

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 16th April 2018 at the Town Council Offices,
The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton commencing at 7.00pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Sheila Edwards
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr N Macve
Cllr John Zarczynski (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Carrigan

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Henry Brown
Cllr Terry Darrant
Cllr Vera Howard
Cllr Daniel Jefferson
Cllr Mike Jones
Cllr Caroline Kolek
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw
Cllr Roy Coombs
Cllr M Linsdell

Also present

15 members of the public
Mark Tredwin – Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow – Deputy Town Clerk

81 Town Mayor's Welcome

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

82 Introduction of Town Councillors

The Mayor introduced the Councillors

83 To approve the minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 18 April 2017

The minutes were approved by those who had been present as a true record of the meeting.

84 Town Mayor's Report

Cllr Zarczynski reported:

85 Finance Committee Report

Cllr Brown reported:

86 Policy Committee Report

Cllr Edwards reported:

87 Planning Committee Report

Cllr Coombs reported:

88 Open Forum

88/1 A member of the public raised the issue of a fish and chip van and pizza van given a licence by EDDC to trade on Battishorne/Wetheril way. He had written to

Honiton Town Council, EDDC, Devon County Council and the police to complain about the disturbance this was causing and the traffic issues arising. What is the Council going to do about this?

Cllr Coombs advised that he had not been made aware of the issue and confirmed that he would look into it and respond to the member of the public raising the issue.

88/2 A member of the public confirmed that she wished to volunteer for the NP Steering Group and was advised to speak to the Deputy Clerk after the meeting.

88/3 A member of the public thanked the Councillors for their excellent reports and for their honesty as to the problems it had faced. The Council however often complains that it is difficult to get their views across to the public and this may be due to a lack of communication. The Council should publicise its activities more, perhaps by way of a weekly summary after each meeting.

Cllr Zarczynski responded by saying that he would have preferred to see more members of the public attending the meeting and welcomed public participation.

Mr Mark Tredwin shared the public's concerns and the Council's website does need to be updated. It does need to be much clearer and more accessible. The Council is working with the press and does publicise items on the noticeboards although there is limited space. Any ideas from the public on how the Council can better communicate with the public of Honiton would be welcomed.

It was confirmed that the Council still has 3 Councillor vacancies which the member of the public felt was a reflection on what had happened over the past year and how the Town Council is perceived.

Cllr Zarczynski agreed that there had been divisions, but these were now largely resolved. Cllr Kolek suggested that healthy debate between councillors was a good thing. Councillors cannot always agree with each other, but it is good for them to question, probe and debate. The member of the public queried whether there were still divisions within the Council under the surface but would not be drawn on the details.

88/4 A member of the public confirmed that she was part of the Beehive Volunteer Gardeners involved in the garden project at the rear of the Beehive. This garden was open to all members of the public to use and has benches to sit on. The garden has been given awards for its work towards attracting bees.

Cllr McNally thanked the member of the public for providing such a fantastic space and very informative information board.

Cllr Jones who had been at the unveiling of the information board also thanked the gardeners and Cllr Zarczynski thanked them on behalf of the whole Council.

88/5 A member of the public queried the legal status of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan when EDDC can as shown change aspects of a planning application as has occurred with the affordable housing element of the Hayne Lane development.

Cllr Kolek confirmed that she was a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group but that the group urgently needed more community members.

Cllr Edwards and Cllr Coombs both confirmed that if Honiton had a Neighbourhood Plan this would be able to influence the land uses in Honiton. It cannot override the Local Plan and therefore would not have been able to stop the Hayne Lane developer from reducing the number of affordable housing units but a Neighbourhood Plan does mean that an additional 10% of CIL money would go to Honiton.

Heloise Marlow confirmed that there was a meeting at the Beehive on Wednesday 18th April to try and relaunch the process. All members of the public were welcome to attend that meeting.

A further discussion followed relating to encouraging more members of the public to attend Council meetings. Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that they were working towards positive publicity for the Council, using the website, social media. He also confirmed that he was looking at re-instating the public surgeries.

The Mayor thanked those present for attending and invited all members of the public to the Mayor Making next month.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.