

23/099

REPORTS – COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Devon County Council

The County Councillor report from Cllr Croad (copy previously circulated) was noted.

Cllr Croad advised that the Executive were unanimous in voting against a blanket 20mph speed limit in residential areas across Devon. His reason for voting this way was that he felt that it would be better to keep it to certain areas which meet the criteria. Members were disappointed by this as Council had previously voted to support the 20's plenty initiative.

The following queries/questions were raised:

- Concerns about walking to Endsleigh as the pavement is very narrow and cars are going at speed to join the A38. Cllr Croad advised that he would bid to Highways England to get a team doing Restorative Justice to clear the pavement. The speed of traffic on the slip road before Endsleigh has been raised with Highways England but they have advised that the speed limit is the same on all on-slips.
- Queries about why the road by Dame Hannah's has been resurfaced when there are others in a worse state of repair. Cllr Croad advised that roads are graded on how bad they are and the cost of the repair. He will enquire why this was done.
- A query was raised asking who people should speak to if they have concerns about Ivybridge Community College. Cllr Croad advised that they are an academy which is run by directors, however he will speak to an ex-governor who is on the Board.

South Hams District Council

The District Councillor report from Cllr Abbott (copy previously circulated) was noted.

The following queries/questions were raised:

- An article in the Sunday Times showing the average price councils pay for electricity indicated that SHDC is one of the worst in the country. Members wished to know why this is. Cllr Abbott advised that the figures used in the report are incorrect and would circulate the correct figures.

23/100

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 11th December 2023 (copy previously circulated) were received.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023 are confirmed as a correct record, and are accepted.

23/101

COMMITTEE MINUTES: The minutes of the following meetings (copies previously circulated) were noted:

- i. Planning & Infrastructure Committee - 18th December 2023
- ii. Planning & Infrastructure Committee - 8th January 2024

iii. Policy & Resources Committee - 8th January 2024

23/102 **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 December 2023 to 15th January 2024 (previously circulated) were noted.

23/103 **BUDGET AND PRECEPT:** The recommended budget and precept for 2024/25 (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Members wished to know why the planning income and expenditure were different. It was explained that this is due to the income coming from the advertising on bus shelters, there is no other source of income. The expenditure is for the purchase of books and training for members and staff.

It was noted that the expenditure on grass cutting is increasing. This is due to the agreed increase in the number of cuts and to cut the full length of Woolcombe Lane and Cornwood Road.

The planned skate park for Filham does not appear as income as it will not be in the next financial year.

It was noted that the Watermark figures will never be a true record as there is crossover with some elements of the Town Hall income/expenditure.

The recommended budget and precept figure for 2024/25 was proposed, seconded and the majority were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the 2024/25 budget and confirm the precept demand in the sum of £588,773.

23/104 **DISPOSABLE VAPES – COMPREHENSIVE BAN: A CALL FOR URGENT ACTION BY IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL :** The report of Councillor Cao (copy previously circulated) was considered. Members discussed the issues caused by vaping including the litter created by disposable vapes being discarded particularly around the school. It is illegal for children to purchase vapes but not illegal to use them.

Members considered the proposals within the report and were concerned about the impact on officer time. It was agreed there would be an initial meeting with the Town Clerk and Councillor Cao to look at what actions the Town Council could take then this would be brought back to Council in order to form a working group if felt appropriate. It was noted that the Vape Shop in Glanvilles Mill should be involved in discussions.

An amendment to the proposals motion was requested to include writing to the government calling for a ban, as Sheffield Council have already done. The amendment was accepted.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Write to the government calling for a ban on vapes; and
- ii) Councillor Cao to meet with the Town Clerk to discuss potential actions, with a view to forming a working group, if appropriate.

23/105

20MPH SPEED LIMIT PROGRAMME 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST'

2024/2025: The report and scoring matrix (copies previously circulated) were considered. Members discussed the idea of a blanket 20mph speed limit for Ivybridge as this would reduce officer time looking at all the requests for different streets. They also discussed how additional signage where the speed limit changes would be very expensive, all roads leading off a 20mph zone would need signs. Members also noted that in some areas in Wales the bus service has been cut as it is now unworkable with the slower travel times so potential knock on effects should be considered.

Members felt that an expression of interest was probably not something they wished to pursue at present as there is no Speedwatch group in Ivybridge to help obtain evidence, and the Devon County Councillor for Ivybridge does not support the blanket 20mph limit.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Not submit an expression of interest at this time; and
- ii) To write to Devon County Council with the reasons for this.

23/106

IVYBRIDGE SUMMER EVENT: Members discussed ideas for a summer event. Events held in the past such as Beating the Bounds, gate decoration and the Bridge Ceremony were discussed. Music and entertainment in Victoria Park was suggested. Members agreed to form a working party to progress this.

It was **RESOLVED** to form a working party comprising of Cllrs L Rea, Spencer, Steele, Cao and District Cllr Dommett to progress this.

23/107

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING DATE: The proposed meeting date of Monday 18th March 2024 was considered. Members were advised that the Annual Town Meeting would consist of speakers, the community awards, a review of the prior year's financial situation and the forthcoming year's budget, a report from the Mayor summarising the council's activities in the previous year and looking to the coming year, district and county councillor reports and an open section for the public.

It was **RESOLVED** to hold the Annual Town Meeting on 18 March 2024 at 6.30pm in The Watermark.

23/108 **COUNCIL INVESTMENTS:** The information (copy previously circulated) was considered. Members queried whether there will be another opportunity to review investments again if they agree to fix deposit rates for another 6 months. The Town Clerk advised that there would be.

It was **RESOLVED** to fix the deposit rate for a further 6 months.

23/109 **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** The recommendation from the Policy and Resources Committee on 8th January 2024 (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Minute PR23/048, which recommended that: the quote from Flotek of £12,937 plus vat for networking systems overhaul in the Watermark and Town Hall, is accepted, with work to be carried out at the earliest opportunity.

The Town Clerk advised that the issues are building wide and are starting to have an impact on the businesses. Over the years money has been saved by finding ways around the issues but the time has come that the system needs to be revamped.

It was **RESOLVED** that the recommendation from minute PR23/048 is approved.

23/110 **BUTTERPARK:** The Town Clerk provided a verbal update:

- Heads of Terms have been agreed
- Exclusivity agreement has been agreed
- Conditional contract has been drafted and initial buyers enquiries form completed – includes requirement for the council to agree proposals prior to submitting planning application
- An initial ecological survey has been completed and species surveys will be required. Reptile surveys start in April and go through May. Bat surveys will be early June and early July.
- Other surveys and investigations should be completed over next few months, with a pre-application being submitted in that time. The project manager has been working with planning officers and a learning disabilities expert to ensure that all requirements are met.
- An application to the Brownfield Land Release Fund (BLRF) is being submitted which, if approved, will fund demolition costs to provide a clear site.
- There is a mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) offset requirement, and we will be asked to suggest some off-site projects, such as Filham as an example.
- It is hoped that the project manager, architect and SHDC senior housing specialist will attend the March council meeting to give a presentation on progress and the project as a whole.

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

23/111 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor, Officer and Community activity (copy previously circulated) were noted.

The Town Clerk thanked the Admin Officer for her work on the Christmas hampers for those who were alone at Christmas.

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed: Date: 4 March 2024

DRAFT