



## **ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES – 23 – 09**

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

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 11th September 2023

#### **Members Present:**

Councillors: D Turton (Mayor), B Gear, P Coates, G Schofield, J Williams, D Williams, N Townsend, T Huggins, T Ebert, M Newland, M Welling, H Perrin

#### **Officers Present:**

L Donovan (Proper Officer), S Seatherton (Programme Manager), I Howard (Minute Taker)

**Others present:** Pastor Hills, Freeman Goodwin, District Cllr Wilson and 1 member of the public

**Mr Ben Parnell CEO of Athena Academy to attend meeting to give an overview of the Trust to include benefits and changes. Due to this prior meeting, the Full Council meeting did not start until 1930hrs.**

#### **1. To receive apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr T Elliot (Personal), Cllr M Fay (Personal), Cllr G Coulter (Personal), Cllr V Gates (Personal), Cllr K Turton (Work Commitments), Cllr P Crabb (Other Commitments)

#### **2. To receive declarations of interest and consider members' submitted dispensation requests**

None received.

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

Cllr D Turton had items to raise.

#### **4. Public participation – A period not exceeding 15 minutes to be allocated allowing members of the public to speak for up to 3 minutes**

Freeman Goodwin reiterated his concerns with the state of the Runnymede Gardens mosaic which he had in the past put his own money in to have it repaired. He gave a background on how the mosaic came about and gave the possible idea of having the top concreted over and redesigned. Cllr D Turton assured Freeman Goodwin that the mosaic would be discussed in more detail in an agenda item later on in the meeting. A member of the public queried what stage the Council had got with potentially having a banking hub in the town after it was previously discussed during the closure of Lloyds Bank in Ilfracombe. Cllr Gear and the PM explained that the latest update was that Ilfracombe was on the list for a Banking Hub, however, as we have Nationwide and Post Office already in the town, we would be lower on the list. Cllr Gear brought to attention the fact that a mobile banking unit was previously discussed but that no further updates on this were made, the PO will look into this and see if she can get any information.

**5. To approve and adopt the Minutes of Full Council meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Cllr D Turton**

As no amendments needed to be made to these minutes, they were proposed for approval and adoption by Cllr D Williams, seconded by Cllr Huggins with all in favour.

**5.1. Matters Arising –** The PO gave actions that had been taken from this meeting. The Brookdale bin issue that was highlighted has been raised at Town Team to discuss. The Neighbourhood Plan is being looked at, with a meeting between District Cllr Wilson, the PM and PO taking place in the coming days. Cllr Welling has agreed to look into the Civility and Respect Pledge to see whether it is something the Council should adopt.

**6. Minutes of Planning Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 - Cllr J Williams**

The minutes were noted by members.

**6.1** Recommendations – None.

**7. Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - Cllr V Gates**

As Cllr Gates wasn't present, Cllr Newland asked members to note these minutes.

**7.1** Recommendations – None.

**8. Minutes of Staffing Committee meeting (to note and approve recommendations) – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 - Cllr M Fay**

As Cllr Fay wasn't present, Cllr Gear asked members for these minutes to be noted.

**8.1** Recommendations – None.

**9. Report from Proper Officer**

**9.1. ITC 23175 – Proper Officer Report**

The PO read through the key points of her report. The Remembrance Day road closure has been put through and services such as Police, Fire and Stagecoach have all been notified. Plans for the day need to be organised shortly. The first Christmas meeting had taken place earlier in the evening with some initial ideas being put through, however, nothing substantial as of yet. The next meeting will take place Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 5:30pm in case any other members would like to get involved. A Macmillan morning will be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> September if any members wanted to attend. The next Full Council meeting in October will be held at the Slade Vision Centre.

**9.2. ITC 23176 – Runnymede Gardens Remembrance Mosaics Report**

The PO read through the potential options that she and the Facilities Manager had come up with after visiting the mosaic. It was noted that the first option of infilling, capping and concreting over would make the site safe, however, Cllr Gear suggested that in addition to this the Council could approach a beach art group to create a design on top of the concrete for a better appearance. In regards to the 3<sup>rd</sup> option given by the PO, Cllr Newland suggested that he approach the Round Table to look at this as a project. Cllr Newland explained that Round Table have multiple members on the board that have the abilities to make the site safe as well as have an attractive appearance. It was agreed by members that Cllr Newland would speak to the Round Table to see if they'd agreed to take this project on, if not then Cllr Gear would approach the Beach Art group.

**9.3. ITC 23180 – New vehicle proposal – to follow**

The PO explained the options available in order to get the ITC vehicle repaired or replaced. After looking at the budget and what is available in the vehicle sinking funds, it was decided that it would be a good investment to pay for the repairs needed on the current vehicle with the hopes that in the future there would be the possibility to sell this one and possibly purchase two smaller vans once the

public conveniences are taken on rather than purchasing a new vehicle. The motion to approve payment for repairs needed on the current van was proposed by Cllr Schofield, seconded by Cllr D Turton with all in favour.

## **10. Finance Report**

### **10.1. ITC 23177** – Current Accounting Status and Invoices for payment

In the absence of the RFO, a finance report was put together by the PO and MT which included invoices that need to be approved for payment. Members agreed that these invoices should be paid, this was proposed by Cllr Gear, seconded by Cllr Welling with all in favour. The PO raised a point in the addendum regarding the Time View Telemetry licence being expired. The PM informed new members that this was a system installed near the top of town which ITC usually pay £649 annually for to receive text message alerts when there is a high risk of flooding in Ilfracombe. It was explained that not only is the licence due for renewal but an additional £1188 had been added on top of this for apparent faults with a battery and SIM card needed for the system. As multiple members were unsure this was a good idea, a vote to renew the licence was taken with 9 members agreeing, Cllr Townsend and Welling being against and an abstention to vote from Cllr Gear. The licence and works needed will be paid once and invoice is received.

## **11. Programme Manager Report; including One Ilfracombe (to note report and approve recommendations)**

### **11.1. ITC 23178** – Programme Manager report

The PO read through the key points of his report, nothing major had been reported other than the news of the Facilities Manager and Community Developer leaving. The PM informed members that time would be needed to spend on filling both these roles. The PM explained that the new campaign to push the Work Hub had been launched and hopefully some new leads should come from this. The PM expressed how well he thought the Community Developer did on different projects in such a short time in his role.

### **11.2.** To appoint new One Ilfracombe Director

The PM wanted to appoint the new director for One Ilfracombe in a proper format with a show of hands at this meeting for anyone interested in the role. Cllr Newland was the only member who was interested in this role therefore he will now join the One Ilfracombe board.

## **12. To receive Reports/Proposals from Ilfracombe Town Councillors**

None received.

## **13. To receive reports from County/District Councillors**

Cllr Crabb gave a written report which was looked through, however, any questions due to be raised could not be answered due to the absence of Cllr Crabb.

## **14. To receive reports from Working Groups and Councillor Champions**

### **14.1. ITC 23179** Housing Champion report – Cllr T Elliott

Portions of this report were read out by Cllr Turton, he highlighted the Public Engagement meeting that is due to take place at the Landmark Pavilion on the 19<sup>th</sup> September. The possible issues around the Southern Extension were also discussed. Any questions due to be raised could not be answered due to the absence of Cllr Elliott.

## **15. To receive Correspondence/Licenses/Notices**

### **15.1.** Letter from Cllr T Elliott – Telling our Stories Finding Our Roots

This report was read out to members by Cllr Turton for information only.

**15.2.** Email from Cllr T Elliott – Ilfracombe Watersports Hub

This email correspondence was read out to members and the PM explained that he also had replied to this email with an explanation to why not all Councillors may have been invited, a positive outcome of this event allowed conversations to be made on the levelling up funds for Ilfracombe. Cllr Turton informed members that another key reason why not all ITC Councillors were invited was due to fire regulations only allowing 60 people in the building, as 10 of these people were staff members of the Lime Kiln Café it left a small amount of people to be able to attend the event. Cllr Gear also expressed the view that ITC didn't have a huge part to play in the Watersports Centre as NDC were the key organisers of the whole project.

**15.3.** Email from John Thornton re: Ilfracombe TIC – to follow

This email correspondence was presented to members and discussed between those present. The PM suggested that an extraordinary meeting be organised to discuss this issue, however, as finances could be involved, Cllr Gear proposed that this be taken to the next F&GP meeting to be looked at in detail.

**16. Chairs Discretion**

Cllr Turton expressed his view on the success of the recent Carnival and Sea Ilfracombe festival that have taken place as well as the Boxing Event that took place with no known major issues. Cllr Turton hopes to hold another Skating Event at Ilfracombe Skatepark in the near future, on the basis that the lights there are repaired. The last item that Cllr Turton wanted to raise was that the local family of Jason Twist had been in contact with him to let him know that they were looking into getting a memorial for him somewhere in Ilfracombe. It was said that they have to funds to do this but may need some support and advise from Councillors on how they go about this.

**17. Part B –** Cllr D Turton proposed that the meeting now be moved into Part B, this was seconded by Cllr Gear with all in favour. At this stage, all members of the public left the room.

*that under Section 1, Paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for this item of business in view of the likely disclosure of confidential matters about information relating to an individual, and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, within the meaning of paragraph 1 and 8 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (see section 1 and part 1 of schedule 1 to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.*

**Disclosable Information for Part B Full Council Minutes 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**17.1. Staffing Update** – Updates were made on a member of staff who has handed in their notice and the next steps to take.

**17.2. Award Nomination** – The PO presented a nomination letter she had prepared for an individual to be awarded an MBE/OBE. This letter was read through and agreed to be sent off.

The Chairman declared the meeting closes at 21:00pm. The next Full Council Meeting will be held at 19:00pm on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Slade Vision Centre.

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