

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 October 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Philip Carrigan
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr John Zarczynski

St Paul's Ward

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

In attendance

Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
3 members of the public
2 members of the press
Cllr P Twiss DCC/EDDC
Cllr D Barrow EDDC

PART A

18/733 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

18/734 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr S Edwards – Personal reasons
Cllr N Macve – Personal reasons

18/735 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

None received.

18/736 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

The meeting went out of session at 7.03pm

18/737 Public question time on items on the agenda

None Raised

The meeting went back into session at 7.03 pm

18/738 The Mayor's announcements

Cllr Brown advised that he had attended the following events:

- Trampolining Club
- Cambridge Diet shop opening with Cllr D Sheridan-Shaw
- Honiton Gymnastics Awards
- Open Arms East Devon blue plaque walk
- Christmas Lights fundraising stand at Tesco with several other Councillors.

The Mayor advised during his announcements the following:

- The owners of the Cambridge Diet shop had funded the moving of the defibrillator from the Rugby Club to New Street.
- He would be involved in this year's Honiton Carnival.

18/739 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th September 2018.

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

Members **RESOLVED** to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th September 2018.

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Kolek and resolved by a majority of 10 with 2 abstentions.

18/740 Reports from District and County Councillors

The following report was received from Cllr Barrow:

I recently attended a volunteer meeting at EDDC with Hospiscare and the NHS. The Communities Together Fund was discussed and in particular its recent funding assistance for a Tourist Information Centre. The application deadline for the fund is 16th January 2019 but each application needs to benefit more than 1 community. There is £200,000.00 available in addition to other funds such as the Communities Building Fund. However, that fund requires a larger percentage of own funding from the community than the Communities Together Fund.

I can also confirm that the Thelma Hulbert Gallery is doing very well with increased sales and an increase in visitor numbers.

The following report was received from Cllr Twiss:

School Funding

Schools funding continues to be a big issue. Gary Streeter MP, the new Vice Chair of F40 (Fairer funding of which DCC is in the 40 lowest funded local authorities) will be hosting an MPs briefing event on the 15th of October at Westminster, which I hope a senior members of DCC will be attending.

While more money has gone into education, it has not kept pace with demand, with particular increases in the High Needs area. It has been reported that in the last year schools in Devon have lost 600 teachers, classroom assistants and support staff. This is because of lack of sufficient funding.

Finances

The impact of the 2015 Spending Review and the subsequent reduction in the spending power of the Council has been well managed, but the continuing upward demand on resources is not abating.

The demand and cost pressures brought by demographic changes and the increase in referrals to children's services, together with increasing costs of placements is bringing increased pressures that cannot be accommodated by reserves. This part of social care is the real elephant in the room with no way to control or predict spend and as things stand more Councils such as Northampton, Surrey and Somerset will be in dire financial straits.

At a conference I have just returned from, attended by senior people in the NHS, Healthcare system more generally, Health charities, other charities and politicians there was universal agreement that social care affecting all ages is an issue that must be addressed and solved starting right now, recognising this will probably take 10/15 years and has to be, and will only work with political cross-party co-operation

The real financial pressures for DCC will occur in the 2020/21 financial year. We don't currently know what the level of business rate retention will be, as things stand it could be 50% but DCC are lobbying for 75%. The 100% pilot this year isn't going to be repeated. There is current consultation on raising the New Home Bonus threshold; this will impact on DCC, but mostly on our districts which means they will be less likely or willing to share costs, as they have been, on infrastructure improvements.

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Highways news

I have previously had concerns about progress with the gully cleaning programme last year, but I am pleased to let you know that Skanska are ahead of programme at approximately 60% complete. Work will ramp up from 1st October on the additional cleaning works allowed allocated with funding from extra money given to DCC Highways this year from Government, but clearly some way to go in the Feniton & Gittisham Division of DCC.

The Dragon, or should I say Dragon patching machine has finally landed in Devon and is already working out there on the network. The intention is that this will be used to try and address some of the problems on the more minor road network in advance of the safety inspections. Although with only one dragon and 8000 miles of road we may be lucky to spot it.

The trial on safety defects work in East Devon has progressed well, and the team are considering what can be done differently based on the current results. The trial has concentrated on the publicly reported potholes, and has established that on the 3 to 8 network, the mainly classified roads, not unclassified,

- Less than 10% of reports are safety defects
- 45% of reports will need some attention soon
- 35% of reports had already been dealt with or nothing found

The remainder were where something was found but didn't warrant any action.

Of the 45% where attention would be needed the team have been organising repairs, albeit not in the urgent time scales for safety defects, which then enables a more targeted approach to them.

Healthcare - Devon STP (Sustainable Transformation Plan) update

Members might be interested in the attached 'high level' document which takes a little reading but very worthwhile doing so. This was a briefing note for key healthcare and wellbeing stakeholders in Devon delivered at the end of July, which is the simplest presentation of the highly complex 'architecture' I have seen recently that are the components of the Sustainable Transformation Plan or STP, together with other related information that might be of interest to you (and all in the public domain).

For me the two biggest challenges for DCC currently are the volatile and hard to predict cost of social care, particularly for younger people and attracting the required workforce numbers, where statistically unemployment in the Greater Exeter area is almost zero.

The NHS employs 1.2m people, the social care sector 1.4m people, who overall are paid 29% less than the NHS and the turnover of staff, particularly with younger people is very high. A shortage of social care staff means 23% of hospital beds being occupied by people who are medically fit, often where suitable care packages cannot be immediately found and this equates to 38 acute hospitals in England where the beds are occupied by people fit enough not to be there.

Event information

Councillors might be interested in joining a celebration of 10 Years of Fairtrade Devon on Saturday the 27th of October and the Council Chamber and Committee suite of County Hall, EX2 4QD from 10.00am - 4.00pm (I understand there may be samples of chocolate and other things which immediately attracted my attention)

This event will be an opportunity for supporters of the Fairtrade movement in Devon and the South West to come together to:

- Find out about the fresh challenges to Fairtrade in our rapidly changing world;
- Ensure our Fairtrade commitment has a positive impact on producer communities;
- Hear entrepreneurs and producer communities tell their stories;
- Celebrate, motivate and discover new ideas.

Cllr McNally queried on behalf of a member of the public why the Honiton traffic management survey had been delayed. Cllr Twiss advised that he had no knowledge of this and as there were several traffic management surveys in hand for Honiton he would need to have more information to be able to look into this.

Cllr Carrigan queried whether DCC's social care department is closed over the Christmas holiday as this would impact on the Hospitals ability to deal with social care over the holidays. Cllr Twiss confirmed that DCC's social care department was definitely not closed during the holidays. However, it is difficult to put care packages together as the market is still not working as it should.

Cllr Kolek raised on behalf of a member of the public the issue which has arisen on the A30 to Monkton where traffic is building up as a result of queues for the Starbucks and due to the changes to the road layout. Cllr Twiss advised that there was nothing he could do about this. The matter is with Highways England with whom he is due to meet to discuss the issues.

Cllr Brown on behalf of a member of the public queried a possible vermin problem as a result of the building works taking place on the Specsavers building in the High Street. Cllr Twiss advised that Environmental Health at EDDC be contacted.

18/741 Reports from the Police (recorded crimes and logs)

Members noted the September figures.

The Town Clerk advised that whilst both PC's had been invited, neither were able to attend the meeting. It is not known whether the item headed "other theft" relates to cyber crime and this will be clarified with the police.

18/742 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

Cllr Jones sought permission to provide an update on the 7-9 Club who currently use the CUB building for their meetings.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously that he be allowed to do so.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Jefferson.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the 7-9 Club is a youth group for those with learning difficulties. They currently have a membership of about 80 and urgently need volunteers to help. They meet between 7pm and 9pm on a Monday evening. Ken Smith has recently resigned after 30 years as leader and Cllr Jones wished to express his thanks to Ken for all his hard work. Zoe Allars has replaced Ken Smith in the role.

18/743 Update Report

The Town Clerk presented the report which was noted.

Cllr McNally asked the Town Clerk for an indication as to when the charges are likely to be introduced in the car park? The Town Clerk confirmed that he was still waiting for the proposed lease and SLA from EDDC. However, as previously advised charges can

be made as soon as the machines are installed although the Council would not be able to issue any P&C notices.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

18/744 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 4th September 2018.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive and note the minutes.

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

18/745 To receive the minutes of the Premises and Finance Sub-Committee held on 24th September 2018.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive and note the minutes subject to an amendment relating to Cllr Jones giving his apologies for the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Taylor

18/746 List of receipts and payments

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the schedule of payments and receipts for September 2018 (see appendices attached).

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

18/747 Proposed allotments at Battishorne Way, Honiton

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the lease had not yet been received and as such would need to be brought before Councillors at the November meeting.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to instruct the Allotments Working Group to draft a Management Plan which includes but is not restricted to, the rules and regulations which would apply to the running of the allotments, the responsibilities of the individual plot holders, the proposed annual rental costs of a plot and the anticipated annual running costs of the allotment site.

Proposed by Cllr Darrant and seconded by Cllr Carrigan.

The meeting went into confidential session at 7.40 p.m.

PART B

18/748 Bailey Partnership Update

The report was received and noted.

Cllr McNally proposed that the Premises and Finance Review Sub-Committee examine the letter received from the lawyers for the Bailey Partnership and the further advice from Foot Anstey and this was seconded by Cllr Jefferson.

Cllr Taylor queried whether a Councillor who was not a member of the Premises and Finance Review Sub-Committee would be allowed to comment on the correspondence in question and this was confirmed by Cllr Zarczynski as the Chair of the Committee.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Premises and Finance Review Sub-Committee examine the letter from the lawyers for the Bailey Partnership and the further advice received from Foot Anstey.

18/749 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 7.45 pm.