

Instow Parish Council Meeting

On Thursday 14th December 2023, 19.30hrs at Instow Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: Councillors MJ Scott (Chair), N Arthur, M Foster, C Hopkins.
North Devon Cllr L Renshaw

In attendance: R Levick (Westleigh Parish Clerk) deputising for Instow Clerk.
3 members of the public.

137 The meeting was opened by the Chair at 19.30hrs

138 Apologies: Devon District Cllr Biederman, Cllrs Allen, Hackett, McCrum, Edwards, and Johnson.
Clerk C Merrill

139 Councillors Declarations of Interest – none declared

140 Public Session.

- a) L Forman asked when was something going to be done about the broken light in the car park?
The Chair answered that a solution would be provided that evening (see Tracker)
- b) P Lancaster and R Stenton (members of the Village Hall committee)–provided further information on the Village Hall request for a grant for £3,520 for upgrading of the Hall lighting and sound systems. This item was also on the Tracker, but after a long and detailed discussion with the Councillors present, it was unanimously agreed to award the monies.

141 County and Ward Members reports

- a) DC Cllr Biederman had sent his apologies and a comprehensive report had been circulated to Councillors by email (appendix 1). He had further contacted stand-in clerk to update on the Solar Farm monies, the basis of which was to say that following the Lovacott PC meeting, they (Lovacott) had proposed that a split of 5 was to be made, with Lovacott receiving 3 parts, Fremington & Instow 1 part each (S106) monies) and that Lovacott PC would be emailing all ‘interested’ Parishes asking for their support. As this is completely out of sync with the agreement previously agreed (September 2020) – DC Cllr Biederman to be asked for copy of that minute (**Action Cllr Arthur**) where each interested Parish would receive 1 share each, his recommendation would be to ‘turn down’ the proposal, and revert to the original proposal. **Action: Cllr Arthur** agreed to write to Lovacott PC stating IPC’s opposition to their ‘new’ proposal.
- b) ND Cllr Renshaw, who was also at the meeting at Lovacott PC, promised to ensure that copies of their new proposal were sent out to Instow and Westleigh Parish Councils as soon as possible. She also promised to contact Helen Bond at NDC to try and find out a definitive answer on what was happening to the remaining parts of the garages left on the car park after storm damage in 2021, and specifically the end wall (sea end) as it was of use to IPC for their notice board, and possibly a new defibrillator. She also updated IPC on her communications

with R Bagley (NDC planning) regarding the former Silver Threads Nursing Home in Lyndale Terrace.

142 Confirmation of the Minutes from the 16th November 2023 - unanimous

143 Any matters arising – **Action: Cllr Hopkins** to liaise with P Piper regarding the external cleaning of the Perspex bus shelters. The Council decided unanimously to use the 5% retention fee from the car park refurbishment in 2021, to repaint the white lines in the car park, as Crabb contractors showed no interest in the remedial work.

144 Tracker update – see separate spreadsheet.

145 Correspondence –

- a) IPC to reply with a 'no' to D Nichol who wanted to set up a small business on the car park as the Council are not allowed to sublet. **Action Clerk**
- b) The Council had replied to K Page on how to replace an existing sea front bench.
- c) IPC acknowledged that Carter Jonas is now managing The Crown Estate's coastal portfolio.
- d) M Glover's communication regarding the 'Instow in Bloom' sign. **Action: Cllr Hopkins** agreed to see if he could find anyone willing to take on maintaining the wild area by Chandlers Court, and will report back in the New Year. **Action: Cllr Arthur** to check who owns the marsh, and if the area is going to be maintained then the Council will look at replacing the notice board.

146 Parking & Congestion in Instow – Cllrs Arthur/Edwards. Held over until 2024

147 Cllr E Johnson – invitation to be on specific sub committees. Council agreed that he would be allocated a place on the Finance Committee, and the Car Park Committee. **Action: Clerk** to inform him.

148 Finance:

- a) Invoices payable – all agreed
- b) Budget 2024/25 - agreed
- c) NDC Precept request -agreed at a 10% increase. **Action Cllr Scott.**
- d) Local Community Grants – proposed and agreed for Dec 2024 as Village Hall £410, Churchyard £820, All Saints £210, Parish Magazine £520, Green Wheely Bin as £60.
- e) Clerk Pension arrangements now in place,
- f) Parking Permits charge for 2024, response required to NDC by 15th December. Proposed and agreed as £210 + VAT = £252pa. **Action Cllr Scott**
- g) It was also agreed to remove Shooey McCall and Cllr Allen as signatories on the bank account, and add Cllrs Edwards, Arthur, and Johnston.
- h) A discussion also took place regarding the MOD license to use Instow Sands, which had remained at £273pa since 2013. There is a clause in the agreement that with 6 months' notice, the amount can be increased every 3 years. Cllr Foster went onto the Gov't website on inflation, and £273 in 2013 would equate to £366 now, so it was agreed to give a 6 month notice to the MOD of the increase to £366. **Action Clerk** to write to MOD.

- i) The positions of Beach Cleaner, and Car Park Toilet Block cleaner were coming up for renewal in 2024, and it was agreed to place an advert in January 2024 for 1 week in the local newspaper, the Parish Magazine, and the Instow Facebook page.

149 Planning –

DCC Ref: ABX/DCC/4374/2023 Holmacott Landfill Site. Responded 30.11.23 *Instow Parish Council is specifically concerned about the noise and traffic impact of the number of lorries that will be involved, specifically those moving aggregate.*

Reference: 77958 6 Lane End Close Instow Responded 07.12 2023 *Instow Parish Council has no objection to this application unless the first-floor balcony affects neighbours' privacy.*

Reference: 77892 Hill Cottage Instow Responded date 7.12 .23 *IPC has no objection to this application.*

Reference: 76293 - Response due by 12 Jan 2024. Outline application for up to 450 dwellings including access (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017) at Land South of A39 Brynsworthy Barnstaple Devon EX31 3QQ **Action: Cllr Hopkins** to respond to Council.

150 AOB as raised by Chair

- a) the Chair had been sent a request for funds by the North Devon Ring & Ride service. The Council felt that this was a worthy cause and of benefit to the Parish, so a grant of £100 was agreed unanimously
- b) A member of the public had noted that if someone wanted to use the facilities in the car park, that there was nowhere to tie up their dogs, whilst in use. It was proposed that a suitable 'hook' could be placed on the right-hand side of the toilet block for that purpose – unanimously agreed.

151 Additional Agenda items for January 18th meeting (19.30 Instow Village Hall)-none

152 Meeting closed at 20.55hrs

Appendix 1

Councillor Frank Biederman Devon County Council report December 2023

Household waste at Recycling Centres

From January 1st 2024 households will be able to take small amounts of DIY waste to recycling centres, this is after a change in government legislation, good news for some, but it is unfunded so will mean further cuts to other services.

Check DCC website for full details.

The Government awarded DCC 6.2m to bring forward road repair schemes, really disappointing that despite having a quarter of Devon's roads in North Devon, only Kings Nympton is going to benefit, county councillors from across North Devon have made strong comments towards Stuart Hughes lead member for Highways, at what appears to be North Devon again being the poor relation of Devon.

I have requested a copy of the methodology used to select the schemes, all we have been told, is the most pressing have been selected, using data from the report it system.

Parish Councils should soon be, getting information on how to bid for funds to set up a community library, I am happy to support any in my division.

There is to be a trial on community self-help, where it will be possible for Parish Councils if they wish to carry out certain minor highway improvements, there is a lot to it, details can be found on DCC website and again, I am happy to help parishes in my ward, if it is something that interests them.

School Penalty Notices for unauthorised absent from school are to be tightened up.

I made my feelings well known; I believe the holiday firms are exploiting parents and have submitted a motion to DCC requesting we lobby government that fines are administered against holiday firms who put the prices up by over 20% in the school holidays. More information can be found on my Cllr Frank Facebook Page.

21000 food vouchers have been issued to children on free school meals, ahead of the Christmas Holidays, this is a rise of 5000 since 2020.

Special Education Needs - I have reported many times about the 162m overspend on SEND.

The council are in talks with the department for education on what is called safety valve help from the government. Indications are they will help, but only likely to be 70m - 100m and will be conditional that we have a plan to not continue to overspend, I fear this means children that need the help, might find it even more difficult to get an EHCP.

Part of the plan is to build our own special schools, which I welcome, as the money being spent in the private sector is eye watering, it will also mean children staying nearer to home.

I finish by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and thank you all for the work you do in supporting our communities.

Please get in touch over the Christmas period if you need any help. Frank