

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 July 2019 at 7.00 pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Jill McNally
Cllr N Macve
Cllr John Zarczynski (Chairman)
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw
Cllr John Taylor

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Terry Darrant
Cllr Vera Howard
Cllr Roy Coombs
Cllr P Carrigan
Cllr C Hattle-Spence
Cllr C Kolek

In attendance

Cllr P Twiss EDDC/DCC
Cllr T McCollum EDDC
Cllr L Jeffery EDDC
Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
20 members of the public
2 members of the press

PART A

19/885 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public.

19/886 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr D Barrow EDDC

19/887 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest

19/888 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

19/889 Public question time on items on the agenda

Mrs June Brown referred to the leaflet which sets out membership of the Town Council Committees as this referred to DALC and LAG without any explanation as to what these letters stood for. The Town Clerk has now explained what these initials stand for (Devon Association of Local Councils and Local Action Group). Both should be stated in full on the leaflet as they are very important. As regards DALC, should the Town Council's representatives be elected members rather than HTC officers? Also, will there be a regular item on the agenda for Full Council meetings regarding the meetings attended especially now the monthly police report is being omitted?

As regards the minutes of the Full Council meetings, these are very late coming out. Can the Council set a deadline by when they are to be issued?

Cllr Zarczynski responded by saying that the Council relies on the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk for advice and therefore it is an advantage for the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk to attend the meetings held by DALC. However, all Councillors can attend these meetings. As Chair of the LAG, Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that all Councillors were sent the minutes of those meetings. They are available to the public on request, but HTC does not have a duty to publish the minutes as it is a separate group.

The Town Clerk responded with regards to the issuing of minutes. He advised that this is sometimes difficult as he is the only full-time officer with a part time Deputy Town Clerk, especially at times when there is a heavy workload combined with staff leave. He would not advocate a deadline to the publishing of minutes as this could cause problems.

19/890 Mayor's announcements

The Mayor confirmed that he had attended the Police Academy Awards with the Deputy Mayor in Exeter. Forthcoming events were the Honiton Show, the garden fete at Adelaide Lodge, the Twinning event and Charter Day.

19/891 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th June 2019

A copy of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance. The minutes were approved unanimously and signed as a correct record.

19/892 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Jeffery presented the following report:

I was very happy to have been elected back in May and have been keen to get to work in the Town and East Devon. I have been developing a few areas since being elected:

- 1. A project to improve young people's mental health services locally, and I am working with local groups to try and get it off the ground. The project is still in its early stages, but the signs are good so far, and I'm hopeful that we can be successful.*
- 2. I have also been working with some ideas around the climate emergency to try and do our part in tackling it locally, which there should hopefully be some progress on soon.*
- 3. Otherwise I have been familiarising myself with the processes of EDDC and the aspects of my work on there. I recently attended a new councillors training*

weekend run by the LGA. As a new councillor there are a lot of things to learn but I will work hard to get things done locally to continue to improve our area.'

Cllr Macve queried whether the electric charging points at Blackdown House were available to the public. The Town Clerk confirmed that this had been raised last month with Cllr Barrow and that he would follow up the query. However, he had understood that the charging points were for EDDC staff members only.

Cllr Kolek asked for an update regarding the travellers on All Hallows Field. They have been given an order to move on.

Cllr Taylor queried whether there was an official site for travellers near Honiton. He was advised that there was one in Hawkchurch.

Cllr McCollum presented the following report:

Things are progressing with the new administration with everyone finding their feet.

The G2P2 team have been working hard and are looking forward to a great day for Honiton.

As for me well it's been a busy time and most of my training is completed. Now it is the experience I need. But I know being a District Councillor will work very well alongside my other roles and for Honiton.

I will shortly be undertaking further training on crowdfunding.

Cllr Twiss presented the following report:

Traffic Speeds

A question I am asked on a frequent basis concerns speed of traffic in our town and village settings and I am sure that the comprehensive DCC Traffic Speed Task Group report, together with its recommendations will be of interest to members of this Councils as well as residents, in particular the section about 20mph speed limits.

Schools funding

Devon schools funding per pupil remains lower than much of the rest of England and is not acceptable, where there should be a level playing field for all of our children. DCC is as you are aware a member of the fairer funding F40 group of councils where we constantly lobby for a fairer settlement

At its meeting on 10th June 2019, the Children's Scrutiny Committee, in considering a Report from the Head of Education and Learning (CS/19/17) on Schools Funding in Devon 2019/20 noted that in 2019/20 the funding per pupil in Devon was £4,395 compared to the national average of £4,689, a difference of £294. This meant that across the authority this equated to £27 million less funding, based on the October 2018 school census.

The Committee therefore resolved that the Cabinet be asked to lobby the Department of Education over the need to increase funding for schools in Devon, highlighting in particular: -

- (a) the real term reduction in schools funding of 10% since 2009/10;*
- (b) that Devon gets £294 per pupil less than the national average;*
- (b) high needs pressures and including increased EHCP numbers;*
- (c) the inadequacy of Government capital maintenance funding to meet the current school building maintenance backlog; and*
- (d) the deferment of announcement of round 3 of the priority schools building programme.*

Recommendation

- (a) that the Children's Scrutiny Committee be thanked for their support and full recognition of the Schools Funding issues in Devon;*
- (b) that the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Schools be asked to make representations to the Secretary of State for Education over the pressing need to increase funding for schools in Devon, highlighting in particular the issues raised by the Scrutiny Committee relating to the real term reduction in schools funding, the amounts received in Devon compared to the national average, the pressures of high needs and increasing EHCP numbers, the inadequate capital maintenance funding to deal with school building maintenance backlogs and the deferment of announcement of round 3 of the priority schools building programme.*

Health watch

As with other counties Devon Health watch is an independent 'critical friend' looking after the best interests of residents' healthcare needs and I hope the attached 2019/20 annual report will be of interest to you in highlighting the important work that their volunteers undertake on your behalf

HATOC will be looking at parking restrictions in Rosemount Lane in the Autumn.

Fly-tipping: This is a problem in East Devon costing over £40,000 to clear up. At the weekend I received a sos call to a wedding venue where car parts had been dumped. I roped in the Mayor and we tidied it up and the wedding went ahead.

Cllr Taylor queried why in 2007 a proposed 20 mph limit through the High Street was opposed by the Highways Agency and why a 15-mph limit could not be brought in as in London.

Cllr Twiss suggested that Cllr Taylor read the traffic report which had sent through as an attachment to his report as this hopefully would answer the question.

Cllr P Twiss left the meeting at 7.20pm

19/893 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

None were received

19/894 Update Report

The Clerk confirmed that there was a typing error in the report. Where this referred to a daisy it should read honeysuckle.

The initial agreement in respect of the Dowell Street Car Park had been received from EDDC and the Town Clerk would be considering this in detail.

A report regarding the information point would be brought to the next Council meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that additional volunteers were still needed for the Honiton Show and Gate to Plate 2.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

19/895 Co-option of new councillors onto Honiton Town Council

The Town Clerk confirmed that the prospective candidates who were in attendance would be asked to wait in the Council's meeting room. They will then be called in alphabetical order to give their presentations and answer four questions which have been set by Members but which will be read out by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk advised that Mel Fordham had withdrawn her application.

The prospective candidates gave their presentations and answered the questions raised in the following order:

Ray Hanratty
Carrie Holdsworth
Michelle Pollington

Signed Chair

12th August 2019

Carla Salisbury
Lynsey Skinner

All Members were then given ballot papers which were then collected, and the votes were counted by the Town Clerk and the Deputy Town Clerk

The Mayor then announced that Ray Hanratty and Michelle Pollington had received the requisite number of votes to be co-opted to the Council. The other three candidates had failed to obtain enough votes.

Members **RESOLVED** by 10 votes with 1 abstention to accept Ray Hanratty as a co-opted Councillor to Honiton Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Howard.

Members **RESOLVED** by 10 votes with 1 abstention to accept Michelle Pollington as a co-opted Councillor to Honiton Town Council.

19/896 Planning Committee

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive the minutes of the planning committee meetings held on the 2nd April, 11th June and 25th June 2019.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Howard.

19/897 Finance and Policy Committee

The minutes of the meeting on the 1st July 2019 were noted.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Asset Register Module and the Allotment Module be purchased from RBS Software in order to facilitate more accurate recording of the Council's assets and Allotments.

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

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 10 votes with 1 abstention to adopt the Financial Regulations as provided to the Finance and Policy Committee.

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

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that suitable insurance had been arranged and instructed officers to make payment of the Insurance premium for 2019-20.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 9 votes for, 1 vote against and 1 abstention to adopt the Co-option policy as provided to the Finance and Policy Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw

19/898 Green and Open Spaces Committee

The minutes of the meeting on the 24th June 2019 were noted.

19/899 Committee Membership and representation on outside bodies

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Cllr Macve advised that she had agreed to represent the Council at Citizens Advice and the Town Clerk confirmed that the list would be amended.

The Town Clerk confirmed that Cllr Darrant had stood down as one of the Tree Wardens.

Cllr Kolek confirmed that she wished to join the Town Management Committee and the Green and Open Spaces Committee. She also sought to be appointed one of the Councillors for the Environment and one of the Councillors for Sport.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 10 with 1 abstention for Cllr Kolek to join the Town Management Committee and the Green and Open Spaces Committee.

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

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority of 10 with 1 abstention for Cllr Kolek to be appointed one of the Councillors for the Environment and one of the Councillors for Sport.

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

Cllr Kolek announced that she had recently attended the Devon Wildlife event and would be bringing a report to the next Full Council meeting.

19/900 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 8.30pm.