

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of The Watermark Committee meeting held at The Town Hall on Tuesday 25 July 2023 at 6.30pm

Present: Cllr P Dredge (Chairperson)
Cllr L Austen (Vice-Chairperson)
Cllr A Khong
Cllr S Murphy
Cllr K Pringle
Cllr M Steele

In Attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs M Lord (Watermark Manager)
Mrs P Cleal (Senior Finance Officer)

WM23/007 **APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received.

WM23/008 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** No interests were declared.

WM23/009 **TRADING INFORMATION:** Members considered the income and expenditure information to month 3 of 2023-2024 (copy previously circulated).

Councillor Dredge informed Members that the Information area was ahead of budget, and room hire inline with budget. The Cinema although not on budget was close and there may be timing differences with regard to income and expenditure as with the live artists which was inline with budget. The coffee shop was doing very well although catering was down, the Watermark Manager highlighted that with food costs high businesses were not ordering catering however, are now offering for hirers to bring in their own catering which also helps regarding staff costs. There is an event booked for early August for 120. The bar is ahead of budget and a recent event for the Football Club was well attended. The building costs are slightly ahead of budget. The top floor units are inline with the budget. There were two units vacant and one has been let with interest for the last unit. Cllr Dredge highlighted that the figures showed break even for the month which was excellent and congratulated the Watermark Manager.

It was **RESOLVED** to note and receive the report and thanks to the Manager and staff.

WM23/010 **WATERMARK MANAGER'S REPORT:** The Committee considered the report (copy previously circulated). The Watermark Manager informed Members that one of the CCTV cameras had been replaced and one repositioned to give better coverage.

The cinema was doing well and there were some good films booked with a pink theme for the Barbie film and a raffle in aid of breast cancer on the same day, 15th August 2023.

The Watermark Manager mentioned the lift had been out of action for 3 weeks and a quotation had been received for the works but after obtaining a second opinion and a more cost effective quotation the works have now been undertaken and complete.

Anti social behaviour appears to have reduced but will be monitored especially now it's summer holidays.

The Watermark Manager informed Members that the information desk had been relocated in the Library to help differentiate between the information desk and the library services.

The Town Clerk informed members that a report had been taken to the Policy and Resources committee regarding expenditure for the Watermark building which had not been budgeted for. These works are for repairs to the auditorium seating, cleaning of the external surface of the building which a specialist is required to undertake and the heating controls on the boilers need to be reprogrammed. He added that any repairs which effect the building is split with the Library and that costs would be taken from the Auditorium reserve 9316/903 and the Watermark Support reserve 9211/902 as mentioned in the report. Members agreed the works were essential and delegated officers continue to plan the works.

Cllr Austen commented that he had attended a recent event for the first time, Gigspanner, and felt the event was very good, well attended and a successful evening but enquired about advertising for events. The Town Clerk and Watermark Manager informed him that advertising was on the back cover of the local Ivybridge magazine which was delivered monthly, on social media and what's on guides, but were open to suggestions of where else we could advertise or places for the what's on guides.

Cllr Steele enquired about the Erme Court car park regarding helping those without smart phones but this is not something the Watermark staff can help with but encourage use of the Leonards Road car park and the Town Clerk added that the lighting was to be improved by Poundland which would help for evening events at the Watermark.

It was **RESOLVED** to note and receive the report and confirm delegated officers continue to plan the repairs required at the Watermark in line with the report.

The meeting closed at 6.54pm

Signed: Dated:
Chairperson