

## Ilfracombe Culture Club — Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday 22 September 2025

**Time/Location:** 5:30 pm, The Lantern (Club Room, upstairs)

**Chair:** Mel Turnbull (Hand:Plant)

**Minutes:** Laura Elliott



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### 1) Introductions and Apologies

Caz Turner sent an advance update: Dark Skies activity plus screening of Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey on Sat 25 Oct, 3:00 pm, with family special rates and free entry for over-50s.

Apologies: Caz Turner (Landmark Theatres), Katy Ashford (Studio Theatre), Alison Mills — Director, Museum of Barnstaple & North Devon; regional museum development — on holiday, Paul Bateman

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### 2) Responses / Actions from the previous meeting

Previous action	Owner	Update	Status
1. Speak to Allan Day (Ilfracombe Community Transport) re: costs	Charmain	No new update provided	Pending
2. Send list of potential funders for Shanty Festival to Niki Davis	Charmain	List created and added to Google Drive (ongoing project space)	Ongoing
3. Request One Ilfracombe funding for 20 USBs (digital screens)	Charmain	Funded: USBs and possibly flat screens; Charmain to submit purchase requests	In progress

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### 3) Current Project Area Updates

#### 3.1 Blue Plaques

Deferred this month.

#### 3.2 Trails

Calvin (Museum Trustee) reported the Museum is busy with family events and Silver Saturday; wider project items temporarily on hold.

Neil is in conversation with the Harbour Maritime organisation.

William Pearson Funeral Directors (Wilder Road) will support a best shop-window display prize.

There will also be a Treasure Hunt prize in one shop for children.

#### 3.3 Community Noticeboards

Work in progress.

Mel suggested consolidating digital boards to push a coordinated Christmas offer.

Action: Neil to request ad space on the big screen approaching the High Street.

#### 3.4 Multi-Media Space

Paul wasn't here to give an update, but we haven't heard for any progress.

#### 3.5 Town-wide Themed Exhibitions

Themes noted: Purple Flag accreditation for nighttime economy ([Purple Flag | ATCM](#)), Foodie Fridays: explore Thursday late openings to showcase Ilfracombe's cultural offer as a "go-to destination."

Action: Mel T to raise with High Street traders for next summer and consider tie-in with Paul's proposal.

### 3.6 Expansion of Museum's Silver Saturday/Sunday Events

Kelvin reported no further progress on the proposed move into the former Post Office building (High Street).

### 3.7 Youth-led comms / video projects

John S. has been speaking with Mel T. about workshop dates at Hand:Plant Café using Flourishing Culture funding (Oct 2025–Jan 2026).

John is liaising with Yellow Mouse to set up “Animate Devon” (Devon-wide animation/filmmaking venture) and has also met Black Bean.

They are exploring setting up as a CIC to expand filmmaking workshops locally.

Action: John to chase Petroc and Ilfracombe Academy.

### 3.8 Community Film / Footage / Photo Database

John S filmed Scuttlebutt Shanty Crew at the RNLI.

Suggestion: official ID badges for volunteer filmmakers/photographers at events so the public recognises their role; check permissions/consent forms.

Workshop idea: train participants so they can pass on camera/film/photo skills as mentors.

### 3.9 Kelvin's Vlog / Oral Histories

Work in progress.

“Barry the Comic” is interested in recording oral histories and life stories of local people.

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## 4) One Ilfracombe Employment & Skills — Cultural Workshop Opportunities

Charmain reported that Learn Devon and Petroc are focusing on 16+ pathways into employment, education and training, including Creative Industries as a gateway to other sectors. Devon County Council funding can cover travel and materials.

Opportunities sought from members: work experience, taster workshops, job shadowing, and professional mentoring. Please contact Charmain for more information if you are interested.

Actions:

- Kelvin to explore a youth role supporting Ilfracombe Museum (web development / social media / vlogging).
- Mel T may mentor a young person in running workshops.
- Culture Club to invite a youth panel to participate and consider a youth-chaired meeting dedicated to youth culture; explore links into Council involvement, democratic processes.
- Charmain to hold a promotional event at The Lantern, Thu 6 Nov, 10:00–14:00 (**update: this now isn't happening and is being merged with the Art Trail Christmas Market**).
- Paul Bateman to connect regarding animation and photography skills.

DCC “Places to Go”: One Ilfracombe can apply to support young people aged 18–25 (up to £1,000 per initiative — please confirm).

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## 5) Extending the cultural opportunities of existing town events

Christmas 2025: There will be fewer street lights this year due to safety checks and upgrades.

Mel T. is adding to the Christmas parade and will approach shopkeepers to boost window decorations.

Using £250 of Flourishing Culture funding to create larger lanterns; storage is needed so they can be reused (call-out planned).

Aim is a coordinated High Street “Festival of Light”; include the Flourishing Culture logo on promotional materials.

Beach of Dreams 2026: preparations underway, building on 2025; Caz and John also contributing.

Paul Bateman's “Coastal Celebration Week” (circulated with the agenda) was well received.

Preferred timing is June (just out of season) rather than September to avoid clashes.

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## **6) Funding Updates / Opportunities**

Flourishing Culture: funds are nearly spent; final applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

Arts Council grant (£1m): decision expected in around two weeks from the meeting date.

Architectural Heritage Fund feasibility for Emmanuel Church: potential multi-use cultural space for all ages, with a programme spanning performing arts, singing, dance, multimedia, upcycling, fine and decorative art, and craft; estimated capital need £1m for renovation.

Grow Forward Project mentioned by Mel T: regional conference on 16 Oct; all welcome. [The Growforward Project](#)

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## **7) Ideas from the Table**

S1: Develop an ID/consent framework for volunteer media capture (links to section 3.8).

S2: Pilot Thursday late openings with a Purple Flag-style approach to the night-time economy.

Known: Link youth panel participation to Beach of Dreams 2026 content creation.

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## **8) AOB**

None recorded.

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## **9) Next Meeting**

Date/Time: [proposed date/time]

Venue: [venue]

Proposed agenda items:

- Arts Council decision update
- Museum news- events, website, blue plaques, vlogs, move
- Multi-media projects- film, photography, animation, skills learning
- Townwide themed exhibitions/ trails
- Youth-led meeting plan (panel, chairing, minutes)
- Christmas “Festival of Light” delivery plan