

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge
held in The Watermark, Ivybridge, on Monday 26 September 2022 at 7.00pm**

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

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
Cllr L Austin (South Hams District Council)

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.

**Cllr Austin left the meeting at 7.46pm*

- 22/055 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Budd, Munro, Parsons, Pringle and Wilson.
- 22/056 **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.
- 22/057 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 8th August 2022 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Spencer confirmed and Cllr A Rea seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/058 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2022 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr A Rea confirmed and Cllr Brown seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/059 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 5th September (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Dredge confirmed and Cllr Spencer seconded and the minutes were agreed to be accepted.
- 22/060 **TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS:** The functions and activities attended by the Town Mayor and Deputy

Town Mayor for the period 2nd August to 19th September 2022 (previously circulated) were noted.

- 22/061 **DALC AGM:** The information about the AGM (copy previously circulated) was considered.
Cllr Dredge commented that he was happy to attend.
The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council could send 2 delegates but only one could vote. He was keen to attend if possible as they had some useful sessions on the agenda.
All were happy for Cllr Dredge and the Town Clerk to attend.

It was **RESOLVED** to send Cllr Dredge and the Town Clerk to the DALC AGM as representatives.

- 22/062 **CONSULTATION ON PRIORITIES:** The feedback from the public events (copy previously circulated) was considered.
The Town Clerk advised that following the consultations Members now need to decide how to move forward. He is hoping to set budgets with more structure which clearly set out projects to be taken forward and will be easily explained to the new Council in 2023. He needs to start work on the budgets now, working with the Senior Finance Officer, Committees will talk about their budgets in November. The budget will then go to the Policy and Resources Committee before finally going to Council for approval at the end of January.
The Town Clerk went on to say that although there was not a great turnout at each consultation, 25 residents at each. The points raised could be quantified then a questionnaire (both paper and online) could be put out to a wider audience.
Cllr Spencer thought that the event was a good idea and he enjoyed speaking to residents. He felt that ideas could be split into 3 categories:
1. Things to campaign to South Hams District Council or Devon County Council for;
2. Things which are in the pipeline; and
3. Things that we can do something about.
He felt that it would be a good idea for Councillors to get together to discuss the responses.
Cllr L Rea agreed that these were worthwhile sessions and it would be good to turn these responses into a strategy which can be put alongside the budget. Also, it would be useful to learn from previous budgets and to have information about reserves etc.
Cllr Lannin also agreed that they were useful sessions. In terms of the budget, last year the Parks Committee had a conversation about the whole budget and how Parks would feed into this. It is hard for one committee to understand the issues of another committee, for example The Watermark. With regard to the comments about climate, some of these we can do and others we can lobby for, however there is no committee for this and no budget. It's a really important area which needs to be discussed.

Cllr Lannin then asked whether we are going to ask residents whether the precept should be increased or stay the same like they did in Bristol. The Town Clerk asked whether this was an official referendum. Cllr Lannin confirmed that it was.

The Mayor said that if we were going to do this we would need to be able to justify the increase.

Cllr Lannin said that we could explain to residents how much a percentage increase would work out for them per year or per month.

Cllr A Rea agreed that it would be good to have an informal meeting about this where ideas could be shared and discussed. He went on to say that residents are not aware of the cost of things, it would be useful to share with them the cost of the works at Western Road and Wayside, the cost of play equipment etc.

The Town Clerk advised that The Watermark Committee will meet on 21 November to discuss their budget so it would be good to meet in the next 2-3 weeks.

Cllr L Rea asked whether it could be on Zoom as it will be an informal meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that informal meetings can be held on Zoom. He agreed to email members with a choice of dates and whether they would like Zoom, face to face or a hybrid.

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange an informal meeting to discuss ideas and take this forward.

22/063

BUTTERPARK: The Town Clerk provided a verbal update. He had had a positive meeting with Alex Rehaag. The hold up at the moment is with Devon County Council, it is ready to go on the market except for some issues with the covenants and overages. They assured that this would only take 2 weeks but that was 4 weeks ago. The best approach now is to go to market then discuss the finer points once a partner is on board. Once DCC have agreed the changes it will be put on the market, hopefully by Christmas. DCC will cover the first stage of legal costs.

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

22/064

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND OUTSIDE INTERESTS: The membership of committees and representatives for outside interests (copy previously circulated) was considered. Cllr Reville agreed to fill the vacancy on The Watermark Committee. All other committees remained unchanged. Cllr Lannin proposed this, Cllr Spencer seconded and all were in agreement. Cllr A Rea asked that the membership of the Community Resilience Group be updated to include Cllr Brown.

It was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Reville to fill the vacancy on The Watermark Committee and for the Cllr Brown to be included on the Community Resilience Group. All other Committees and Representatives for Outside Interests to remain unchanged.

22/065

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

The Town Clerk advised that he and the Mayor had attended the Mayors and Clerks meeting, which was an interesting meeting and was attended by Judy Pearce, other officers and District Cllr Hopwood. Cllr Hopwood is the Executive Member for Cost of Living. Citizens Advice are only managing to answer 50% of calls and SHDC is not getting any funding to help with this. There has been a culture and performance issue with the Planning department at SHDC so they are having a big shake up to try to sort this out. There was talk of some money being available for various things such as active travel, which is an area that the Town Council is quite advanced on. Not sure what the Freeport will mean for us. The Head of Finance provided an update on the SHDC budget, at present the deficit is £374,000. Ferry and car parking income has been high for this year continued from last year – through greater use not increased prices.

Cllr Reville asked whether SHDC still have a Vulnerability Officer. The Town Clerk said that they did not mention one.

The Town Clerk advised that Totnes Town Council had previously had a Community Funding person, they are interested in having one again as they were able to bring in a lot of funding for the town. They need this to be a full time role but would need to share it with another town due to the cost and workload. Awaiting information about the proposed cost.

Cllr A Rea provided a report for Beacon PPG which was circulated in advance of the meeting. He advised that Beacon are taking on 2 additional GPs who would work across all Beacon's practices. Unfortunately, both the Chair and the Secretary of the PPG will be standing down later this year.

Cllr Abbott provided the following report regarding Dementia Friendly Ivybridge:

I have completed a short course and your participation would be helpful too. The link to the 5 minute video is: <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/WEBArticle?page=join-options> and then onto <https://www.dementiafriends.org.uk/register-digital-friend>

There are also 45-minute briefings, face-to-face and by webinar. I have reviewed the signage and entrance mats in the Methodist Church, the first place to put signs into action. I have discussed a couple of shortfalls with the Mayor, and for the Town Hall I'm in discussion with our Clerk on signs as and when I find the specification and a cost. On the Watermark, I'm waiting until the replacement manager has some time to spare to talk this through. I have met (13/9/22) with Ivybridge Chamber of Commerce to give a 5 minute briefing on what businesses might do. I've since had a

follow-up meeting and an email with two businesses. I'm intending to visit others to talk with them about implementation.

For each and everyone, I hope you all – Councillors and Members of the public - will do the course, each will wear the Forget-Me-Not badge to be an obvious source of help to those who might need it, and that we might signpost the Watermark as a refuge by using similar 'flower' signs.

A list of my own intended actions follows but I have a question for Councillors:

I am told Ivybridge was a Dementia Friendly town before and I have some vague recollection about this. What's required is longevity and for that to happen it needs a long-term body to take ownership. I'm thinking about a Councillor leading as we do on other Committees but for # the records of implementation, # specifications, # contacts, # an indicative work programme (and whatever) to be held by the Council to ensure continuity from election to election. If there's sympathy for the idea here, I'll work up a motion in consultation with you.

Actions

Awaiting a conversation (Tuesday) about the specification on signs and their production, which together will bring out estimates of cost. To liaise with the Town Council, the Manager of the Watermark, shop and business owners.

To promote training, direction signs, light-coloured floormats and other items as become apparent.

To promote the identification of dementia-friendly residents, staff and refuges by the use of the 'Forget-me-not' flower as a badge.

To print with a non-white (light yellow, cream) background and a high contrast colour (black, blue) 12 point, bold, sans serif font.

The Town Clerk suggested that this could be held in a similar way to information about Climate Emergency – a spreadsheet / written plan / link to resources etc, a resource on the Town Council website including what it means to be Dementia Friendly. Cllr Reville said that she was happy to help Cllr Abbott with this.

Cllr A Rea commented that signage was talked about a lot at the consultation event, this is an opportunity to link the things the Town Council does with things that residents have highlighted.

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

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

Signed: Date: 31 October 2022

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR AUSTEN

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

WASTE COLLECTION CHANGES

The Council will be taking back control of the waste collection from the contractor FCC on 3rd October and introducing a fee of £49 per year, per brown bin collection from Spring 2023. The last collection of brown bins under the free scheme will be up to 31st October.

For those that are interested in the detail of the debate the documents are all public as usual and in my opinion one of the most importantly paragraphs is 5.1.1 of the report. The Environment Act, if it comes into force, will oblige Councils to operate full recycling rounds, black bin waste collections, food waste collections and organic waste to all houses. The earliest the government can bring this in is next year. If we aren't charging for our garden waste collection by that date, we shall get no 'burdens funding' – in plain speak recompense – from the government, for having to operate organic waste collections.

It is intended that a letter should be sent to all households explaining the details of the brown bin service and inviting people to apply for the subscription service if they want to, thus giving as long a run-in time as possible before the new service starts.

The good news is that we held a staff induction day for FCC staff at the Watermark in Ivybridge and had over 100 staff turn up. They were very positive about working for the Council. I believe they understand the challenges we will face over the coming months and it is clear that the vast majority of them want to work with us to improve things and have a clear idea what is needed, so hopefully we will see some visible improvements in the coming months.

IVYBRIDGE MOTORHOME PILOT

In June 2021 we commenced a 12-month trial to allow motorhomes to park for a maximum of two consecutive nights at £10 per night to stay from 6pm until 10am in nominated car parks throughout the South Hams. This applied to motorhomes which are self-contained i.e. have on board toilet facilities only. The nominated car parks were as follows:

- Longmarsh car park, Totnes
- Cattlemarket car park, Kingsbridge
- Park & Ride car park, Dartmouth
- Leonards Road car park, Ivybridge
- Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury

Overall, the policy has seen 1401 overnight stays within the nominated car parks. Highlights of the statistics are as follows:

- Income generated was £14010 (the exec report prediction was £9600 for the 12-month trial)
- The top three locations are Longmarsh car park, Totnes (934 overnight stays), Park & Ride car park Dartmouth (239 overnight stays) and Cattle market car park, Kingsbridge (129 overnight stays).
- Leonards Road car park, Ivybridge saw the least stays of 48 over 12 months followed by Poundwell Meadow car park, Modbury at 51 stays.

We are due to take a report to the Executive in December and propose recommending allowing motorhome parking to continue permanently as per the trial at the above car parks. I would welcome the Town Council feedback regarding the policy.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council has got a new piece of equipment for the Follaton Council Chamber designed to make the streaming of our committee meetings more dynamic.

The main features include the use of multiple cameras to provide better visuals and that these cameras have been programmed to respond to the desk microphones so that when anyone speaking presses their Mic button, the camera will zoom in to show them on screen.

It means watching a Council meeting live on YouTube etc. should be more interesting. The initial meetings have proven the technology very effective.

UKRAINE UPDATE

South Hams is now home to 155 Ukrainians who are fleeing the war in Ukraine, from 66 family groups. SHDC is continuing to play an important role in delivering the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme and helping Ukrainians beyond their initial six-month sponsorship. This included carrying out property checks before Ukrainians arrive, conducting welcome visits once they have settled and ensuring support to meet their immediate needs.

The Councils think that as the 'Homes for Ukraine Scheme' was only meant to be temporary, there is now a risk that some of the families might find themselves homeless. With significant pressure already on temporary accommodation in the area, we are now calling on the Government for ongoing plans for the future of the scheme.

Cllr Spencer had asked the following question, first quoting from Cllr Austen's report: **"If we aren't charging for our garden waste collection by that date, we shall get no 'burdens funding' – in plain speak recompense – from the government, for having to operate organic waste collections."** are you saying in 2023 you will then get burdens funding, and revert to a free service for residents by using this burdens funding to fund the collections?

Cllr Austen explained that if the Environmental Act is passed all Councils will have to pick up garden waste. If they are not charging for garden waste should the Act be passed, they will not be recompensed.

Cllr Austen went on to explain that SHDC are one of the only authorities who do not charge for garden waste, and they had voted in favour of introducing charges from spring 2023. The waste contract will be taken back in house from October 2022 and brown bin collections will cease until the spring. It is estimated that 25-30% of people will take this up and the charge will be £49 per year. Collections will not happen around Christmas therefore Christmas trees will not be picked up.

Cllr Brown asked whether the brown bins will be emptied before the collections cease as some roads in the town have not had collections for 6 weeks. Cllr Austen advised that they would be.

Cllr Brown asked what would happen to the brown bins if people do not wish to pay to have their waste collected. Cllr Austen advised that the bins would be taken away from those households that do not pay.

Cllr A Rea commented that District Cllr Nicky Hopwood told this Council that charges would not be introduced under the current District Council. He queried how she had voted. Cllr Austen advised that she had voted in favour of introducing charges.

Cllr Reville commented that people would start putting garden waste in their black bins. Cllr Abbott advised that the addition of garden waste would affect the way in which the incinerator works which they do not want to happen.

The Mayor asked whether collections would be fortnightly from the spring and whether residents would receive a letter explaining the changes. Cllr Austen advised that they would be.

The Mayor raised an issue which she had witnessed at the recycling centre, where one of the staff accused a resident of bringing in commercial waste when he was just being helpful and had brought his elderly neighbours bins along. She commented that workers at the recycling centre need to be made aware that this may happen more often.

Cllr Lannin asked whether food waste collections will be starting again. Cllr Austen advised that he was not sure how long it would take to get the system working properly, he hoped it would be within 6-12 months but may be quicker. The staff seem happier now, council management are listening to the staff whereas FCC did not. Hopefully happier staff will mean staff retention is greater.

GENERAL

Cllr Abbott raised a question on behalf of a resident:

An article in The Times stated that there were 63 breaches caused by sewage spills, is anyone aware of any problems?

Cllr A Rea commented that Cllr Munro had previously mentioned a problem with a septic tank at Harford but was not aware of anything else.

Cllr Austen suggested that Sir Gary Streeter may have more information regarding this.

Cllr Lannin suggested that there is an app which shows spillages but the last she had heard, the monitoring equipment at Erme Playing Fields was not working.

The public participation session closed at 7.21pm.

DRAFT