

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Council Offices, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 9th October at 7.00pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Sheila Edwards
Cllr John Zarczynski (Chairman)

St Paul's Ward

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

In Attendance

Garry Wakeham, Open Arms
Penny Hartnell EDDC, Community Development

17/493 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Martyn Linsdell
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr Phil Twiss – EDDC & DCC
Cllr Mike Allen - EDDC
Cllr Jenny Brown - EDDC

17/494 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest.

17/495 To receive and resolve as a correct record the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 25th September 2017

A copy of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed as a correct record, with the following corrections made:

- Page 972 CRPE should read CPRE (Cllr Coombs)
- Page 971 Mind should read Open Arms (Cllr Jones)

17/496 The Council resolved the following:

That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting for the following agenda items:

It was unanimously agreed that no items required to be considered in Part B

The meeting went out of session at 7.03pm

17/497 Public question time on items on the agenda

No questions had been notified, and no questions were forthcoming:

The meeting went back into session at 7.04pm

Signed Chair

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17/498 Mayors Announcements

The Mayor reported that the air ambulance night landing strip is progressing well. Lights at the Mountbatten Playing field are suitable for the purpose, and the next step is to install the activation system for the lights.

17/499 To receive reports from District and County Councillors

District and County Councillors do not attend both monthly meetings, and none was present tonight though they are expected to attend the next full council meeting.

17/500 Police report

Recorded crimes and logs for Honiton Town from 1st September to 30th September 2017:

ACTIVITY	SEPT 2017	SEPT 2016	% INCREASE DECREASE
Crimes	42	34	↑ 23%
Logs	135	161	↓ 16%

BREAKDOWN OF CRIMES	SEPT 2017	SEPT 2016	% INCREASE/DECREASE
Burglary - dwelling	0	1	↑
Burglary – non-dwelling	1	1	No change
Criminal damage	7	3	↑ 133%
Theft - other	3	5	↓ 40%
Violence with injury	3	4	↓ 25%
Violence – no injury	11	12	↓ 8%
Vehicle related offences	5	0	↑
Shoplifting	2	3	↓ 33%
Sexual offences	2	2	No change
Drugs offences	2	0	↑
Other	6	No data	

CALLS TO 101 OR 99	SEPT 2017	% INCREASE DECREASE
Antisocial behaviour	22	↑ 31%
Public safety logs	45	↓ 33%
Transport logs	50	No change
Arising from these calls were 17 recorded crimes and 1 not recorded		

Councillors expressed a preference for the Police to attend meetings.

ACTION: A Fire and Rescue Service report was requested (Clerk to source).

ACTION: Police to be notified again of the unlawful obstruction of a local unclassified road reported by Cllr Coombs. (Clerk)

17/501 To receive a presentation by Garry Wakeham – Open Arms – mental health support group. Present also for this item was Penny Hartnell of EDDC Community Development.

Mr Wakeham explained to councillors how he had been inspired to set up this mental health support group following his own battles with depression and anxiety, and the death of his son.

When the local branch of Mind closed Gary decided to act and his story in the Midweek Herald to highlight the problems faced by people with mental illness.

Penny Hartnell (EDDC Community Development) secured Dunning Court as a base for this free mental health support service, with funding from Honiton charities to cover running costs and activities.

East Devon Open Arms is open to anyone with mental health problems. There is no similar service in Honiton, and referrals to specialists can be too long for people in crisis. Attending Open Arms is an opportunity to talk and take part in activities. This support is critically important to people suffering from mental illness who often lack structure in their lives, it also provides much needed respite for carers. Open Arms is looking for funding to buy computers, and to provide activities for service users – whose numbers are growing as people hear about the service.

Open Arms is open between 10.30 am and 4 pm on Tuesday and Friday at Dunning Court Community Centre. It is hoped to run a Thursday session at St Paul's Road after Christmas.

Cllr Brown reported that following the closure of Mind, a sum of money (£2,500) has been earmarked for mental health service. Mr Wakeham was encouraged to apply to Honiton Town Council for funding to support this service.

The speaker was thanked for his excellent presentation and the meeting went back into session at 7.23

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

17/502 Councillor Coombs: To discuss a proposal to appoint an internal auditor for Honiton Town Council

Cllr Coombs discussed possible conflict of interest if Griffin Chartered Accountants audit both Honiton Town Council and the Beehive's accounts – should an alternative auditor be appointed?

Concern was expressed about perceived conflict, if not actual. Time pressures arising from staff shortages are likely to result in this matter being a lower priority than otherwise might be the case.

Question whether this should have been brought to the Finance Committee rather than full council. Finance Committee is currently suspended pending a decision about the council's meeting schedule.

Griffin is a local business and the town council wants to support local enterprise.

Griffin lack inexperience of auditing town and parish council. This was challenged – auditing local authorities and private business is similar, and no concerns have been raised about Griffin's competence. Griffin audit the Community College's accounts.

Councillors concerns were noted and it was agreed to review the external auditor's report, which has not yet been received.

ACTION: External auditors to be chased for their report (Clerk).

Proposal: It was proposed that this item is discussed at the next full council meeting in Section B, specifically to review appointment of internal auditors for the town council. Proposed Cllr.Coombs, seconded by Councillor Edwards, agreed unanimously.

17/503 To consider proposed changes to the Terms of Reference for the Honiton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

Councillor Coombs explained the reasons for the proposed changes.

There was a discussion about the apparent lack of public engagement with, and understanding of, the Neighbourhood Plan, despite efforts having been made at local markets and events.

Proposal: That Councillors accept the proposed revisions to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Proposed by Cllr Durrant, seconded by Cllr Howard. Passed by majority.

Planning**17/504 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 3 October 2017 and to endorse its decisions.**

The draft minutes were received and noted.

Finance**17/505 To authorise payments in accordance with the Schedule**

The following Schedules of payments were unanimously agreed.

Schedule of payments at 4th October 2017

Invoice date	Payee	Description	Amount inc. VAT	Cheque no / DD
19 September	DALC	Attendance of councillor at AGM & Conference	25.00	7038
25 September	EDDC	Staff payroll	6,205.63	7039
27 September	Chilcotts Auctioneers	Portrait insurance valuation	120.00	7040
28 September	LGRC Associates Ltd	Interim Clerk services	7,036.80	7041

Councillor Motions**17/506 To receive reports and motions from Councillors with special responsibilities**

Cllr. Darrant. Funding is being sought to replace information poles at Bramble Wood.

Cllr. Howard. There will be a twinning meeting in mid October, date to be confirmed.

Cllr. Edwards. The Neighbourhood Plan steering group and Planning Committee to be aware of the deadline (9th November 2017) for the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) consultation, 'Planning for the right homes in the right places'. Information was forwarded by the National Association of Local Councils. Cllr Edwards will attend the DALC conference on 10th October.

Cllr. Sheridan-Shaw. Honiton Chamber of Commerce is going well. There is a Chamber of Commerce quiz on 21st October – raising funds for Christmas lights and tree, etc. Christmas lights will be switched on 18th November. Honiton Dementia Action Alliance and Admiral Nurse project is going well. £2,000 raised towards a target of £150,000 for this appeal.

Cllr. Kolek. Dementia Action Alliance are holding a 'neon' run around Honiton on 6th December before the Christmas carnival. EDDC have expressed concern about the age of some participants and public liability insurance for the event.

Cllr. Coombs. Raised the issue with Co-op that plastic wrapping (film), used to cover bananas and bread, is not recycled at the kerbside. There are recycling bins at larger stores where it can be collected but the bin at Honiton Co-Op has been missing for some time. The store manager suggested that a letter to head office might yield a response. A poster would encourage the public to recycle plastic film.

Footpath inspections are underway, slightly delayed because Councillor Coombs' involvement in the Clapper Lane allotments.

ACTION: It was agreed unanimously that the Clerk should write to Co-Operative Stores Ltd requesting a replacement bin is installed soonest.

Cllr. Jones. Attended 'The Project' mental health charity meeting on 15 September and met Debbie Humberside who Cllr Jones proposed to invite to attend a Honiton Town Council

Signed Chair

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meeting. The Project is doing a great job and has thirty to forty clients. Details of their fundraising are on their website. Cllr Kolek has also visited The Project – their work with young people is outstanding.

ACTION: HTC (Clerk) to invite Debbie Humberside or Kerry Cable to attend a meeting of Honiton Town Council.

Cllr. Jones is waiting to hear from Mind and will report back in due course.

Cllr Jones will need to give up attending League of Friends because of work/life pressures, Daniel Jefferson has agreed to take this over – this was agreed unanimously.

17/507

Cllr. Kolek: To consider motions that:

- Honiton Town Council should work with local businesses, including the Chamber of Commerce and other local community groups, to explore ways of reducing use of single use plastics in Honiton.
- Honiton Town Council should lead the way in tackling this environmental issue with a report on this work presented to the public within twelve months.

Ten years ago, Modbury banned carried bags, the nation followed, and in recent years use has reduced significantly. Plastic pollution is a national and global issue. The motions above were debated.

The principle being that if everyone does one small thing great changes happen. Local communities raising issues about pollution will drive such change. For example, a brief conversation about the polluting impact of plastic straws resulted in the Beehive undertaking not to use them in future. Similarly, Wetherspoons no longer provide single use plastic straws.

There was a lively debate including discussion of other pressures on the town council, and where this issue sits with its current priorities. It was said that sustainability should be a priority for all local authorities.

Clarification was sought on how this should be achieved. Suggestions included, liaison with Chamber of Commerce, editorial in local press, etc.

Cllr. Kolek proposed that Honiton Town Council should raise awareness of this issue – reducing single use plastic - through its connections such as The Chamber of Commerce, local businesses and groups.

The motion was seconded by Cllr. Brown and carried by six votes to four.

Councillor Edwards: To receive a report from the Working Together conference held at EDDC Knowle on 29th September, and to consider its implications for the people of Honiton.

Cllr Edwards was impressed with the conference. Closure of medical beds and Honiton Hospital is an important issue for the town. [Copy of report attached to these minutes.](#)

It was proposed and agreed to consider Cllr Edwards' report more fully at the next meeting.

Correspondence

17/508 To note correspondence received and to resolve any matters arising.

Correspondence received from 20th September to 4th October 2017

Devon County Council

1. Community News from around our County

Other

2. NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 33
3. NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin 34
4. DALC latest news
5. Letter from Mr Nix – Honiton Town Council Meeting 25 September 2017
6. Letter from Mr Nix – Review of Standing Orders
7. Email from Paul Diviani – NHS Hospital bed numbers/The King's Fund
8. Email from Phil Twiss - DCC Health scrutiny presentation
9. Local Councils Update October 2017
10. PCC – Monthly Report 2017
11. Smokefree Alliance – Newsletter September 2017
12. Honiton Surgery Newsletter 2017 Number 4
13. Devon Communities – Devon update

- Correspondence from Mr Nix was noted.
- Cllr Coombs questioned whether the public should be given notice of working group meetings. Standing Orders are clear that it is mandatory to inform the public of these meetings but there is no information on the council's website.
- Cllr Zarczynski agreed that steering group meetings should be publicised on the website.

The Mayor thanked the members of the public for attending.

PART B MATTERS FOR DECISION

There were no matters to discuss.

17/509 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8:50pm.