

Due to the bad weather it is difficult to complete a satisfactory fill when the holes and surrounding areas are wet. As a result, gangs are not able to get out and deal with the problem. The highways budget is currently underspent to the tune of some £10million and I want some of that for Ivybridge but I need some help. I cannot get round every nook and cranny of Ivybridge so I would like all members to have a look at their patch and report any potholes on the DCC website 'Report a Problem' webpage. If you click the pothole option it walks you through what is accepted as a pothole defect – an inspector will attend the report to assess the defect and raise an order. I am informed that the South Hams currently have 731 potholes already reported and awaiting repair. What is a pothole? 40mm deep (2x 20p) and 300mm long or wide with a vertical or near vertical side. A 300mm long depression is not classed as a pothole.

One big reason why DCC is not spending £185million on highways is the fact that we simply cannot afford to. Slowly but surely, Social Services spend is hollowing out the rest of the council spend. The DCC net revenue spend for 2024/25 is just about £700million and social services will gobble up £588million. In 2009 the social services spend was 62% of the whole budget, when we set this current budget it was 80%. One aspect that jumps out is that in 2009 there were 301 looked after children, last week that figure stood at 899 at an average of £40,000 per child per annum.”

The following questions were raised:

- Some of the pavements in Ivybridge are also in a bad state, what about these? Cllr Croad advised that there are some footpath works scheduled in. Any issues with footpaths should be reported via the website.
- The state of the A38 roundabout was again raised.
- Does DCC lobby central government for more funding? Cllr Croad advised they are, constantly.
- It has been in the news that across the country hundreds of children have been sent to unregistered care homes, does DCC do this? Cllr Croad advised that he will check.
- What is DCC doing to lobby government for prevention services for children and ensure they are using the best way of dealing with this issue? Cllr Croad advised that children's services regularly benchmark against other councils.
- Is the special school still happening? Cllr Croad advised that it has gone through planning and is waiting for funding from central government. Aiming for 2026.

South Hams District Council

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

The following query/question was raised:

- How will people be notified that the postal votes are now reviewed every 3 years? Cllr Steele advised that he would check.

23/147

MINUTES: The minutes of the following meetings of the Town Council (copy previously circulated) were received:

- (i) Council 4 March 2024
- (ii) Extraordinary Council 11 March 2024
- (iii) Extraordinary Council 26 March 2024

It was noted that Cllr Cole appeared in both the list of members present and the apologies for the Council meeting on 4 March. This was corrected to show her only in the apologies.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) The minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 March 2024 are confirmed as a correct record and are accepted with the amendment discussed above.
- (ii) The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 March 2024 are confirmed as a correct record and are accepted
- (iii) The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 26 March 2024 are confirmed as a correct record and are accepted.

23/148

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

- (i) Planning and Infrastructure Committee 11 March 2024
- (ii) Personnel Committee 25 March 2024
- (iii) Parks Committee 25 March 2024
- (iv) Watermark Committee 26 March 2024
- (v) Policy & Resources Committee 2 April 2024

23/149

TOWN MAYOR'S & DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR'S INTERESTS: The functions or activities attended by the Town Mayor or Deputy Mayor for the period 27 February to 8 April (previously circulated) were noted.

23/150 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT:** The report (copy previously circulated) was noted.
It was raised that last year there was a discussion regarding whether the Watermark Committee would continue. The Town Clerk agreed to look into this.
Members raised a point from the standing orders where the whole council elect the Chairs of committees. The Town Clerk advised that prior to the May meeting a list of members and committees would be circulated and members asked which committees they would like to sit on. At the May meeting the committees would be formed and committee Chairs elected. This would mean Chairs were in place straight away rather than having to wait sometimes a couple of months until the next meeting of that committee.

23/151 **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:** The recommendations from Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 2 April 2024 (copies of relevant documents provided to members previously circulated) was considered.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- (i) Increase the spend limit in an electronic payment run from £70,000 to £100,000 and for the Financial Regulations to be amended accordingly, as per recommendation in minute PR23/075.
- (ii) Adopt the Home Working Policy, as per recommendation in minute 23/077.

23/152 **ACCESSIBLE IVYBRIDGE WORKING GROUP – TERMS OF REFERENCE:** The proposed Terms of Reference for Accessible Ivybridge Working Group (copy previously circulated) were considered.

Members requested the following amendments:

- Reword the 4th bullet point to read 'contribute to marketing'
- Under 'meetings' amend so it reads 'working group will meet every 6 weeks or as may be required'

The Town Clerk reminded members that a working group is not subject to the same rules as committees, in terms of calling meetings. They are also advisory groups, and cannot make decisions nor spend.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Terms of Reference for Accessible Ivybridge Working Group.

- 23/153 **DALC MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:** The membership renewal for Devon Association of Local Councils was considered (copy previously circulated).

Members noted that DALC provide a lot of useful training material and felt that it is in our interest to remain a member.

It was **RESOLVED** to renew the membership of DALC for a further year (2024/25) at a cost of £1,643.

- 23/154 **IVYBRIDGE COMMUNITY (SUMMER) EVENT:** Members noted that a Temporary Events notice (TEN) is required for the event on 25 May 2024. It was agreed that Cllr L Rea as Chair of the Summer Event Working Party would complete the TEN.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr L Rea completes the TEN, on behalf of the town council, as organiser of the community event taking place on 25 May 2024.

- 23/155 **DRAFT PROTOCOL – MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES:** The draft protocol – Member Representatives on Outside Bodies (copy previously circulated) was considered.

Members felt they would like to see what value we are bringing to the outside body and what being a member is for the Town Council. Even just a sentence each year to justify. It was queried whether there would be a mechanism to send another member if the representative was unavailable. The Town Clerk advised that there could be a second, as a substitute, if appropriate to the organisation. The situation with Member's Interests was queried. The Town Clerk advised that this would only be an issue if members have decision making powers on that outside body.

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Protocol Member Representatives on Outside Bodies.

- 23/156 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates on Councillor and Officer activity was received (copy previously circulated).

Cllr Weeks had attended a meeting with Ivybridge and District Community Transport which highlighted the isolation of people in the surrounding parishes which are not served by a regular bus service.

They would like to be able to come into the town but are unable to due to lack of transport links. Would it be possible to look into providing a shuttlebus? The Town Clerk advised that this would be considered at a future meeting.

Cllr A Rea advised that the community fridge is now in place and has food in it. It has not been advertised to the community yet as there is no rota in place for cleaning and temperature checks. The aim is to launch this at the spring community event.

Cllr L Rea provided the following update on the community event: "Planning is well underway for the community event on 25th May in Victoria park. We have a host of local performers lined up, but still have room for more, so if you are interested do contact the town hall. As well as entertainment we will have food and drink available for folks to enjoy. Our very own Ivybridge Brewery will be coming along, as well as Pete with his ice cream van and others. The planning team have been working hard on logistics too with significant support from the officer team (thank you!) and we are confident that we will have a great event to look forward to. Hopefully you will have already seen details of the poster competition, and request for expressions of interest from community groups to join in by decorating a gate. We also have an event planned in the library to make some signs and banners which will help us to meet our objective of this event being for the community by the community. Currently spend is forecast to be within the budget secured through council."

She went on to thank the Administration Officer for her work on promoting the event on social media and advised that the working group are also doing a great job.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the updates on Councillor and Officer activity.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

Signed: Date: 20 May 2024