

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council of Ivybridge held remotely using Zoom, on Monday 22 February 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr A Laity (Town Mayor) Cllr K Pringle
 Cllr T Bowden Cllr A Rea
 Cllr M Cade Cllr L Rea
 Cllr P Dredge Cllr A Spencer
 Cllr S Hladkij Cllr E Silsbury
 Cllr R Jago Cllr A Spencer
 Cllr A Khong Cllr R Wilson
 Cllr T Munro

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
 Mrs L Lane (Minute Secretary)
 Mr D Arulvasagam (Head of Strategy & Partnerships, South West Mutual)
 Ms V Woods (Community Engagement Officer for Plymouth and the South Hams, Office for National Statistics)
 Cllr V Abbott (South Hams District Council)

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Mr Arulvasagam and Ms V Woods.

An adjournment followed from 7.00pm to 7.45pm to allow any questions, reports or representations by the Police, County and District Councillors.

****Cllr Spencer joined the meeting at 7.07pm.***

****Ms Woods left the meeting at 7.26pm***

****Mr Arulvasagam left the meeting at 7.45pm***

- 20/131 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllr T Parsons.
- 20/132 **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.
- 20/133 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on 11th January 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Laity confirmed and Cllr Wilson seconded and the minutes were adopted.
- 20/134 **PLANNING AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meetings held on 21st December 2020 and 12th January 2021 (copies previously circulated) were received. Cllr Hladkij confirmed and Cllr Bowden seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/135 **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE:** The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2021 (copy previously circulated) were received. Cllr Wilson confirmed and Cllr Laity seconded and the minutes were adopted.

20/136 **COUNCIL GOVERNANCE:** The updated documents:

- a. Anti-Bribery Policy – January 2021
 - b. Anti-Bribery Statement – January 2021
 - c. Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy – January 2021
 - d. Procurement Policy – February 2021
 - e. Council Risk Assessment – February 2021
 - f. Internal Audit Annual Report – 2021
 - g. Statement of Internal Control – 2021 - 2022
- (copies previously circulated) were considered.

The Mayor invited comments on the policies.

- a. There were no comments.
- b. There were no comments
- c. There were no comments
- d. Cllr Lannin advised that there was one small typo, and queried whether the references to the EU under 3.2 were still relevant. Cllr Dredge advised that the wording relating to the EU was a bit of a grey area at the moment, but he had been advised that these rules would continue to be adhered to. He feels that the policy will need to be looked at again in a few months' time when there is a clearer picture.

Cllr T Rea thanked Cllr Dredge for his work on the policies. He advised that he had noticed some repeated lines in the text and would email the details to Cllr Dredge. He then queried whether the references to Climate Emergency have a high enough priority, two mentions compared to six mentions of cost and value. He then asked how community involvement is achieved for procurement.

Cllr Dredge explained that most of the information from Government talks about value for money rather than climate emergency. With regard to community involvement, this is not done in a formal way, Council talks and people can comment. Listening and talking to residents.

- e. Cllr Dredge advised that he had tried to say what the effect of the pandemic was against each heading. With regard to the section on climate emergency has been carried over from last year as the pandemic has put a stop to most of the work on this.

Cllr Lannin suggested that rather than having a very detailed level in the risk assessment it could be reduced down into three areas:

- Greenspaces, dealt with by Parks Committee and officers;

- Risk of missed opportunities of taking action or working with partners; and
- Reputational risk if action is not taken.

She agreed to email her thoughts through to Cllr Dredge.

Cllr T Rea advised he had a number of queries. Should business continuity risk include the risk of losing digitally stored data and the risk of overreliance on the expertise of particular individuals? Keeping members informed – 2 members not on committees and construct of P&R so a number of Councillors are excluded from making decisions.

****It was RESOLVED to suspend Standing Order 3y as the meeting was approaching 60 minutes***

Cllr T Rea went on to comment that there is a section on staff complaints but nothing on Councillor complaints at the moment. He then asked whether it would be possible to have an update on Butterpark from the Town Clerk at a future meeting. The risk assessment does not list that we lack a Community Resilience Plan at the moment. This would be a big risk to our reputation.

- f. No comments
- g. No comments

The Mayor asked whether Councillors were happy to vote to accept all the documents apart from document e in one block.

Cllr T Rea queried whether this meant they could not be changed for a year. Cllr Dredge advised that document f, the Internal Audit Annual Report was the only document that could not be changed. The others could be reviewed as needed.

Cllr Cade asked whether in line with the Climate Emergency Action Plan, item 20/137, all policies will have a statement about the CO₂ impact. The Town Clerk advised that this came up through the working group but still looking at how this could be included where possible in a robust and compliant way. The working group need to do more work on this, and come back to Council. The problem is they have been warned it may not be best practice to have a blanket statement.

It was put to the vote to accept documents a, b, c, d, f, and g. All were in favour.

It was then put to the vote to defer document e to the next Council meeting. All were in favour.

Cllrs thanked Cllr Dredge for his work on these documents.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- receive and accept documents a, b, c, d, f and g; and
- to defer document e to the next Council meeting.

20/137

CLIMATE EMERGENCY: The report and action plan (copies previously circulated) were considered.

Cllr Wilson commented that with regard to lighting, from personal experience, 30% of saving can be made from using LEDs. Another 30% can also be made from smart lighting, lights which turn off when an area is not in use and also lights which monitor the level of daylight in a room and respond accordingly. With regard to the heat pump for The Watermark, ground source would require an area bigger than the Erme Court car park and would therefore not be practical. Air Source would be more practical for a building of this size. Modern buildings have to pull fresh air from outside. A heat wheel exchanges heat from the outgoing air onto the incoming air. Something like this might be worth investigation.

He also commented that if willow was to be planted in wet areas and boundaries, part of the plan for Filham Park involved looking at the possibility for a community workshop, and could make willow sculptures and furniture. It would be nice to also have an onsite facility to teach people if this went ahead.

He then pointed out that the eco fair information needed revising.

He queried whether rather than school food being plant based it should read that a plant based option would be available.

Cllr Munro said with regard to the electric car club, it is currently low risk, however if enough charging points are not provided this could be high risk.

Cllr Lannin reminded Councillors that the plan is as it was a year ago due to Covid. It would be good to start building on this again. Connected to the Aldi development, and the removal of a mature hedge and trees, SHDC are looking at how to mitigate the environmental impact. She had a site visit with Cllr Hladkij and Rob Sekula from SHDC. If anyone has any ideas on how the general riverside area could be improved, it would be helpful to pass these ideas back to SHDC.

Cllr T Rea commented that everyone understands that the pandemic has prevented progress on this, but he had 3 questions / comments. South Devon Community Energy Housing plan is included, however the site is outside Ivybridge, in Ugborough parish, so should it be removed as if the Planning Committee are asked to comment it could be seen as a conflict of interest.

Ethical Investments – Cllr Dredge had addressed this earlier in the meeting. It also refers to a purchasing policy, should this be changed to procurement policy? Also at some point it will need to tie in with the procurement policy.

It would be really good to have project champions, perhaps other members of the community rather than Councillors.

Cllr Dredge advised that Cllr Lannin had sent him an update from PL21 for his Travelwatch Southwest meeting on climate emergency. The other attendees were CEOs of bus and train companies. The discussion had not gone the way he had thought it would so did not

get the opportunity to speak about PL21 or what the Town Council have been doing so slightly disappointing. The discussion was more about using mobile phones for ticketing, ensuring train and bus services linked up and that buses took people to where they wanted to go, so not really what he was expecting. Great Western are looking at how they dispose of their surplus food to ensure it is not just thrown away.

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

20/138

UPDATE AND INFORMATION: Updates and notes of meetings attended by Councillors (copy previously circulated) were received.

Cllr Wilson commented that the lead individual in France with regard to Bedford had sadly passed away and he was hoping to hear who will be taking the role on. This is something we need to build on, rebuilding those ties.

Cllr T Rea commented that he would be interested in helping with this, it could be a wider thing not just the D Day link. Pre Covid they were trying to build a link between Ivybridge Community Arts and a similar group in Bedford, perhaps around the Mayflower celebrations Cllr Wilson advised that he has contacts both in Bedford and at the D Day museum.

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

The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Signed Date February 2021

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Report of the discussions during the adjournment of the Town Council Meeting held on Monday 22 February 2021

Apologies: Cllr Croad

POLICE REPORT

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

I have no significant issues to raise, crime is low and generally, of a low level. Of course, lock-down has had an impact on our crime figures – pubs closed, no late-night revellers returning from the bright lights of Plymouth.

Crime - Mapping will show some 'violent crime' around Ivybridge but this can be anything from a verbal threat during a text argument to a physical assault. Some of our 'Violent crime' at this time is happening behind closed doors and is domestic related. We have had a slight rise in 'Sexual Offences' which will show on the crime mapping over the coming months. These are mainly the sending of 'indecent images' between young adults (16/17years) on their mobile devices.

Covid - We have been very busy responding to reports of Covid Breaches. These are, in the main, at our beauty spots, beaches etc with people travelling from outside the South Hams or even the county. Second home occupation is a common theme. We have had several reports (inc from the Council) of persons buying coffees etc at Rochelles Cafe and 'hanging around / chatting / socialising' under the covered area of Glanville's Mill. This is no reflection on Rochelles staff who have been trading very responsibly during Lock-Down. My Team and I have been paying attention to this area.

Public Toilets - As you will be aware, there were separate reports of Arson at this location. It is easy for an offender to pay for entry and then be out-of-sight to any passers-by, including Police. I have requested that for the duration of Lock-down, the toilets are closed after dark. Hopefully, the issue will solve itself when we return to larger degree of freedom.

Sgt R Canning

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Croad was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following report which was circulated prior to the meeting:

Coronavirus in the South West Peninsula

Here are the latest figures and the numbers of cases continue to fall, now quite rapidly!

- 13th to 19th February there were 347 laboratory confirmed cases in Devon. (17 in South Hams).

[108 in Torbay; 125 in Plymouth; 250 in Cornwall and 72,340 in England]

So, currently confirmed cases per 100,000: Devon 43.2; Torbay 79.3; Plymouth 47.7; Cornwall 43.7; England 128.5. (South Hams 19.5).

- Sadly, 9th to 15th February there were 47 deaths in the Peninsular (12 in Devon; 5 in Torbay; 3 in Plymouth; 27 in Cornwall). 2,968 in England.

- As at 16th February there were 145 Covid-related patients in our four major hospitals including 48 in Nightingale Exeter and some 28 from outside the County.

- Cases across Devon by age group as of 19th February per 100,000:

0-19 = 35.7 (South Hams 17.5)

20-39 = 95.1 (47.6)

40-59 = 54.5 (16.8)

60-79 = 22.7 (12)

80 plus = 66 (NIL)

So, a fall in all age groups. The 20 -39 age group remain the highest group across the county but another clear drop from previous week. For the first time since last February there were NO recorded cases in the 80+ group and very few in the 60-79 age group – must be a clear indication that the vaccines are taking effect!

- Vaccinations – up to 16th February, over 97.5% of the first four cohorts vaccinated plus some 18% of the under 70 age group. All in all, just about 350,000 (little over 30% of Devon's adult population) received a first dose.

Devon remains the lowest infected local authority (out of 152) in the country for the fourth week running. Keep up the good work – light at the end of the tunnel, surely!

Further to the above, Devon County Council has now commenced Lateral-Flow community testing in the County, the first in the Country, and has opened test centres in Exeter and Barnstaple followed this week by test centres in Honiton and Newton Abbot. Ivybridge is scheduled for the second week in March – now looking for a suitable location.

The test centres are accommodating both drive-through and walk-through testing with results within the hour by text and/or email. Today will see the introduction

of four mobile testing units for the more rural settings and in larger employers on site.

The tests are primarily for people who are asymptomatic and have contact with others such as taxi drivers, shop assistants, schoolteachers etc. but not exclusively so.

First results are encouraging in that the first 600 tests in Exeter revealed one positive case!

Cllr T Rea commented it was unfortunate that Cllr Croad was unable to attend the meeting. Devon County Council Cabinet had recently voted in favour of a new slip road onto the A38 at Lee Mill, something the residents of Ivybridge have been asking for to the east of the town for a number of years. It would be good to speak to Cllr Croad regarding this. He then queried whether it would be possible for Cllr Croad to attend a Planning and Infrastructure Committee to speak about this. He suggested this rather than the next Council meeting due to the timing of County elections and the purdah period.

The Town Clerk advised that the Chair of Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr Hladkij, could invite Cllr Croad if she wished.

Cllr Hladkij advised she was happy to do this if the Members of the Committee were in agreement. Arrangements would be made outside of this meeting.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

COUNCILLOR PRINGLE

Cllr Pringle commented that South Hams District Council were still prioritising supporting businesses through the pandemic.

She went on to advise that the new recycling scheme was being rolled out shortly and information is being provided to residents.

COUNCILLOR ABBOTT

Cllr Abbott provided a photograph which was circulated prior to the meeting, and the following report:



Through one of the Committees and then agreed by Council, £500,000 has been allocated to the Recovery and Renewal Plan and £200,000 to fund activities within the Climate Change Action Plan. We are very pleased we have had these proposals accepted. These monies will fund operational activities enabling them to proceed.

The District Council has voted for an increase of £5 per year for its own revenue. South Hams acts as the collector of local taxes but of the total sum (to be set tomorrow afternoon), only 9% is kept for District activities. Other precepts include the Towns & Parishes, the County, the Fire Service and the Police. We (that's some of us on the Council) remain opposed to Council Tax, as a regressive tax, affecting the poorer in society more than others.

The Aldi keeps on coming up at various committees and has met another stage of approval. This commits the District Council to an expenditure of £450,000. It has been interesting to read an article where the CEO of the Co-op expressed the synergy between spend at the Co-op and at discount supermarkets. Aldi also has the concept of linked trips in its design, so there is a strong argument for the new build to support the regeneration of the Town. It is likely to open sometime near the summer of 2023.

At the District Council, I have spoken of other possible regeneration projects in Ivybridge, including some which would be small scale but would have an impact on our everyday lives.

As for the Skate Park, following a site visit to land enclosed by the river/ Marjorie Kelly Way/ Leisure Centre, and conversations with people unconnected but living in the Town, it is clear there's an excitement in the Filham development for both youth and adults. I have emailed all interested parties. I am also in touch with a Skate Park Group in Totnes.

As you know, the boundaries of the Town Council and Ugborough Parish Council do not coincide with the eastern boundary of my Ward. I cover the new Wain Homes sites, North Filham (on the B3213), the houses in Filham and all of Lucerne Fields. For Ivybridge, a few of the houses in Lucerne Fields and parts of Godwell Lane are within the Town Council boundaries. A footpath in Ugborough Parish is used by our residents, accessing up from Godwell Lane and into Lucerne Fields. I've been able to work with the Ugborough Parish Council and through them the County Footpaths Team to have the access improved. I have sent through a photograph of the new steps and handrail. There was no handrail before, the steps were very uneven, and I considered it dangerous. I am very pleased with the new access.

It will be better yet if there was level access. Would the Town support a path from the final cul-de-sac being constructed in New Green Street? Is there any information on the land ownership across the farm land to the field gate?

Litter. The A38 is a real mess.

In Ivybridge, I've heard of a dozen people working across the Town, picking litter on their own. Just yesterday, Councillor Lannin came away with two rubbish sacks full. The situation has deteriorated but it's been heartening to hear of many doing their small bit. I've had conversations with people whilst out walking, and on Facebook, and the community site, "Next Door".

You will have noticed the discussion on Facebook about resurfacing on Cleeve Drive. It goes hand in hand with people's perception of the local road network, South West Water's lack of action over Station Road, and the intermittent working of the traffic lights on the B3213 (Exeter Road out towards Bittaford). I can't offer solutions - I'm not a highways engineer. I am making enquiries to understand the situation better.

The construction of the roundabout at the junction with Rutt Lane has made me wonder about the land set aside for the Medical Centre and I'd be pleased to understand the Beacon Medical Group's position. Other Towns seem to be moving ahead with a lovely centre planned for Dartmouth but I'd be grateful if anyone can help me understand the situation in Ivybridge better.

Finally, I have liaised with a resident and made direct representations with the builders over lorries parking on footpaths in the Rutt Lane/ Station Car Park area. I am glad to say this has produced improved behaviour. The increased use of this area during house and roundabout construction needs to be monitored for both obstructions to the footpaths and increased litter.

Cllr Wilson queried whether Cllr Abbott would support relocating the boundary between Ivybridge and Ugborough. He went on to comment that with regard to the litter, he noticed that last week in the high winds recycling bags had blown around scattering their contents on the road. The Town has had conversations with Beacon regarding new premises for the health centre but it comes down to there being no money for this.

Cllr Hladkij advised that she had walked the length of Cleeve Drive as she had heard complaints about the work completed by Devon Highways. She advised that more work has been done than has been perceived, however some large potholes have not been mended, and is unsure why this is. She had also noted that the traffic lights on Western Road have had some issues with not working. With regard to Cllr Wilson's comments about litter, she has also noticed this however it was on Dinnaton Road so not related to recycling bags being blown around, this is litter which people are throwing out of their cars. She feels ashamed that people think this is acceptable and wondered how as a town we could raise awareness.

Cllr T Rea commented that Cllr Austen had said he was meeting with Cllr Croad on 25 February to discuss the pothole on Station Road, and had been advised that this was not a public meeting. He asked Cllr Abbott whether he was aware of this meeting. Cllr Abbott advised he was not aware.

Cllr Hladkij commented that the steps onto Godwell Lane shown in the picture Cllr Abbott had provided were a great improvement. She was unsure how an accessible pathway would work but advised she would investigate.

MS V WOODS - CENSUS 2021

Ms Woods advised that the next census is happening on 21 March. Ivybridge has been identified as one of the areas with diverse need. With the combination of the Covid pandemic and Britain leaving the EU, it is important to obtain the maximum number of responses to the census as money will be allocated based on this information. Since the last census the population has increased and people's needs have changed. It is to be a digital census; the packs will include login details. Around 10% of households will receive a paper version, these are households which have been identified as not using the internet. There will be support centres for those who are having issues or would prefer to complete the census by telephone. It is perfectly acceptable to allow a trusted individual to complete the census on behalf of someone else.

Ms Woods has been working with the Community Connector and the Foodbank along with the Imag and South Hams Gazette who have agreed to promote this.

At the moment they are recruiting field staff, but are having issues filling all the roles. The main job of field staff is to focus on the 30% of the population who might struggle to complete the census and require more support. The field staff will be out knocking on doors the week after census day to encourage those who have not yet responded.

Ms Woods asked whether Councillors could advise her of any areas of concern. The Town Clerk agreed to collate these and forward them on.

MR D ARULVASAGAM – SOUTH WEST MUTUAL

Mr Arulvasagam shared a presentation with Councillors.

He explained that South West Mutual is a new type of bank which puts purpose before profit. It has been running for two years. Input has been received from seven local authority districts. It covers Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

The idea is to reinvest in the local economy, focussing on smaller businesses, also trying to help with the future green economy and financing these kind of things.

Also they are looking at financial inclusion and helping individual people who are unable to open an account with other banks, an idea which has received backing from local authorities.

The aim is also to provide regional banks, something which is currently not available in the UK, and to restore customer trust in banks. For example, by not trying to cross sell products.

They are looking at trying to put branches back in some form, although mindful that Covid has changed the way people bank. They aim to be accessible by not only being digital but also human contact, for example using the Post Office and pay points.

They aim to provide all the products that you would expect a bank to provide but also looking to fill niches. For example, business current accounts with a set fee but no extra charges, personal accounts with a fee but will pay interest. They are not looking at having introductory special rates.

Currently this is in the pre application phase. It is a long process.

Mr Arulvasagam advised that they would like to get an idea from Councillors as to what people are having problems with, whether there are any gaps, are branches a thing of the past, cash use, financial inclusion, whether the Town Council would be interested in a bespoke Town Council bank account. Perhaps The Watermark could be used as a hub branch?

The Mayor thanked Mr Arulvasagam for his presentation and asked Councillors to feed back their thoughts via the Town Clerk.

The public participation session closed at 7.45pm.