



ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES – 23-04

THE ILFRACOMBE CENTRE, HIGH STREET, ILFRACOMBE, DEVON, EX34 9QB, 01271 855300

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th April 2023

Members Present:

Councillors: D Turton (Chair), P Coates, G Coulter, P Crabb, R Donovan, T Elliott, G Fowler, V Gates, B Gear, K Leck, G Schofield, D Williams, J Williams, S Wilson

Officers Present

S Seatherton (Programme Manager), C Coombs (Responsible Finance Officer), I Howard (Minute Taker)

Other Present: There were two members of the public present.

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr N Pearson (personal)

2. Declarations of interest and consider members' submitted dispensation requests

Cllr Donovan declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda.

3. Chair's discretion for any matters or announcements for Information Only

Cllr Coates and Cllr Wilson each had one item to raise (see item 18).

4. Public Participation

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the loss of a hotel for tourism use in Ilfracombe and wanted to know if there were any updates on what the future holds for this hotel. Cllr Turton assured the member of the public that any updates would be fed back.

5. To approve and adopt the minutes of Full Council meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – Cllr D Turton

5.1. To approve and adopt the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th March 2023.

Cllr Fowler proposed, seconded by Cllr Coulter, that these minutes be accepted. All Councillors were in favour apart from two abstentions, due to both Councillors not being present at the meeting.

5.2. Matters Arising – None.

6. Minutes of Planning Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) of 20th March 2023 – Cllr J Williams

Cllr J Williams summarised the meeting and asked that the meeting be noted.



6.1. Recommendations: Nothing to note.

7. Minutes of F&GP committee (to note and approve recommendations) 27th March 2023 – Cllr R Donovan

Cllr Donovan summarised the meeting and asked that the meeting be noted.

7.1. Recommendations: None.

8. Minutes of Staffing Committee (to note and approve recommendations) 20th March 2023 – Cllr M Fay

Cllr Donovan declared an interest in this item. Due to Cllr Fay not being present, Cllr Gear summarised the meeting and asked that the meeting be noted.

8.1. Recommendations: None.

9. Discussion of Agenda for the AGM of Ilfracombe Town Council in May 2023.

Councillors discussed what items should be added to the agenda for the AGM on the 15th May 2023. It was decided that the same items from the 2022 AGM agenda should be reused for this year's meeting as all points are still relevant. A decision was made that the heads of all sub-committees should give written reports for the year just gone. These reports will then be presented at the meeting to the rest of the Councillors.

10. Town Clerk Report (covered by Programme Manager's reports)

The Programme Manager updated the Councillors with news on the appointment of a new Proper Office/Town Clerk. Councillors were advised that the new Proper Officer/Town Clerk will be starting May 1st and will need time plus training to get up to speed. The contract with NDC for the taking on of public conveniences has been delayed, however, the Lee premises has now been agreed on. A call was received from the Town Clerk of Lynton and Lynmouth who wanted create a line of communication regarding the taking over of the public conveniences within the area and potential options of upkeep, such as looking into agencies. Councillors agreed this was a good idea and welcomed the idea of one of the agencies, Healthmatic, to come and complete an audit for a quote.

11. Responsible Financial Officer Report

11.1. ITC 23123 – The RFO informed Councillors that the accountant would be coming within the next few weeks to look over the accounts for the end of the year. There are still some customers with outstanding invoices which the RFO will be contacting in order to receive payment. A cheque that had to be rewritten due to the recipient not cashing it in, has still not been cashed, the RFO asked if those in contact with the recipient could chase this up. All invoices for payment were approved, this was proposed by Cllr Donovan and seconded by Cllr Turton with all in favour.

11.2. Lantern rent increases – The RFO requested clarification on what price to increase the rent to for the Lantern hirers due to a divided decision in the last meeting. After discussion, it was decided that all hirers receive the 10% increase, the motion to do this was proposed by Cllr Gates and seconded by Cllr Fowler with all in favour.



12. Programme Managers Report: including One Ilfracombe (to note report and approve recommendations)

12.1. Report ITC 23124

12.2. NDC use of Ilfracombe Centre update – A response was received from NDC stating that the potential price increases for their use of the Ilfracombe Centre may result in increases for ITC on NDC's behalf. Communication to be continued with NDC to negotiate contract via District Councillors to relieve pressure on the RFO and Programme Manager.

12.3. ITC organisational structure – Noted.

12.4. Verbal update on Public Conveniences – Discussed previously, please see agenda item 10.

13. To receive Reports/Proposals from Ilfracombe Town Council Councillors

13.1. ITC 23125 – Cllr Gear reported on the possible termination of the National Express service from Ilfracombe to London. Cllr Gear expressed concerns due to a number of residents in Ilfracombe relying on this service and proposed that a letter of objection drafted by himself be signed and sent on behalf of ITC. Members agreed to send the letter off.

13.2. ITC 23126 – Cllr Elliott reported on a communication she had with the Head Teacher of The Ilfracombe Academy regarding the possibility of the school to be put under the Athena Academy Trust. Members discussed this notification and felt as though more information would be useful. Cllr Turton, being a governor on the education committee, will invite a representative to give more information at a full Council meeting.

13.3. Proposal ITC 23127 – Cllr Elliott proposed that a request be put in by Ilfracombe Town Council that NDC issue a Section 215 notice for the Old Amusement Site. A member informed the meeting that, following the last IRB meeting, NDC planning officers visited the site and agreed action needs to be taken. The meeting was also informed that the Section 215 notice had already recently been agreed and the site is now in the hands of NDC.

13.4. Proposal ITC 23128 – Cllr Elliott proposed that a meeting be made with NDC Parks and Leisure Officer Richard Slaney in order to look at the potential for a MUGA and Graffiti walls in Ilfracombe. Cllr Elliott and Cllr Turton were happy to put themselves forward to be a part of this small working group.

13.5. Proposal ITC 23129 – Cllr Elliott gave a proposal to apply the Link Centre as an Asset of Community Value. It was noted that the consultation and been extended and that the Programme Manager has already had communication to make ITC the first refusal of the service. After discussion, it was decided that it would be better to wait.

13.6. Proposal ITC 23130 – Cllr Elliott proposed that the Ropery Road Car Parking Advertising Boards be used for artwork, information or posters. Members and officers informed Cllr Elliott that an officer was already working on this and that it is in hand.



14. Reports from County/District Councils – No written reports received. Cllr Fowler informed members that the potential for a sea water pool at the end of the pier is being looked into. An RYA training centre in Ilfracombe is being pushed by the Harbour Master as well as looking into a maritime bigger picture for the town including how Ilfracombe could benefit. Cllr Donovan informed members that he was in contact with Chris Cokner regarding the Church Street roundabout.

15. Reports from Working Groups and Councillor Champions and Working Groups – No written reports received. Cllr Elliott informed the meeting that there is an active working group currently trying to find solutions for the cut of funding for the homeless prevention association Sanctuary. This could lead to The Maples sheltered accommodation service being cut off therefore the working group are meeting to discuss what they can do to help.

16. Correspondence/Licences and Notices

16.1. Correspondence

16.1.1. Email re Ilfracombe Infants School

After discussion regarding this emailed correspondence, members felt that a letter to Ofsted would give them a chance to raise concerns about these issues, however, they would need to gather more data beforehand to see if issues such as high staff turnover coincided with the statistics in other areas.

16.1.2. Email from Ilfracombe/Ifs Twinning Association

Cllr Turton shared this emailed correspondence with the rest of the meeting to ask for any possible ideas of gifts to present to the Mayor of Ifs. A few possible ideas were discussed, Cllr Turton said he would find something within the next couple of days.

16.2. Licences – None received.

16.3. Notices – Advanced Notice of Meeting

Please make a note of the following for a Licensing and Community Safety Sub-Committee C hearing for the review of a premises licence in respect of the Woodpecker Bar and Kitchen, West Down, Ilfracombe, EX34 8NU. To be held on:

- Friday 28 April starting at 10 am (pre-meeting for members to be held at 9.30 am).
- Venue details to be confirmed but will likely be at the Node Cowork building (at the bottom of the road from BEC details for directions to follow with the agenda). Deadline for reports is Tuesday 18 April, publication date being Thursday 20 April.

17. AOB

Cllr Turton fed back from the events meeting he attended earlier within the day. He informed the members that all events in Ilfracombe had now been planned on a calendar. It was discussed that the Lions will no longer be organising the annual carnival and that Combe Christmas needs to be looked into with more depth.

18. Chairs Discretion

Cllr Coates gave an update that the Lee Bay Hotel issues regarding trespassing and lack of security on the site is now in hand and will be dealt with soon.



Cllr Wilson shared concerns regarding the still unresolved issue of no banking for residents and business owners in Ilfracombe. Cllr Wilson mentioned that a mobile banking van visits both Combe Martin and Braunton but not Ilfracombe. Cllr Turton reassured the members that he would chase this up.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:15pm. The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 15th May 2023 in the Ilfracombe Town Council Chamber.

**Cllr Dan Turton, Mayor
Ilfracombe Town Council
Chair**