

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at the Mackarness Hall, High Street, Honiton on Wednesday 11th March 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr M Pollington
 Cllr J Taylor
 Cllr J Zarczynski (Chairman)
 Cllr D Sheridan-Shaw
 Cllr J Hannay
 Cllr J McNally
 Cllr N Macve
 Cllr J Wyatt
 Cllr N Hannay
 Cllr L Dolby

St Paul's Ward

Cllr R Coombs
 Cllr C Gilson
 Cllr C Kolek
 Cllr P Carrigan

In attendance

Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
 Nick Randle OBE FSLCC
 Cllr T McCollum EDDC
 60+ members of the public
 2 members of the press

PART A

20/63 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public. He also advised that Cllr Vera Howard was currently in hospital following a suspected stroke. His thoughts and those of the Council were with Cllr Howard and her family and he wished her a speedy recovery.

In view of the number of members of the public attending the meeting, the Chairman also advised that whilst limited on time, this was a normal Council meeting and not a public debate. However, he would be flexible regarding the time allowed for public questions which was usually limited to 15 minutes. He did ask that members of the public speak in an orderly manner and advised that if this did not happen, he would suspend the meeting.

20/64 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr P Twiss DCC/EDDC
 Cllr D Barrow EDDC
 Cllr V Howard
 Cllr T Darrant
 Cllr R Hanratty

20/65 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

None received

20/66 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

20/67 Public question time on items on the agenda

Cllr Kolek read out the following question which had been submitted by her husband Mr Stephen Kolek, who was unable to attend due to work commitments.

I cannot attend tonight's meeting in person as I am away on business in Holland so I ask that this Question is read out at the meeting on my behalf.

As a member of the public I attended the HTC Council meeting at the beginning of Feb 20, I saw the Deputy Mayor resign as Chair of HR Committee, I spoke with a very distressed Town Clerk as he drove out of the Beehive Car Park.

It is important that HTC Councillors and members of the public have trust in the HR competence of the Chair of the HR committee.

Is it correct that the Vice Chair/Acting Chair of HR committee line manages and carries out appraisals of the Town Clerk?

The previous Chair of HR Committee is well known to be involved in managing people day to day in his job

Could I ask the Vice Chair/Acting Chair of HR committee to give a short resume of HR qualifications, knowledge and experience. Outside of HTC How many staff line managed, appraisals carried out over the last 5 years.

Could the Vice Chair/Acting Chair of HR committee also publicly confirm abiding to Nolan principles Codes of Practice and state there is no place for Bullying in HTC or to staff

I understand that the Town clerk has published an open letter of alleging bullying Can the Vice Chair/Acting Chair of HR committee answer. Has an independent investigation been started into these allegations? What welfare support is HR committee giving to a staff member off sick with stress?

I await your answers.

Cllr Carrigan confirmed that he would respond to Mr Kolek in writing but advised that he has in the past managed up to 80 staff members and had carried out a number of appraisals over the years.

The Chairman added that Cllr Carrigan had also previously worked as an auditor and had been in charge of multi-billion £ budgets.

Mrs Serena Sexton (Chair of HCC) asked the following question:

With the Town Clerk currently on sick leave, it is important for the Beehive to meet with the Council and with someone who can make decisions. The coronavirus is affecting the business, and whilst the Government has put in place things for small businesses some of which will not apply to the Beehive. However, the Beehive is reliant on people coming in. Can she have some assurance that those on the Council who can make decisions will meet with her in order to look at what financial steps are there which will help them going forward during the next few months?

The Chairman referred to Government help to support businesses financially but confirmed that Honiton Town Council would also do what it could to assist.

Mrs Serena Sexton highlighted two items which needed to be addressed urgently:

1. *Could an annual fixed sum be agreed instead of the current agreement on operating costs?*
2. *The insurance payment due to be made at the end of April.*

The Chairman confirmed that the points made had been noted and HCC would hear from the Council in response shortly.

Mr John Burgess asked the following questions:

Why is Honiton Council not addressing long-standing issues?

1. Transparency

- a. *Expenditure has not been approved since the Sept 2019. This violates the council's financial regulations and the Transparency Code that is mandatory*
- b. *Hiding large items of expenditure*
 - i. *£40,000 spent on extra employment costs when the previous clerk was on sick leave.*
 - ii. *Hiding large expenditure on legal fees. These are not published in the accounts.*
 - iii. *Why are full accounts, including reserve accounts not available on the councils website – latest information is for 2016-17*
- c. *Not being open about issues being discussed in Part B agendas*
 - i. *Bailey's dispute – no idea of any timeline for this or the date of the hearing*
 - ii. *Today's Part B – report from Nick Randle and arrangements for filling the gap. At least give us the headings of the report and the options in front of you.*
 - iii. *How much money will be set aside to cover the clerk's absence*

2. Bullying – an issue since at least 2017

- a. *Council's protocol - quote*
- b. *Previous clerk going on sick leave through work related stress*
- c. *Resignation statement of Cllr Delasalle as Mayor 2017*
- d. *Letter reported in the press from Alan Rowe MBE*
- e. *Mark Tredwin's letter which includes the following:*
"There is clear evidence of an institution that can be seen to allow bullying and intimidation to take place as a matter of course."

The Chairman responded making the following points:

- With regards to the Cllr Delasalle that he had not witnessed any bullying of Cllr Delasalle.
- Questions were raised and the then Mayor, Cllr Kolek went to the Monitoring Officer and action was taken on his advice.

- Honiton Town Council has a robust complaints procedure in relation to such matters in place. Whilst he has not always agreed with the Town Clerk, and they have had their differences, he has never witnessed any bullying, nor has there ever been a formal complaint in respect of bullying whilst he has been Mayor. Had there been a complaint he would have acted on it and reported it to the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee.
- There are numerous comments on social media, many of them nasty and directed at him and the Council. He questioned the evidence behind some of the allegations of corruption and welcomed any investigation.
- The non-publishing of the Council's accounts was unacceptable and whilst he could not discuss an employment issue, he has tried to address this.
- As regards the legal fees incurred, the Council has a duty to reclaim tax payers money where it has been overspent. The decision to make the claim was based on legal advice and hard evidence. The Council as a corporate body decided to pursue the claim and it is for a significant amount. The Council has always acted on advice and has a strong case as supported by an independent report.
- The Chairman is not the Chair of Finance but can confirm that last year only 1 finance meeting was held, instead of about 6 or 7.

Cllr Carrigan spoke as Chair of Finance and stated that he agreed that the Council's current procedures and policies and internal controls were weak and, in some cases, non-existent. He denied that the Council was at any risk however of bankruptcy in relation to the existing legal action being pursued.

Councillors were challenged in relation to the amount of legal costs incurred by Honiton Town Council in comparison with other Town Councils and the lack of information regarding these costs and whether they would resign.

Cllr Carrigan advised that all monies spent were budgeted for.

Cllr Taylor advised that the overspend on the Beehive was in excess of £200,000.00 but that the Council could not discuss contractual obligations with the public.

The Chairman reiterated that whilst he could not discuss the legal claim in detail as it was a contractual matter, once it was concluded, and the Council was very close in doing this, all the figures would be published. The Council is not allowed legally to divulge details of the claim at this stage. As regards the call for Councillors to resign, this would not change matters. Any new Council would still have a legal obligation to pursue any claim for an overspend of tax-payers money. As regards the call for Councillors to resign, there was an item on the Agenda to discuss this.

Councillors were asked about the recoupment of legal costs incurred and the Chairman confirmed that if the Council was successful with the claim, the legal costs would be repaid. He also advised the legal costs figure referred to included legal costs incurred over 3 years ago in relation to matters which were now closed. The two current legal issues related to a dispute with HCC which had now been resolved and an ongoing dispute which started in 2014 but that this Council is still dealing with because it went dormant for a while before it was resumed in 2017. The Council voted then as a corporate body to pursue the claim for monies they believe are owed

to the taxpayer, and for which they have a duty to get back. Unfortunately to pursue the claim legal costs have to be incurred.

A member of the public had a question for Cllr Taylor in respect of the Judicial Review issued by Cllr Taylor against Honiton Town Council.

You once took the Council to Court. The Court said that the opportunity to settle when costs were at a reasonable level had been lost because of the claimant's refusal to compromise. The loose ends could and should have been agreed after that without the need for proceedings. The subsequent offers to pay costs on the 19th and 29th March should have been accepted. The Claimant has achieved nothing of value since then. You only paid part of the costs. Honiton Town Council was roughly £29,000 out of pocket since that day. What have you done for this town to help recoup those costs?

Cllr Taylor responded as follows:

- The JR was about the fact that the Council was an elected Council and he was elected by the people.
- He received a letter on December 18th advising him that he could not enter the building or attend Council meetings which was unlawful. If it had been legal then a majority of Councillors on a Council could effectively vote off the rest of an elected Council which is undemocratic.
- He had to go to Court to fight these unlawful sanctions. The minutes of the Town Council meetings will show that the Council only approved the withdrawal of the sanctions on March 14th, 3 months later. In the first instance the Council refused to withdraw the sanctions, they then suspended standing orders and voted to approve the withdrawal of the sanctions but by then the whole process was in flow.
- The £29,000 incurred by the Council were costs incurred between December 15th and March 15th covering the Council's own costs and his costs during that period.

The member of the public suggested that the matter should have been dealt with without the need for court proceedings but Cllr Taylor advised that this was not possible and that there was no need for him to do anything to recoup the costs paid by the Council as he had protected the right of the people to elect Councillors for 4 years and for those Councillors to be able to stay on. This has now set a legal precedent which has been followed in other cases in the country.

The Chairman added that Councillors were advised at the Council meeting in question that the sanctions to be imposed on Cllr Taylor were unlawful, but the advice was ignored, and the sanctions imposed. Had the Councillors at the time taken the advice there would have been no JR.

This was challenged by Mr Burgess who referred to the quote from the judgement above and invited all to read the judgement. Cllr Taylor confirmed that he paid the costs incurred after 29th March. Honiton Town Council had to pay the costs up to the 29th March and told Mr Burgess to "grow up".

Cllr Taylor was invited to withdraw that remark and did so.

Cllr McNally queried the validity of the discussion and this was not an Agenda item. Cllr J Hannay suggested that the JR may have been one of the reasons members of the public had signed the petition asking all Councillors to resign and that this was perhaps why it had been raised.

Cllr Kolek confirmed that she had chaired the meeting during which the vote to impose sanctions on Cllr Taylor was taken and that the Town Clerk at the time Chetna Jones had advised against the action. However, there was a Councillor at the time who had experience with a higher authority who assured Members that it was a course of action which they could take. The matter was debated, and the majority vote was to impose sanctions until Cllr Taylor had undergone the training recommended by EDDC. Cllr Kolek met with the then Town Clerk a week later who advised that she had sought further legal advice which confirmed that the sanctions were unlawful. This was only time she did anything without the vote of the Council and she wrote to Cllr Taylor apologising for any inconvenience caused and withdrew the sanctions with immediate effect. Cllr Taylor would have received the letter within 10 days and so the JR in her view was unnecessary.

Cllr Taylor exercised his right of reply and stated that the first meeting was on the 15th December 2015. The letter he received was dated either the 18th or 19th December. He questioned how Cllr Kolek could have met with the Town Clerk a week later when it was Christmas. The letter he received withdrawing the sanctions was received by him on 15th or 18th January 2016. No single person can write on behalf of the Council and rely on that letter as being legally enforceable and it was only in March that Council finally withdrew the sanctions.

Mrs M Howe asked the following question:

Public questions traditionally should relate to items on the Agenda. However, members of the public who then read the minutes usually want to talk about what happened at the previous meeting. The agenda for tonight's meeting does not have an item on the Baileys Partnership dispute or the Council's legal expenses and this is what most people want to discuss. She challenged the Council's decision to take many items into Part B and pointed out that the Mayor often complains about the misinformation provided on social media and the press. There would be less misinformation if there was more information. A new Council would not help matters as in particular the issue around the claim against Baileys Partnership is so complicated that she doubts whether all the existing Councillors understand all of it. Having a new Council will make things worse not better. What can HTC do to keep the public better informed? Some matters are confidential but for members of the public not to know what the Baileys Partnership issue is about is unfair.

The Chairman agreed but stated that the Town Clerk sets the Agenda and advises which items should be in Part B. Employment matters or contractual matters cannot be discussed in Part A.

Another member of the public thanked Councillors for their services. Unfortunately, Councillors did not always agree between themselves and did not work as a team and their

vision also does not agree with the Town's vision as there is a petition with over 500 signatures asking for Councillors to resign. There appeared to be recurring themes such as bullying and lack of transparency regarding large sums of money going back to before 2015 – all this is bad for the Town of Honiton and as such he called for the whole of the Council to stand down and put themselves forward for re-election.

The Chairman again reiterated that he was not aware of any bullying at the Council and that he would take action if there was any evidence. He then brought public questions to an end.

20/68 Mayor's announcements

The Mayor confirmed that he had no announcements to make.

20/69 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 10th February 2020 and the Adjourned Full Council Meeting held on 24th February 2020.

A copy of the minutes of the meetings had been circulated in advance and were approved by a majority vote of 13 for with 1 abstention.

20/70 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr T McCollum provided the following report:

- 1. East Devon Council Tax Reduction system from April 2020*

They have introduced an income band discount system as well as increasing support from 80 to 85%.

- 2. A message of support from EDDC leader Cllr Ben Ingham*

Ref: Flybe

This is very sad news and has huge significance for the District and wider region. We will work closely with our partners to provide a redundancy support programme for all those affected as with those that were made redundant from Axminster Carpets.

- 3. St Pauls Ward Surgeries held at the Council Office meeting room.*

Another very well attended surgery and along with the support from some of the Honiton Town Cllr Caroline Kolek and Cllr Jason Hannay and local police.

It would be nice to see other Town and District Councillors from Honiton attending.

20/71 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

Cllr Wyatt presented his report on Climate Action objectives. He had since writing the report received a couple of emails from members of the public. EDDC and South

West Railways have introduced a e-bike scheme and there is a tree planting initiative from Mr Paul Shaw which he would like the Council to support.

Members noted the report.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

20/72 Planning Committee Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on the 4th February 2020.

20/73 Election Petition – Report submitted by Cllr James Wyatt

Note from the Deputy Town Clerk: The Council cannot impose sanctions on a Councillor and has no jurisdiction over Councillor conduct.

Cllr Wyatt presented his report. Any petition whatever the subject matter, if supported by a sufficient number of members of the public should be debated to try and come up with some solutions to address the underlying issues which have led to the petition. He has looked at the petition which has been signed by nearly 600 people asking for a new election and has set out three proposals. Other Councillors may have alternative proposals.

Cllr Jason Hannay supported the public's involvement in Council matters and confirmed that he personally would be prepared to stand down for a new election to take place. However, he could not speak for other Councillors who would each need to make known their position.

Cllr Zarczynski expressed his concerns regarding the petition and where it had come from. He queried whether it could have been started by the Town Clerk when he walked out of the meeting on the 10th February. Members of the public are entitled to set up petitions but ultimately the Council makes the decisions. He expressed concern that the petition could be signed by persons who were not Honiton Town voters and by intoxicated persons as the petition was being circulated in public houses.

Cllr McNally advised that there were some very hardworking Councillors and that she stood for election in 2007. She does not agree with co-options – this is her personal view as it is legal, but co-opted Councillors are chosen by other Councillors. Elected Councillors meet the public, hand out leaflets and discuss matter with them. In 2011 she did not stand for personal reasons but continued to attend all the Town Council meetings during the following 4 years. In 2015 she stood again for election and was elected. In 2019 she stood again but as there were not enough candidates there was no election, so the candidates were elected unopposed. She cannot be removed from her legally elected seat, unless she does something which would allow a higher authority to remove her. Cllr McNally stated that she refused to stand down at the request of some people who do not know what she does.

Cllr Jason Hannay confirmed that he had been unable to stand for election in May due to personal commitments but if other Councillors agree with Cllr McNally in respect of co-opted Cllrs, then maybe the co-opted Councillors on the Council should stand down and put themselves forward for election.

Cllr Taylor confirmed that if elected unopposed, a Councillor is still elected. The Council by law then needs to try and fill the vacant positions within a certain time limit. Co-opted candidates must obtain over 50% of the votes from sitting Councillors but once co-opted those Councillors are legally councillors and have the same standing as elected councillors. Anyone who wants to be on the Council can apply to be co-opted if there is a vacancy. There is currently a vacancy and Cllr Taylor confirmed that he had organised the collation of the necessary signatures which will mean that this vacancy will be filled by an election. Once elected Councillors have a four-year term. He was against the rules being changed as is proposed by the petition which had been signed by persons who were not Honiton voters and by a very small minority of Honiton voters.

Cllr Kolek was of the view that the number of signatories to the petition, if considered in line with the Government rules on debating petitions, meant that a debate of the petition should take place. As regards the lack of candidates at the May election, it was the case that these coincided with the EDDC elections and personally she would be prepared to resign and put herself forward for re-election.

Cllr Nathan Hannay spoke to confirm that since he was elected he had only witnessed Councillors arguing – he was delighted to see so many members of the public but the Council is divided and that if there was an election he would hope some of those attending would stand for election. However, he would be resigning after the meeting.

Cllr Sheridan-Shaw praised members of the public for attending the meeting and that over 580 people for whatever reason are interested in a petition and highlighted the power of the public voice. However, he warned that the petition was a double-edged sword. If all Members resigned as Cllr Nathan Hannay had just done, a Cllr who was a productive member and a young member of the Council with good links to the youth of Honiton, more Cllrs may leave and the public must think about those who will be left. The petition is leading to the public being informed but it has also caused upset – he was subjected to homophobic abuse recently. Petitions can have adverse effects. Cllr Sheridan-Shaw confirmed that if the public wanted him to resign and stand again, he would do so but asked the public to contact him directly if they had concerns or for information.

Cllr J Hannay spoke about his brother's Cllr Nathan Hannay's resignation, the reaction from some Councillors, the allegations of bullying, the Town Clerk being off sick, the legal fees which the Council is incurring and the public's call for Cllrs to resign, the projects that he was involved in such a mental health projects, Honiton Community Complex and VE/VJ day and stated that whilst he would continue to be involved with those projects, he was also resigning from the Council after the meeting and would stand again for re-election.

Cllr Zarczynski thanked Cllr Jason Hannay for all his hard work as a Councillor.

Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that there would be a recorded vote in relation to the proposed resolutions and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the three options proposed by Cllr Wyatt in his report would be taken in turn. If Option 1 secured a majority vote, then there would be no vote on options 2 or 3 and so on.

Cllr Macve queried what would occur if all three proposed resolutions failed to secure a majority vote and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that this would result in no resolution being made unless another resolution was put forward by a Councillor.

Motion 1: Accept the concerns of the public but do not uphold the petition.

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Macve		x	
McNally		x	
Dolby		x	
Gilson		x	
Carrigan	x		
Taylor	x		
Zarczynski	x		
Sheridan-Shaw		x	
Jason Hannay		x	
Kolek		x	
Pollington		x	
Wyatt		x	
Nathan Hannay		x	
Coombs	x		

The motion failed by 10 votes against with 4 votes for.

Motion 2: Councillors fully accept the proposal of the petition and all councillors resign their positions and seek re-election should then choose to do so.

The Deputy Clerk and Mr Nick Randle advised that in law no Councillor could be forced to resign. If the objective is to dissolve the Council, the only way to achieve this is under the Community Governance Review regulations where there would need to be a petition from at least 7.5% of the electorate sent to the District Council asking for the Council to be dissolved. This has never been done and the response from the District Council to this is unknown. This vote would be an indication of Cllrs views on the motion.

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Macve		x	
McNally		x	
Dolby		x	
Gilson		x	
Carrigan		x	
Taylor		x	
Zarczynski		x	

Sheridan-Shaw		x	
Jason Hannay	x		
Kolek	x		
Pollington	x		
Wyatt	x		
Nathan Hannay	x		
Coombs		x	

The motions failed by 9 votes against with 5 votes for.

Motion 3: Direct the Town Clerk to accept nominations for all Town Council positions in the next month and if there are at least 2 candidates per position HTC deems an election will be a productive activity for the town and all Councillors are to resign and seek re-election should they choose to do so.

The Deputy Clerk again advised that this motion if voted for could not be enforced and so if the motion succeeded it would only be an indication as to what the majority of Councillors would wish to happen.

Cllr Wyatt accepted this but was of the view that it could also lead to members of the public putting their names forward as wishing to become Councillors and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that again that these would not be formal nominations but just indications of interest.

Cllr Macve proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:

Direct the Town Clerk to accept *expressions of interest* for all Town Council positions in the next month and if there are at least 2 candidates per position HTC deems an election will be a productive activity for the town and all Councillors are to be asked resign and seek re-election should they choose to do so.

This was agreed by Members.

Cllr Taylor queried the position regarding the current by-election in view of the motion and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that this would still proceed as any successful vote on this motion would be indicative only and the matter would need to come back to Council for further discussion.

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Macve	x		
McNally		x	
Dolby		x	
Gilson		x	
Carrigan		x	
Taylor		x	
Zarczyński		x	
Sheridan-Shaw	x		
Jason Hannay	x		

Kolek	x		
Pollington	x		
Wyatt	x		
Nathan Hannay	x		
Coombs		x	

The vote was tied with 7 votes for the motion and 7 against. The Chairman had the casting vote and voted against, so the motion failed.

20/74 The composition and current Terms of Reference of the current Human Resources Committee

Cllr Zarczynski advised that following a meeting with the Deputy Town Clerk and Mr Nick Randle, due to the issues which had arisen and their complexity he was proposing that HR matters be moved to Full Council. All discussions relating to employment matters would be held in Part B. Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that in May the Council would be electing the Town's Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Councillors would be putting themselves forward for Committees, are then elected to those committees and the committees can then vote to change their terms of reference.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously for the HR Committee, its terms of reference and remit to be absorbed into Full Council until May when the composition and terms of reference of all committees will be debated.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr McNally.

Cllr Kolek asked Cllr Zarczynski whether he would be standing for Mayor in May. Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that he would not be doing so.

20/75 Update regarding the Casual Vacancy following the resignation of Cllr C Hattle-Spence

Cllr Zarczynski advised that he had been informed that sufficient signatures had been collated to request that the current vacancy on the Council be filled by a by-election.

The Deputy Clerk presented her report and confirmed that as soon as EDDC provided her with a date for the election she would publicise this.

Mr S Keene a member of the public asked how the information would be publicised and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that notices would be put up on the Town Council's notice boards and on the Town Council's website.

Members noted the report.

20/76 Gate to Plate 3

The Deputy Town Clerk presented her report. She confirmed that for Gate to Plate 3 to take place, HTC needed to employ the services of an event management

company as EDDC were unable this year to provide any administrative support although they were providing financial support. The Town Council does not have the staff capacity to organise such an event and so she had met with eat:festivals who are the event management company proposed. One of their representatives was in attendance. The discussion regarding the proposed contract between HTC and eat:festivals would have to take place in Part B as it is commercially sensitive.

Cllr McNally queried the impact of coronavirus on the event.

Beverley from eat:festivals spoke to confirm that they are a social enterprise and put on free to attend food and drink festivals. As regards coronavirus, this is an exceptional time and their first priority will always be the health and wellbeing of the traders and visitors to the festivals and this runs through their consultation process, organisation process and the running of the events. The current government advice, and the advice from Public Health England and the World Health Organisation is that public space gatherings can proceed as the guidelines look at dwell time in that the risk of catching the virus increases according to how much time you spend with someone. The current guideline is 15 minutes and the average time with each trader is well below this. The risk of contracting the virus is also reduced as the events are outdoors and most people keep their distance from others when attending.

Cllr Kolek referred to the proposed date for the event as being in August by when it is predicted that the peak of the virus will have been reached.

Members noted the report.

20/77 Part B Items

Cllr J Hannay advised that the Town Clerk had written a letter waiving his rights to confidentiality and that as such he was proposing that item 13 be discussed in Part A.

Cllr Zarczynski stated that the advice from the Deputy Town Clerk and Mr Nick Randle was that item 13 should be moved into Part B and requested a recorded vote in respect of the matter.

Members **RESOLVED** by 8 votes for and 6 votes against to take items 12, 13, and 14 into Part B of the meeting that deals with exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr McNally

Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
Coombs	x		
Nathan Hannay		x	
Wyatt		x	
Pollington		x	
Kolek		x	
Jason Hannay		x	

Sheridan-Shaw		x	
Zarczynski	x		
Taylor	x		
Carrigan	x		
Gilson	x		
Dolby	x		
McNally	x		
Macve	x		

The meeting went into confidential session

Part B

20/78

It was **RESOLVED** by 13 votes for and 1 against to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

20/79 Gate to Plate 3

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to enter into the proposed agreement with eat:Festivals.

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

20/80 Current staffing issues at Honiton Town Council – Report prepared by Mr Nick Randle OBE FSLCC from LGRC Associates Ltd.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 7 for, 6 against and 1 abstention that Cllr Sheridan-Shaw is appointed to chair a Town Council working group with two other Cllrs, who are acceptable to the Town Clerk, to meet the Town Clerk and address the issues that exist on both sides and attempt to find a resolution to them. The working group is to report to Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Nathan Hannay.

20/81 Interim staffing arrangements at Honiton Town Council

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Deputy Town Clerk seek the assistance of a locum Town Clerk during the Town Clerk's absence due to sick leave.

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

20/82 The meeting was closed at 9.30pm