



ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES – 23-03

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

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 13th March 2023

Members Present:

Councillors: D Turton (Chair), J Williams, D Williams, G Coulter, K Leck, V Gates, P Crabb, N Pearson, T Elliott, B Gear, G Fowler, S Wilson.

Officers Present

S Seatherton (Programme Manager).

Other Present: Pastor Geoff Hills and three members of the public.

Cllr Turton invited the proposed Town Crier, Peter Scott, to say a few words to demonstrate his 'cry' which he did and was well received by the Counsellors. There are still procedures, which need to be put in place before a Town Crier is appointed.

Pastor Hills opened the meeting with a prayer.

Cllr Turton then said a few words about Andrew Bengey expressing his appreciation of everything Andrew has done for the town and said the Council's thoughts are with the family and friends.

1. To Receive Apologies and reasons for absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs R Donovan (personal), G Schofield (personal), M Fay (personal), P Coates (personal)

To receive declarations of interest and consider members' submitted dispensation requests – None received.

2. Chair's announcements and matters of urgency brought forward at the discretion of the chair

None received.

3. Public Participation

3.1. Ilfracombe/lfs French Twinning Association – did not attend.

3.2. A member of the public asked the meeting if the Golden Coast Site could be tidied up, it is looking a mess. Cllr Crabb commented that NDC were looking at a section 215 to enforce a tidy up. Cllr Williams also mentioned that the planning committee had written a letter but had not had a reply. **Action:** To be added to the Planning committee agenda.



3.3. The member of public also commented that that there are no lights on theatre side by Jubilee Gardens. At the moment it is very dark.

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

4.1. To approve and adopt the Minutes of the Full Council meeting on 13th February 2023. Cllr Fowler proposed, seconded by Cllr Gear, that these minutes be accepted. All Councillors were in favour, apart from Cllr Pearson who abstained.

4.2. Matters Arising

4.2.1. Cllr Elliott raised the issue with the Town Council responding to an anonymous letter through a third party. ITC policy is not to reply to anonymous letters. Cllr Elliott clarified that people who contact the Council with their name and address but wish to remain anonymous is acceptable.

4.2.2. Cllr Pearson raised the issue of the Vision Centre having been booked for the Election, which on confirmation from the RFO, it has.

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

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

5.1. Recommendations: Nothing to note.

6. Minutes of F&GP committee (to note and approve recommendations) 27th February 2023 – Cllr B Gear

Cllr Gear gave a summary and the following issues were raised.

Cllr Gear asked Cllr Pearson if there was a statutory requirement for litter bins. Cllr Pearson told the meeting that there is no statutory requirements. Cllr Crabb added that although there was no statutory requirement NDC have a duty to keep Ilfracombe tidy.

6.1. Recommendations: None.

7. Minutes of Staffing Committee (to note and approve recommendations) 20th February 2023 – Cllr B Gear

Cllr Gear summarised the meeting and Council noted these minutes.

7.1. Recommendations: None.

8. Meeting of the Grants Committee (to approve recommendations) – 6th March 2023
8.1. Recommendations – Report ITC 22114

Cllr Gates reported £49,000 in total requested from groups. ITC have a budget of £25,000 of which £10,000 goes to TIC and £15,000 to distribute to the groups.

Every grant application was considered on its own merit.

Recommendation:

1. A proposal that Ilfracombe Town Council approve the grant amounts as agreed by the committee as set out in the attached spreadsheet – proposed by Cllr Gates, seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour.



2. That Ilfracombe Town Council consider the level to which the Emergency fund be topped up. Cllr Gates proposed that the Emergency fund is topped up and at the next F& GP committee meeting with Cllr Donovan as to what level it should be.

9. Town Clerk's Report

Covered by Programme Manager's reports. The Programme Manager said the adverts for a new Town Clerk has gone out and the due process will take place. The Programme Manager and the RFO are picking up most of the work and there is nothing of urgent concern at the moment.

10. Responsible Financial Officer Report

10.1. Report ITC 22115

- 10.1.1.** The invoices for payment were proposed by Cllr Fowler, seconded by Cllr Crabb, with all in favour that they be paid.

Cllr Pearson ask asked the staffing salaries to be split between Town Council and One Ilfracombe.

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

- 11.1. Report ITC 22116** – The Programme Manager summarised his report. Items to highlight were

- Belle's Place. The Programme Manager and Cllr Pearson have had a meeting with Jon Triggs and Jeremy Mann to discuss how NDC could help to fund Belle's Place on a longer-term sustainable basis. They said they would fund it based on the Freedom Centre in Barnstaple but they would have to consider the Salvation Army, and on the condition that other partners invested as well to include ITC.
- Link Centre – Project Officer (CL) has written letters from One Ilfracombe to ITC regarding the Link Centre. She has got the DCC strategy for mental health etc and what they want to do with the Link Centre which contradicts with their strategy and their commitment to Ilfracombe.

- 11.2. Report ITC 22117** – NDC use of Ilfracombe Centre.

To go back to F&GP committee to discuss the response. Also look at training.

- 11.3. Verbal report on Public Conveniences** – NDC have now agreed to the transfer of the Northfield Road site. Discussions on any potential uplift will now take place before the final transfer, which should be completed by the end of March.

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

- 12.1. Report ITC 22118** – Cllr T Elliott spoke to meeting about the proposed cuts to the Link Centre and Homelessness Prevention fund. Have previously fought off the initial cuts and that DCC promised they would have stakeholder meetings. There was only one meeting and despite further requests there have been no further meetings.



When the Link Centre re-opened, the services had been stripped with referrals only being able to come from the Community Mental Health Team. If the Link Centre closes Belle's Place and the Salvation Army will pick up the mental health needs of those people. These are run by volunteers and are not trained to deal with the levels of mental health. Also, if the Homeless Prevention Fund is reduced it could affect the 9 bed centre in Barnstaple.

Cllr Elliott urged all Councillors to respond to both the consultations to try and stop these cuts.

Cllr Elliott and the Project Officer (CL) to propose a motion to say that this council deplores the actions of Devon County Council in cuts to services to homelessness provision, carers and the Link Centre, which will be ratified at the next meeting.

13. To receive reports from County/District Councils

DCC – Cllr Crabb previously mentioned the cuts with the Link Centre Consultation and Homeless Prevention Fund. He also urged Councillors to report more potholes. There are lots of them about but DCC are saying they are not being reported.

NDC – Cllr Fowler reported that the slipway at the Watersports centre would be completed at the end of the month. Then there will be another 6 weeks of finishing before opening.

Cllr Pearson reported that there is an agreement on increasing council tax on empty homes from next year.

Community Land Trust and Community funding have allocated £250k build costs contingency.

The PSPO order on stopping ticket touting in the harbour has been a success.

14. Reports from Working Groups and Councillor Champions and Working Groups

None received.

15. To receive correspondence/Licences and Notices

15.1. Correspondence

15.1.1. Email from Cllr Elliott regarding Andrew Benguey. A member of the public had contacted Cllr Elliott wanting to know what the Town Council be doing in recognition. The flag is at half-mast until the funeral. Cllr Gear told the meeting that the divers' benches are being renamed after Andrew. He also had sent an email to the Harbourmaster and chair of the Harbour board suggesting that the Watersports Centre, or a room, be named after Andrew Benguey. **Action:** Cllr Gear to draft a letter on behalf of ITC, to be forwarded to NDC.

15.1.2. Email re Ilfracombe Pilot Gig club have requested 16 spaces in Ropery Road Carpark on 1st July for a Regatta. Councillors agreed to allow this but this year must be better advertised.



15.1.3. Cllr Gear read out a statement of his complaint to the Monitoring Officer. The matter is now deemed as being closed. The statement of complaint has been filed in Correspondence.

15.2. Licences

Applications received under the Licensing Act 2003

An application for the grant of a premises licence has been made by Deep Beat Entertainment Ltd in respect of Life Café at Ilfracombe Harbour, 11 The Quay, Ilfracombe, Devon, EX34 9EQ:

1. To enable the supply of alcohol on and off the premises, Monday to Sunday from 11:00 hours and 17:00 hours and from 1 April to 30 September, Monday to Sunday from 11:00 hours to 22:00 hours.
2. To enable recorded music Monday to Sunday from 08:00 hours to 17:00 hours and from 1 April to 30 September, Monday to Sunday from 08:00 hours to 22:00 hours.

This application is in the Ilfracombe East Ward.

The closing date for any representations is 21 March 2023.

Any further information regarding these applications may be obtained by contacting the Licensing Team on 01271 388415.

All Councillors are in favour.

15.3. Notices

None received.

16. AOB

16.1. Annual General Meeting – The AGM will be held on 15th May 2023 to agree the end of year accounts.

16.2. Annual Town Meeting – To be confirmed after the election.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm. The next meeting of the Council will be held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 11th April 2023 in the Ilfracombe Town Council Chamber.

Cllr Dan Turton, Mayor

13/03/23

Chair