

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Adjourned Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Council Offices, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 19th November 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Philip Carrigan
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr John Zarczynski
Cllr S Edwards
Cllr R Hanratty

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Henry Brown (Chairman)
Cllr Terry Darrant
Cllr Caroline Kolek
Cllr Roy Coombs
Cllr Mike Jones
Cllr D Jefferson
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw
Cllr V Howard

In attendance

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

PART A

18/770 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

18/771 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr S Edwards – Personal reasons
Cllr N Macve – Personal reasons
Cllr D Jefferson – Personal reasons
Cllr M Jones – Medical grounds

18/772 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

None received.

18/773 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

18/774 Proposed allotments at Battishorne Way, Honiton

Cllr McNally queried clause 6.4 of the draft lease but was advised by the Councillors on the Allotments Working Group that they had been advised that this was a standard clause.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the terms of the lease proposed by

Combe Estates and for the Mayor and Town Clerk to sign and seal the lease on behalf of the Council.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Kolek.

18/775 Honiton Town Council Community Award

Cllr Brown presented his report and confirmed that he would answer any questions raised.

The following points were discussed:

- What were the proposed costs involved and should these be obtained before the proposal could be agreed?
- Would these be annual awards or given as and when needed.

Cllr Brown suggested that it would be as and when needed.

- The awards could not be given out during purdah.
- As an alternative should the Council instead be looking at making the existing Honoured Citizen award less difficult?

Cllr Brown answered that this was a lower tier award with a view to engaging members of the public.

- The Council had agreed to review the policy for Honoured Citizen Awards.

Cllr Brown reiterated that this would be an award to run along side the Honoured Citizen Award and could reward one off acts and young people more easily.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 9 for, with 1 against and 1 abstention to create a new Honiton Town Council award for acts of community service – Community Award. The award will be issued at full council meetings and the recipient will receive a certificate and badge. A working group led by the mayor is to be set up to create a criterion for nominating and presenting this award. Badges are to be designed for this award and the Honoured Citizen Award.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

All Councillors wishing to be on the Working Group should email the Mayor.

18/776 Tuesday Council Surgeries

Cllr Brown presented his report and confirmed that he would answer any questions raised.

The following points were discussed:

- The Council had previously run surgeries with market stalls or at the previous Town Council offices. However, they failed as no members of the public attended. The public can attend Council meetings if they are interested.
- Will the public come to the Beehive for public surgeries or would a market stall be better?
- The Council will need leaflets and promote them through the press.
- Should the venue and times be flexible?

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 9 votes for with 2 abstentions to hold elector surgeries on Tuesday evenings between 6 and 7pm in the middle council office and at other appropriate times and at other appropriate locations.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw

18/777 Use of electronic devices in council meetings

The Town Clerk presented his report and the following points were discussed:

- Reports for exempt matters should be sent separately by email and not as a link.
- Concerns regarding breaches of the policy should be brought to the attention of the Chair of the meeting.
- Members should use common sense as there may be occasions when Cllrs with caring responsibilities need to either read or send a quick message.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to introduce the proposed policy on the use of electronic devices during any council meetings.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski.

18/778 Restructuring of the Human Resources Committee

The Town Clerk suggested that this item be deferred to the following Council meeting

The following points were discussed:

- To rescind the previous resolution 10 members would need to vote for the motion.
- If the motion failed, it could not be brought back to Council within 6 months.
- Motion should be considered by all Members of the Council if possible.
- If motion is deferred to the next full Council meeting, any Cllr who is not able to attend that meeting should submit any written comments to the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 10 to 1 to defer this item to the next Full Council meeting.

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

18/779 Neighbourhood Plan and steering group and Community Engagement Forum

Cllr Coombs presented his report and advised that he and Cllr Edwards were in the process of arranging a CEF meeting.

The following points were discussed:

- Members of the public had expressed an interest in the Neighbourhood Plan process at a recent town meeting and this interest was being followed up.
- How much public interest is there in a Neighbourhood Plan?
- Should Cllr Coombs and Cllr Edwards be provided with more time to arrange a CEF meeting?
- Considering the probable cost of a Neighbourhood Plan, should this still be pursued?
- Without a Neighbourhood Plan, Honiton is at risk of becoming a developers free for all.
- A CEF would assist in the progress of a Neighbourhood Plan and in view of time constraints a further 3 months is required.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 7 for with 4 votes against to provide an additional 3 months to set up a Community Engagement Forum.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski

18/780 Clapper Lane Allotments Appeal

Cllr Coombs presented his report which was noted. No questions were raised.

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** that officers be given delegated authority by Honiton Town Council as Allotments Authority for the Parish of Honiton to produce a clear and demonstratable statement of case continuing to object to the appealed application on design grounds, the reduction in total size of protected allotment land and open space within the built-up area boundary as well as concerns regarding highway safety particularly for pedestrians.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

The meeting went into confidential session at 8.05 p.m.

PART B

18/781 Report from the Chair of Premises and Finance Review Sub-Committee

Cllr Zarczynski presented his report which was discussed and noted.

18/782 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.35 pm.