

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Council Offices, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7.00pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Philip Carrigan
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr John Zarczynski
Cllr S Edwards
Cllr N Macve

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Henry Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw
Cllr V Howard
Cllr Roy Coombs
Cllr Mike Jones

In attendance

Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
2 members of the public

PART A

19/826 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

19/827 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr C Kolek (personal reasons)
Cllr R Hanratty (personal reasons)
Cllr P Twiss DCC/EDDC
Cllr J Brown EDDC

19/828 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

Cllr Edwards – Member of the Honiton Community Complex charity.

19/829 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

19/830 Public question time on items on the agenda

There were no public questions.

19/831 The Mayor's announcements.

None were received.

19/832 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18th March 2019.

Copies of the minutes of the meetings had been circulated in advance with the Agenda.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 18th March 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Macve and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

19/833 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss provided the following report:

Highways

Funding and infrastructure continue to present the major challenges in the Feniton & Honiton Division of Devon County Council, where DCC Highways have been eating significantly into the backlog of highway repairs, drain and ditch clearances in most parts of the Division. While we are still some way from being completely out of the woods we are moving steadily towards a position of maintenance, more than repair. I am pleased that there are a number of re-surfacing projects programmed in for 2019/20, together with work to undertake catching up on a backlog of ditch and drain cleaning clearing.

Healthcare

I continue to represent DCC on the Council of Governors of the R, D & E and meet regularly with the CCG and NHS to encourage and ensure that there is a genuine joined up approach to healthcare with more provision of local care at our G.P., surgeries, Ottery and Honiton Hospitals, avoiding the need to travel to Exeter for treatment, where possible.

As part of my role on the DCC Adult Health Scrutiny committee I visit various health providers and meet on a regular basis with NHS and DCC Social care staff. It is really encouraging to hear very recently that despite what are describe as 'winter pressures', the R, D & E plan worked very well and there was only one brief spell where the alert level reached black (the highest level above red).

Delayed transfers of care from an acute setting to home with suitable care packages are better than previously, but the issue of staffing levels remains a concern despite many more people being recruited and/or staying in post. I remain of the clear view that there is still a place for a small number of intermediate hospital beds for those fit enough to leave an acute setting but requiring a little bit more care before going Home, preventing going back in to the 'system'.

I visited to HQ of the SW ambulance service (SWAST) last Monday in Exeter and had a very good meeting with the CEO Ken Wenman; I also toured their call centre. It is apparent that the number of unnecessary calls being made to the 999 service, rather than the non-urgent 111 version*, or even a visit for advice to the local pharmacy is responsible for using a lot of time and delaying urgent response times. This is being actively managed to improve matters on a daily basis.

I questioned Mr Wenman about the headlines we see from time to time regarding long waits for an ambulance to arrive and while not acceptable in some cases, the number is

actually very very small, considering the volume of calls coming in to the call centre in Exeter and Bristol dealing with requests for help from Gloucestershire to Cornwall.

There is a project that is in its embryonic stages involving the five towns in the Wakley health area i.e. Honiton, Sidmouth, Ottery St Mary, Axminster and Seaton which I am helping to facilitate, where there is a 'bottom up' approach to looking at supplementing healthcare and voluntary services in our area, often filling the gap left by funding cuts and working towards local organisations being contracted to deliver services in our local Hospital spaces, moving towards Health hubs that our communities want. This is a major piece of work and 'set to run' on a long term, sustainable basis.

*<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/nhs-services/urgent-and-emergency-care/nhs-111/>

19/834 Reports from the Police (recorded crimes and logs)

Members noted the March figures.

19/835 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

None were received.

19/836 Update Report

The Town Clerk presented the report which was noted. The Town Clerk advised that as regards the provision of the two new photocopying machines, these would not now arrive this week. No date has yet been given for delivery.

Cllr Jones requested a copy of the letter sent to DCC in respect of the Community Use Building and the Clerk confirmed that a copy would be provided.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

19/837 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 19th March 2019.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes.

Proposed by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski.

Reports

19/838 Payments and receipts report

The Town Clerk presented his report which was noted.

Cllr Taylor queried why there were 6 entries in respect of market income for one month as these are usually weekly. The Town Clerk confirmed that two of the entries related to February payments.

The Town Clerk also confirmed that the first payment of the precept had been received in the sum of £138,818.50. He has also made the first payment regarding the Public Works Loan Board in the sum of £29,537.41.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the attached schedule of payments for March 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Howard.

19/839 Water cooler and Phone/Broadband Contract

The Town Clerk presented his report. Cllr Taylor queried the figure of monthly telephone charges being on average £80 per week. The Town Clerk confirmed that this should have stated £80 per month.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise officers to set up direct debit payments in respect of the water cooler and broadband contracts.

Proposed by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski.

19/840 Honiton Show

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise officers to book a stand at the Honiton Show 2019 on the best possible terms and in the most appropriate location.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski.

19/841 Part B items

It was proposed to take items 14, 15 and 16 into Part B of the meeting that deals with exempt business. This was **RESOLVED** unanimously.

Proposed by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw and seconded by Cllr Jones

The meeting went into confidential session at 7.15 p.m.

PART B

Members agreed that in order for Cllr Edwards to discuss other exempt business, item 15 would be discussed as the final item on the Agenda.

19/842 Honiton Town Council Allotments at Battishorne Way

The Town Clerk presented the report and advised that Councillors may agree that the matter was for the new Council to decide.

The following points were discussed:

- Whether the work quoted for was necessary or whether the proposed allotment holders could do a lot of the work themselves.
- Whether the plots needed to be made ready for planting.
- The high cost of the work as set out in the tenders received.
- That providing allotments was a statutory duty for the Town Council.
- In addition to the tenders received, there would be additional costs involved.
- The schedule of work on which the tenders were based had been approved by the Allotments Working Group.
- The allotment boundary was to be marked up later in the week to allow the rest of the field to be grazed.
- There are detailed plans which give the size of the plots.
- Members will need to allocate funding to the project.
- As most planting occurs in the spring, a short delay to the project would not be an issue.
- The tenders should firstly be considered by the Allotments Working Group who can then report back to Council.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to defer the appointment of a preferred contractor for the building of the Honiton Allotments until the Full Council meeting on the 10th June 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Jones.

19/843 Bailey Partnership dispute

The Town Clerk presented his report.

Discussion of the item then followed:

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to delegate to the Town Clerk to instruct Foot Anstey to send a letter to Bailey Partnerships lawyers along with the expert's report.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Jones.

Cllr Edwards left the meeting at 7.30pm

19/844 Lease dispute with Honiton Community Complex

The Town Clerk presented his report and advised that he was due to have a meeting with Mr Simmonds this week to discuss going to mediation rather than arbitration. They will also discuss the rules regarding arbitration. The Town Clerk will be asking that Mr Perkins is not part of any arbitration or mediation process. Mediation is a lot cheaper than arbitration. He referred the Councillors back to the Calderbank offer made. It may be necessary to be flexible regarding this offer and he will be asking Foot Anstey for their advice. However, the offer was reality and evidence based and if there is flex it is likely that it will only be small.

Discussion of the items under dispute took place.

Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that he would support any payment the Town Council was contractually liable to pay but that he felt that the public had this perception that the Town Council was anti-Beehive which is not the case. This is a contractual dispute between HTC and HCC. It is unfair if the public believe that the Council is anti-Beehive when the Council has been trying to resolve the issue since November 2017.

The report was noted.

19/845 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 7.36 pm.