

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Council Offices, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 10th December 2018 at 7.15 pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Philip Carrigan
Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr John Zarczynski
Cllr S Edwards
Cllr N Macve
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
2 members of the public
2 members of the press
Cllr P Twiss DCC/EDDC
Cllr D Barrow EDDC

PART A

18/783 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

18/784 To receive apologies for absence

None received

18/785 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.

18/786 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 7.17pm

18/787 Public question time on items on the agenda

There were no public questions.

The meeting went back into session at 7.18 pm

Signed Chair



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18/788 The Mayor's announcements

- 13th November – Air cadets.
- 14th November – Parliament week at the Scouts Hall
- 17th November – Christmas lights switch on
- 24th November – Opening of RKL shop
- 25th November – Service at the Congregational Church
- 6th December – Opening of COFI charity shop
- 8th December – Christmas Carnival

18/789 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th November and the adjourned meeting on the 19th November 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 12th November and the adjourned meeting on the 19th November 2018 subject to typing errors being corrected.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw and resolved by a majority vote.

18/790 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss provided the following report:

DCC Highways

Following issues elsewhere in the Division I have asked DCC highways to let my PC's know when they plan any work, so as to avoid replication of any work undertaken by the PC and/or DCC Highways (you will recall we had an issue with this last year in Feniton re ditching work).

Like many I was surprised to learn of the extent of the additional funding that has been given to highways in the autumn budget, where the DCC share £18.754m, where this is capital funding and is to be used for potholes and bridges. This is taken as meaning tackling roads where there are a number of pothole issues, rather than the filling of individual potholes which is a revenue matter. The money cannot be used for extra gully cleaning as this is a revenue function.

A full plan for how the money is going to be spent is yet to be finalised, however the initial thoughts at DCC highways are as follows

By the end of 2018/19 approx. £6m will have been spent, partly due to existing over-programming, and partly due to additional works which would have slipped into 2019/20 due to overspending which we have managed to get our various contractors to deliver.

Signed Chair



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The A road network looks likely to receive an extra £1m and the Non-Principal network, either patching or resurfacing an extra £7m, although this may need to be spread over into 2020/21.

Bridges and retaining walls 'stock' about £4m is a real bonus and funding for Footways also in the mix.

Healthcare

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence

A national programme to help GPs identify patients experiencing domestic abuse and/or sexual violence and refer them to specialist support services is being rolled out across Devon and Torbay. The first of its kind in Devon and Torbay, it will see domestic abuse and sexual violence specialists (known as Advocate Educators) work in partnership with local clinical leads to co-deliver training and support in up to 50 general practices across Devon and Torbay.

The IRIS programme is aimed at helping clinicians to identify women aged 16 years and over who are experiencing domestic violence and abuse from a current or ex-partner or adult family member and to offer them a referral to an Advocate Educator. It also helps to ensure that men who are affected by domestic abuse can access support.

Care issues – Proud to care Campaign

DCC has enough places in care homes (not always in the right places) but the issue remains recruiting enough staff to service the care packages people bring with them when the transfer of care goes from an acute Hospital to the social care one. The Council has other initiatives operating with care providers such as offering guaranteed hours by front loading payments to them and better working practices.

The Council is working in a variety of ways with the 'Proud to Care' campaign which is having a real, including use of radio advertising, trying to raise the profile of social care and encouraging people to make it a career

Estates – 'joined up services'

There is currently a project underway to co-locate the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and DCC Adult Social Care Commissioning roles in to part of County Hall called 'The Annexe' so that the merger of the functions, including staff better suits the needs of people in Devon, not least the operational efficiencies this brings.

Scams

The rise in scams across Devon often targeting elderly and vulnerable people is alarming and growing with a number of elderly people of in excess of £100,000 and another by £400,000. The attached Trading Standards presentation is an informative tool in how local communities can help combat his invidious trade and spreading the word.

Signed Chair



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And finally!

Good to see what good quality events and positive publicity can do for Honiton with below and attached from the November 2018 edition of Country Life edited by Prince Charles. Now for G2P2!!

for the public.

Every year, I am fortunate enough to meet a large number of the rural businesses that, alongside farming, are the mainstay of our countryside. This year's highlights included visiting Honiton's first Gate to Plate event, which saw this market town in East Devon showcasing some marvellous local crafts, food and drink. The High Street was full of stalls, with more than 60 businesses taking part, from Eat the Smoke to Georgie Porgie's Puddings and the Powderkeg Brewery. Business was clearly brisk and it was encouraging to see a market town fulfilling its ancient function so admirably, just as it has since Roman times.

The following report was received from Cllr Barrow:

Blackdown House, EDDC's new office building is being built by Interserve who are currently in the press as they are in financial difficulty. However, handover by Interserve is only 2 weeks away and there is very little for them to do. As such it is anticipated that the building will be finished as scheduled.

Cllr Darrant asked if there was a moving in date. Cllr Barrow confirmed that EDDC staff would be moving in over three weekends – the last two weekends in January and the first weekend in February.

Cllr Brown asked who would be formally opening the building. Cllr Barrow was not aware that this had been decided.

Cllrs Twiss and Barrow then left the meeting.

18/791 Reports from the Police (recorded crimes and logs)

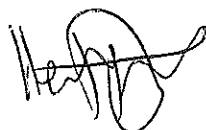
Members noted the November figures.

18/792 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

Cllr Edwards presented her two reports.

There were no questions regarding this item.

Signed Chair



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18/793 Update Report

The Town Clerk presented the report which was noted. He confirmed that surveying companies had been identified for the CUB and the quotes which had been received were not as expensive as had been expected. However, for the surveys to be carried out, permission was required from Devon County Council and he was waiting to receive this.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

18/794 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 27th November 2018.

Members noted the minutes.

18/795 To receive the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 26th November 2018.

Members noted the minutes.

18/796 October Payment and Receipt Report

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 14 for with 1 abstention to approve the payments made in October and November 2018.

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

18/797 Restructuring of the Human Resources Committee

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 14 for with 1 against to suspend Standing Order 7a.

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Zarczynski.

The Town Clerk presented his report which was discussed.

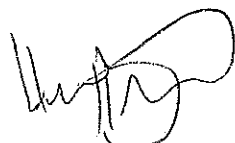
Cllr Coombs commented as follows:

- Did the majority of English Councils have the same terms of reference?
- Committee Chairs, chosen for their particular skills and knowledge, would now also need to know about employment rights and HR.
- Restructuring was unnecessary as currently any Committee could send a representative to speak at the HR Committee meetings.

The Town Clerk responded as follows:

- A significant number of English Councils operated such terms of reference although he could not confirm that a majority did so.

Signed Chair



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- Committee chairs would now be able to comment on issues relating directly to their Committee. If expert knowledge was required, this could be brought in.
- All Committee chairs would now be able to vote on items brought to the HR Committee.

Cllr Jones was concerned that this would allow a newly co-opted Councillor to be on the Committee when that Councillor may not have the experience needed.

Cllr Taylor suggested that if specialist advice was required, this could be obtained from South West Councils.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 13 for with 2 against to accept the revised Terms of Reference for the Human Resources Committee submitted to Full Council on the 12th November 2018.

Proposed by Cllr Jefferson and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw

18/798 Buses Service provision in Honiton

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that Officers write to Devon County Council to request information on what their plans are to improve the services offered to Honiton residents who are reliant on public transport.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

Cllr Coombs was thanked by Members for the work involved in producing the report.

18/799 The Town Clerk requested that items 15 and 16 be taken into Part B.

Proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Jefferson. The motion failed by 8 votes against with 7 votes for.

The Town Clerk advised Members that item 15 could not be taken in Part A as the report and email referred to had not been made available to the public. He suggested deferring the matter to the Full Council Meeting in January.

A lengthy discussion then followed, and the following points were made:

- Standing Order 7a would need to be suspended for Members to vote again.
- The issue related to whether the email had already been disclosed to the press.
- The Town Clerk had not been notified prior to the meeting that some Members wished the matter to remain in Part A.
- The issue related to item 15 not item 16.

The Town Clerk advised Members that they had three options:

Signed Chair



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- 1) Resolve to take item 15 into Part B, which would require the suspension of standing order 7a.
- 2) Resolve to not discuss the item and for it to be withdrawn from the Agenda.
- 3) Resolve to defer the item to the January meeting.

The Town Clerk reiterated his advice that item 15 should be considered as Part B business.

Further discussion ensued, and the following points were made:

- The Clerk had given clear advice, and this should be followed.
- The email was not marked confidential and therefore its contents should be discussed in Part A.

Cllr McNally proposed that the item be withdrawn from the Agenda and not discussed. There was no seconder to that motion and the motion therefore failed.

Cllr Kolek suggested that the debate regarding whether item 15 should be held in public was an attempt to humiliate and embarrass another Councillor but this was not accepted by other Councillors.

Cllr Howard left the meeting at 8.05pm

The meeting was suspended at 8.06pm

The Town Clerk advised Members that if they continued stonewalling all three options available, the meeting would have to be ended.

The meeting went back into session at 8.07pm

Members **RESOLVED** to defer item 15 to the Council meeting in January 2019. Members were tied at 7 for and 7 against. The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Hanratty.

Cllr Howard re-joined the meeting at 8.09pm

Members **RESOLVED** by 12 votes for with 1 against and 2 abstentions to take item 16 into Part B.

The meeting went into confidential session at 8.12 p.m.

PART B

18/800 Beehive Service Level Agreement Report

Signed Chair



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The report was received and noted. The options contained in the report were noted and discussed.

The clerk iterated that despite the concerns that arbitration was a premature and potentially costly exercise instigated by HCC, the advice from Richard Bagwell was that at this point the town council has no option but to agree to HCC's demands. It was noted by members that the costs for both sides could far outweigh the current disputed amount.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 14 for with 1 abstention to authorise Officers to proceed with the legal advice provided.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

18/801 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.57 pm.

Signed Chair



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