favour in principle but the car parking is inadequate and what is needed has not been thought out. The car park is supposed to have designed out crime, however the police have advised that they cannot support the application in its current form. We are being told different facts, firstly the car park would be completely closed for 6 months – now it may be as long as 42 weeks.

Cllr Budd queried whether there were TPOs on any of the trees. The Mayor advised that there is one on the oak by the cycle way, but not on the others although they are vintage trees.

The Town Clerk advised that a resident had submitted some very helpful information regarding the trees including records dating back to 1890.

Cllr L Rea commented that although the Council in 2021 did agree in principle, the planning application is less than ideal. Her concern is that if this does not go ahead the £9million would not be used in Ivybridge. She would want to see the Town Council lobby for this money to be used in the town.

Cllr A Rea advised that he agrees with Cllr Spencer but feels obliged to represent residents. He thanked officers for the very comprehensive list and advised that he has no hesitation in voting against the planning application, however is concerned that if this opportunity to regenerate Ivybridge does not go ahead it will be lost. He went on to suggest writing to Aldi suggesting the plot of land to the East of Ivybridge near the new developments. If the Town Council agree to object to the plans perhaps they could work to try and get Aldi to locate here.

The Mayor advised that the Town Clerk had spoken to Aldi and they were not aware of this land, they had been led to believe that there were no other options.

The Mayor went on to voice her concern about the skate park, that it would be taken away during the build and not replaced.

Cllr Lannin pointed out that previously SHDC had said that the land behind the leisure centre was not a suitable site for relocating the skate park – but it is now the preferred site – and it could be years before this was provided if at all.

The Mayor commented that with the car park being out of action it would be harder and more dangerous to access the youth venue – and there would be nowhere for the staff to park to deliver this service.

Cllr T Rea asked if members vote to object to this application, would it be on all material grounds?

The Mayor confirmed this.

Cllr V Abbott advised that as both he and Cllr Pringle are on the SHDC Development Management Board they are not allowed to prejudge any planning applications and so would have to abstain.

It was put to a recorded vote whether to object on all material grounds to the planning application 1059/22/FUL Delivery of a new A1 food retail store circa. 1950m² (shell only), associated 2-tiered

carpark, highway works, pedestrian, cyclist and public realm enhancements.

Votes were recorded as follows:

In favour of objecting: Cllrs Dredge, Cade, Lannin, Budd, Brown, Khong, T Rea, L Rea, Munro, Spencer, Hladkij

In favour of supporting: No Councillors wished to support the planning application

Abstain: Cllrs Abbott, Pringle

It was **RESOLVED** to object on all material grounds to the planning application 1059/22/FUL Delivery of a new A1 food retail store circa. 1950m² (shell only), associated 2-tiered carpark, highway works, pedestrian, cyclist and public realm enhancements.

It was resolved to suspend Standing Order 3a as the meeting was approaching 9.00pm.

22/023 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated).

Cllr Dredge advised that he would be meeting the police on 16 June and asked members for any topics they would like to be discussed.

The Mayor advised that the original bunting, which was provided free of charge by SHDC, had been replaced as it was too loud and was shredding in the wind. The new bunting looks lovely.

The Mayor advised that she had recently attended the official opening of the Dartmoor Way which starts at The Watermark. This is the kind of thing that we should be focusing on.

Cllr T Rea advised that he had attended a community resilience workshop today. There was a big emphasis on flood risk. He will look at the maps relating to the Ivybridge area. To note, floods usually take place in July / August. Along with flooding, fire and cyber attack to power distribution are the most likely events to take place.

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

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed: Date: 27 June 2022

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 23 May 2022

POLICE REPORT

The police were unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

There is very little to report on – In general, we have enjoyed a fairly quiet May. Reports of ASB around the town have dramatically reduced as has associated crime.

Cllr Budd asked whether Ivybridge police station has become a hub for drug related incidents.

The Mayor advised that she had heard that it had become a hub but was not aware it was drug related. She offered to speak to them at the next meeting for clarification.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR AUSTIN

Cllr Austin was in attendance and had provided the following report which had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting:

I am pleased to say I was elected Chairman of South Hams District Council on Thursday 19th May.

The District Council has now administered 12 different business grant schemes on behalf of the Government over the last few years, paying out a total of £85.9million to businesses in the area.

Almost 20,000 individual grant awards were made to businesses across the various schemes. This has been an enormous undertaking by the Council and its officers. At the start of the pandemic, we had no idea we would be asked to undertake this mammoth task and it is a credit to the officers on the Council that it has now been completed.

We have been notified of 61 host properties that will be occupied by 184 Ukrainian guests. This will be 98 adults and 86 children in the South Hams with numbers growing every week.

To date the Council has supported guests and hosts with welcome payments, support in applying for welfare benefits, national insurance numbers and school places. We have also supported 19 guests in receiving free membership to Fusion Leisure Centre for the next 6 months.

I was informed earlier in the month that almost all the brown bins that were due to be picked up on 15th May would not be collected due to the ongoing issues

with staffing and drivers. 2,517 properties did not have their brown bin collected around Ivybridge. All other refuse and recycling rounds were mobilised and active, so the rest of the waste was picked up.

I find this situation completely unacceptable and would like to apologise on behalf of the Council to anybody effected. I will be asking for a meeting with the contractors as soon as possible.

Planning is often a contentious subject and the development of social media seems to me to be having some impact on the process. The plans for the new Aldi development are set to come before Development Management Committee at the start of July. The Council does take notice of all views and the arguments against have been very clearly set down by those opposed to the scheme.

The Mayor congratulated Cllr Austin for his election to Chairman for South Hams District Council.

Cllr Austin presented his report then congratulated Cllr Hladkij on her re-election as Mayor, and Cllr Brown on his co-option onto the Council.

He went on to add that Freeports are likely to be a major thing over the next few years and one is planned for the Sherford / Langage area. It would potentially generate thousands of jobs, however he urged members to pay attention when the planning application is put in as the buildings are likely to be on the scale of the Morrisons depot on the M5 on the way to Bristol. A Freeport is where goods can be brought in, traded and exported without paying taxes on them, a complex issue.

The Mayor commented that some areas of west Ivybridge are still on the old bin system, and queried when this is likely to change.

Cllr Austin advised that the roll out will eventually be reinstated.

Cllr Lannin asked when food waste collections will be reinstated.

Cllr Austin advised that it was not possible to obtain a date from the contractor.

He is chairing a meeting on 8 June with the contractor.

Cllr Lannin asked when the contract is due to be reviewed.

Cllr Austin was not sure but advised it would not be for some time.

Cllr Budd queried what resolution SHDC were looking for from the meeting on 8 June.

Cllr Austin advised that a closed group has been speaking to the contractor in a confidential legal environment and details would not be released for a few weeks. He confirmed that the contractor has been penalised for their lack of delivery.

Cllr T Rea commented that it was disappointing that there were delays to the payments for Ukrainian refugees.

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbot presented the following report

There is a Climate Infrastructure Fund (with a focus on reducing Co2) with sums from £1,000 to £25,000 available from SHDC. There is a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency Website. Closing date, 9th June 2022.

SHDC is involved with eight new affordable properties being built at St Ann's Chapel

Activities with the Ukrainian Guests include:

- Arranging a drop in briefing session for Town and Parish Councils to ask any questions on the scheme or to share any steps they are taking to support Ukrainians on a locality basis.
- Working with Team Devon to develop a series of webinars for Hosts and Sponsors over the coming month.
- Finalising plans with the CVS to deliver signposting, linking up translators to hosts / community groups / other organisations supporting our Ukrainian guests, supporting us in facilitating regular webinars with hosts and guests
- Formally launching the Fusion Leisure Homes for Ukraine free membership offering
- Going live with our simple online form to enable hosts to sign up to receive their £350 monthly welcome payment.

SHDC continues in partnership over the Freeport, with the nearest sites being at Langage and Sherford.

On the Aldi, the majority party voted en bloc not to agree to an investigation into the financing and materials supply associated with the national financial situation.

Further activities:

DMC, Wednesday 6th July, 10am

The Executive, Thursday 7th July, 10am, Agenda Item: Ivybridge Regeneration Scheme

Full Council, Thursday 14th July, 2pm

Cllr Abbot went on to note that with regard to the Freeport, it is worth noting that as these are a closed environment, employment law may be different.

Cllr A Rea commented that this is good to know and also questioned whether paying no tax is a good thing under the present circumstances.

Cllr Budd asked whether Cllr Abbott had any more information regarding the land opposite the railway station and the proposed pupil referral centre / special school.

Cllr Abbott advised that this is a Devon County Council initiative but he was under the impression that it was not going ahead.

The Town Clerk advised that he had emailed Cllr Croad (Devon County Council) regarding this several weeks ago but had not received a response.

Cllr Budd commented that it would be good to have confirmation as she has heard rumours that it is still going ahead.

Cllr Dredge asked whether the South Hams District Council Development Management Committee and Executive are closed meetings.

Cllr Pringle advised that it is necessary to contact them prior to attending as there is limited space available.

Cllr Abbott commented that questions can also be submitted in advance.

Cllr Budd voiced concerns that the original figure of £9million was based on prices as they were in 2020. Prices have risen sharply since then and she wanted to know when the actual costs will be published.

Cllr Abbott commented that he was concerned about this, the price of raw materials has increased considerably.

Cllr Austin advised that costs will be published within the next month.

Cllr Budd asked whether the figures would be published for the SHDC Development Management Committee on 6 July.

Cllr Austin advised that they would not.

Cllr Budd went on to ask whether the figures would be published for the SHDC meeting of the Executive on 7 July.

Cllr Austin advised that full figures would be available.

Cllr Budd asked whether these figures would also be available to SHDC Full Council on 14 July.

Cllr Austin advised that they would be.

Cllr Budd asked whether an overview could be produced to inform residents. She advised that she would be happy to work with Cllrs Austin and Abbott to produce this.

Cllr Dredge commented that this should go via the Town Clerk.

The Mayor commented that residents in other parts of the South Hams were not happy with SHDC taking out a loan of £9million to build an Aldi.

Cllr T Rea queried how the loan is being funded and voiced concerns regarding Council Tax.

Cllr Austin advised that Aldi would pay rent and business rates which will cover this.

Cllr Lannin asked what happens if the cost goes up? She also requested a breakdown of that money, how much would be spent on the build and how much on the public realm as that has not been made clear. How much will be spent actually regenerating Ivybridge rather than just building an Aldi?

GENERAL

A member of the public commented that the Aldi proposal seems to be generating an 'us and them' situation causing concern on how people are viewing this, At the Annual Town Meeting almost 100% of those present did not want to see an Aldi in the car park, but were happy to see it in a better location. It feels like this is being railroaded through with no communication.

A member of the public advised that she is very much against the proposal. There are so many things that would make this more attractive, the current proposal is not a regeneration, just an Aldi. Cannot see people shopping at Aldi then going into the town. Businesses will be lost when the car parks are closed. The car park is the wrong location.

A member of the public commented that that this is a degeneration not a regeneration and it will decimate the town. There are already problems with parking in the town as the car parks are usually full. We have a beautiful river and do not make enough of this. The proposed development will take away another swathe of this. Why does the District insist on this location?

Residents voiced concerns about the removal of the hedge and ancient trees. Members of the public would not be allowed to do this if the trees were on their land. Some of the trees are ancient trees and should only be moved for developments on a national scale such as HS2. Renaming the hedge as scrub is totally detrimental. The people who wrote this report were paid by SHDC... They were working from the 2002 DEFRA handbook not the 2007 one. Behind the scout hut the hedge is referred to as deciduous woodland. A lack of strimming at each end has been detrimental to this.

Matt Steele, a trader in the town provided the following report.

I have studied the minutes and reports from SHDC meetings from 2018 to the present, to see where things went wrong.

In 2018 and 2019 there were concerns raised by District Councillors, Ivybridge Town Council and others about the impact on parking. SHDC agreed that it was important for this to be addressed, and said that solutions would be proposed before the plans were submitted.

In 2019 minutes stated that agreements with 3rd parties - i.e. the police, to relocate the police station - would need to be in place before the proposal could be progressed.

Two proposals were raised, each offering 30% additional parking. The central car park would be a homogenous short stay car park, not segregated between Aldi and non-Aldi, with 90 minutes free for Aldi customers, and paid parking for others from 1 hour to 4 hours. An additional long stay car park within walking distance of the town centre was discussed.

It was on this basis that the public survey in March 2020 was conducted, which recorded 60% approval for building the supermarket and expanding parking - which breaks down as 56% support from Ivybridge residents, 63% support from non-residents. The same survey reports that there was 84% agreement that there would be more demand for short-term parking, and 62% agreement that the project would worsen traffic congestion in Ivybridge. The priority seems clear - sort out the parking before committing to a supermarket.

Up until June 2020, the parking regime would be 90 minutes free for Aldi customers, with a maximum paid stay of 4 hours across the entire car park, using number plate recognition (ANPR) to determine the tariff paid.

Everything changed in September 2020, when officers reported it would be too expensive to install the entry and exit barriers for the ANPR system. It was then proposed to segregate the car park, with Aldi given the top tier, and public parking limited to the bottom tier, mixing short stay and long stay parking. There is no longer mention of additional offsite long stay parking.

A Feb 2021 SHDC council meeting noted that concerns had been raised that public parking is significantly reduced. The minutes noted that this would be addressed in the planning application.

In this report the language changed from recognising that there were concerns from SHDC Councillors, Ivybridge Town Councillors and others with regards to parking, to stating that there is strong support from residents, businesses, Town Councillors and local members of SHDC. This is based on the March 2020 public survey, when there was 30% extra parking in the car park, with no segregation, plus an offsite long stay car park.

From Feb 2021 onwards, officers have been covering up problems, and District Councillors seem to have forgotten about them.

I note that requests from Councillors to refer the project to the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee, and to the Audit Committee, have both been blocked by the majority party. The final decision on the project will be made by the Executive, not by the full Council. That means that the future of Ivybridge depends on six people, none of whom live in or represent Ivybridge, with the committee stacked 5 -1 in favour of the majority party.

There is an SHDC planning committee meeting coming up, and an SHDC council meeting to discuss, but these are meaningless, because the Executive is determined to see the project approved. The majority party will vote together, because no member is willing to be seen to not follow the council leader. I see no alternative but to start to plan for a Judicial Review to challenge the decision once made.

A resident commented that this makes a lot of sense. She feels that we are no further forward and asked what opportunity the council has at this late stage to ask questions.

The Mayor advised that it is on the agenda for Council to consider the planning application and to vote on this. Planning applications would normally be considered by the Planning and Infrastructure Committee, however due to the importance of this application it was felt it should be put before Full Council.

The public participation session closed at 8.07pm.