

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning & Infrastructure Committee held in the Town Hall on Monday 19 December 2022 at 6pm

Present: Cllr A Rea, Cllr A Spencer and Cllr J Brown

In attendance: Julie Gilbert (Assistant Town Clerk)

There was no public participation session

PL22/043 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs L Budd and T Munro.

PL22/044 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** No interests were declared.

PL22/045 **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the Planning & Infrastructure Committee meetings held on 28 November were confirmed as a correct record and were duly signed.

PL22/046 **HIGHWAY MATTERS:** Notification was received from Devon County Council of temporary prohibition of parking affecting outside of 45 Fore Street, Ivybridge from Tuesday 24 January 2023 to Friday 27 January 2023 between 9am and 3.30pm to enable gas service cut off (copy previously circulated).

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

PL22/047 **SEWAGE:** A report from Cllr A Rea regarding sewage in the river Erme was received (copy previously circulated).

Cllr Rea had represented the Council at a meeting at Holbeton Church regarding pollution of the river Erme. Representatives from South West Water (SWW) and the Environment Agency (EA), Sir Gary Streeter, Ermington and Holbeton parish councillors, Surfers Against Sewage and interested residents were in attendance. The issues with pollution had been recognised due to SWW out-pouring untreated sewage into the river when treatment plants cannot cope with the flow of run-off water into their sewers. The EA had pointed out that their priorities in this area are the rivers Dart and Teign. Ivybridge Water Treatment Works (WTW) had been non-compliant during 2022.

SWW confirmed that the WTW had capacity for handling the increased load from new housing estates, however increased flow was the issue. Rainwater from buildings since the 1960s are diverted into separate run offs and not into the sewers. During periods of heavy rain the run-off from pre-60's builds together with water getting into the system through breakages is the issue. The WTW are flooded and thus put out of action, or untreated sewage is let into the

river. They suggested that improvements could be made at the Ivybridge WTW.

Further to Cllr Rea's report he had since attended a meeting of Ermington Parish Council, where they share Holbeton's concerns and are keen to join forces to try to tackle this issue on a 'catchment area' wide scale. Furthermore, they are keen that Ivybridge, as the largest and most central community on the Erme should co-ordinate.

Cllr Rea has subsequently received an email from a representative of the Flete Estate. They were aware of Cllr Rea potentially coordinating the collaboration of various groups along the Erme looking at water quality issues in the river. They were part of the Holbeton Group looking at the problem locally, in particular the storm overflow discharges from the WTW, and would be keen not to work in silo and be part of an integrated catchment wide approach.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- (i) Cllr Rea composes a letter to the Environment Agency to be sent on behalf of Ivybridge Town Council's Planning and Infrastructure Committee, questioning the nature and frequency of the non-compliance and what enforcement measures were used;
- (ii) Cllr Rea composes a letter to South West Water to be sent on behalf of Ivybridge Town Council's Planning and Infrastructure Committee, questioning the nature of the improvements which could be made at the Ivybridge WTW and a timescale for such improvements;
- (iii) Cllr Rea contacts Cllr Dredge, Chair of Ivybridge and District Association of Local Councils, with respect to liaising through the Association regarding a collaborative approach representing the whole of the Erme catchment with a view to Ivybridge taking the lead.

PL22/048 **BUDGET:** To receive income and expenditure information to enable consideration to be given to the forthcoming budget (previously circulated).

It was **RESOLVED** a recommendation be made to Policy and Resources Committee to support the income and expenditure to the forthcoming budget.

PL22/049 **PLANNING:** The following planning applications were considered:

3362/22/HHO Householder application for garage conversion to habitable room with first floor extension above – 1 Acland Road, Ivybridge, PL21 9UR.

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223362>

SUPPORT - Members appreciated that the plans had been amended to lower the ridge height of the extension making it more subservient to the main dwelling and not as overbearing.

In addition, they wished to request that the proposed first-floor extension to the north east elevation is recessed from the main dwelling similar to that of number 17. With these changes implemented they would be minded to support the application.

3692/22/FUL Change of use & conversion of existing ground floor commercial space to self-contained apartment – 9 Erme Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AB.

<http://apps.southhams.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/223692>

NO COMMENT

The meeting closed at 6.45pm

Signed:

Date: 9 January 2023