

## HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Management Committee Meeting held at The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 7.00 pm

#### Present

##### St Michael's Ward

Cllr P Carrigan  
Cllr D Sheridan-Shaw (Chairman)  
Cllr N Macve  
Cllr J Zarczynski

##### St Paul's Ward

Cllr V Howard  
Cllr T Darrant  
Cllr R Coombs  
Cllr C Hattle-Spence

#### In attendance

Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Clerk  
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk  
Tony McCollum – Town Development Manager  
Cllr C Gilson  
Cllr R Hanratty  
Cllr J Taylor  
Cllr J Wyatt  
Cllr Dean Barrow (EDDC)  
1 member of the press

#### PART A

#### 19/29 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr C Kolek (personal reasons)  
Cllr J McNally (personal reasons)

#### 19/30 To receive declarations of interest

No pecuniary interests were declared.

#### 19/31 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

#### 19/32 Public question time on items on the agenda

There were no public questions

#### PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

#### 19/33 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019

Copies of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance with the Agenda.

Signed Chair

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 6 for with 2 abstentions to confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 subject to a correction of the date at item 19/24.

Proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Howard.

### **19/34 Update Report**

The Town Clerk presented the report and provided the following additional information:

- The Deputy Town Clerk will be working with the Town Development Manager in relation to the planning application required for the storage container at the allotment site.
- The area where the storage container will be site at the Beehive will be cleared and made ready for the siting of the container. It is hoped that this will be in position by the end of October.

Cllr Howard asked if there was any further update regarding Gate 2 Plate due to take place on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that there was no further information to provide to Councillors.

The report was noted.

### **19/35 Market Report**

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Cllr Coombs asked why had one of the traders not accepted the new rule book?

The Town Development Manager advised that the trader in question did not agree with the changes relating to ½ rent charged at times of extreme weather which the trader believed should apply to just west weather conditions. He also confirmed that if the forecast is bad but in the end the weather if fine, the full charge is made.

Cllr Zarczynski expressed concern at the £8000 loss made by the market in the year 2018/19. He queried whether the loss could be attributed to bad weather when there have been two very good summers over the last two years. He also had concerns that at the forthcoming EDDC Cabinet meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, EDDC were proposing to increase the car parking charges in Lace Walk and introduce after hours charges – how will this affect the market and what impact will this have on the High Street? These concerns are shared by the Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr Sheridan-Shaw agreed that once all the information had been provided, a report on the above would need to come to Full Council. He was of the view that the proposed changes would impact on visitors to the town and those attending evening events.

**Signed Chair**

Cllr Taylor queried whether the charges would be increased at Lace Walk car park as the Cabinet Agenda referred to popular car parks which he believed were the car parks behind Wetherspoons and the car park in Silver Street. However, all Honiton car parks are “popular” so will that mean all car park charges will be increased?

Cllr Dean Barrow confirmed that the proposal would only apply to Lace Walk car park. The rationale put forward is that the increase in the charges at Lace Walk would encourage those who can park further out of town to do so but agreed that those car parks were also often full. Cllr Barrow confirmed that he was against the proposal and that the agenda for the EDDC Cabinet meeting could be found on the EDDC website.

Cllr Zarczynski queried whether EDDC would provide free disabled parking at Lace Walk if the increased charges are introduced?

Cllr Barrow suggested that Councillors should lobby their EDDC Councillors if they were unhappy with the proposed changes which he did not believe would be approved.

Cllr Taylor queried why Hot Pennies was held on a market day? Cllr Darrant and Howard both confirmed that historically Hot Pennies has always been held on a Tuesday. The Committee have changed the date in the past to try and hold it during the school holidays.

The Town Clerk confirmed that it was hoped to host the Young Market Traders final in Honiton in 2 years' time and suggested that market traders should view Hot Pennies as beneficial to them as it brought increased footfall to the town. He also reminded Councillors that 2021 was a special year for Hot Pennies.

Cllr Hanratty advised that Hot Pennies had no effect on businesses at the top end of the High Street – does it need more marketing?

Cllr Darrant agreed that it was concentrated at the lower end of the High Street since the pubs at the top end had closed and due to the fact that the road can only be closed at the bottom end of the street. The Town Development Manager confirmed that he would discuss all the above with the Hot Pennies Committee.

Members noted the report.

### **19/36 Dowell Street Corner Report**

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Cllr Coombs stated that the cracks in the wall were getting larger and some areas were bulging. He is of the view that the Copper Castle Toll Gate should be sited at Copper Castle. He took exception to space being referred to as “derelict” and believes this will offend the scouts who have looked after the space whilst conceding that he has criticised the planting as lacking inspiration. In reference to larger planters being used, will the existing planters be retained?

Cllr Sheridan-Shaw confirmed that the scouts were very excited about the project and keen to be involved. He is looking to regenerate the area and is open to the existing planters being retained.

Cllr Coombs queried why it was Honiton Town Council's responsibility to repair the wall which he considered to be a "silent" wall and not a responsibility shared with the landowner on the other side. He also queried the costs involved in doing so. He agreed that the bench at the junction of Springfield and the A34 should be moved but objected to the use of work "neglected" in describing the space at Dowell Street. The bench at Beech Walk is on Gittisham Common and therefore the Lord of the Manor may need to be consulted as it is on common land.

Cllr Howard had concerns about who owned the wall at Dowell Street and stated that if Honiton Town Council does not own the wall it should not be carrying out any repairs to it. As regards the Toll Gate this should be returned to Copper Castle.

Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that the Toll Gate has been discussed ever since he joined the Council and a decision should now be made. As regards the Dowell Street wall, he has made some enquiries which have established that extensive work is needed to the repair the wall. A cheaper option would be to erect a frame which could have brackets for hanging baskets and he would be happy to provide the required labour for free. He estimated that this would take about 2 days' work. He agreed with the benches being relocated to the area and suggested that cycle parking should be provided also.

Cllr Hanratty stated that semantics such as how the area is described in report should be dispensed with as these only extend the length of meetings. As the toll gate has been missing from Copper Castle since 1927 with no public objection, it would be better to site this in the town rather than somewhere where it will not be seen.

Cllr Darrant asked Cllr Wyatt who is the new owner of Copper Castle for his views and whether the existing toll gate is on his land. Cllr Wyatt confirmed that the toll gate currently at Copper Castle is not on his land and that he has no preferred option relating to the siting of the second gate.

Cllr Darrant stated that historically the gates were sited at Copper Castle and that is where they should be.

Cllr Gilson advised that she is often given free plants which she is happy to provide to the scouts for planting.

Cllr Taylor queried whether the Town Council owned the Toll Gate in question. He suggested that the Dowell Street corner should not have any benches due to traffic pollution.

Cllr Zarczynski stated that as Honiton had already lost several historical sites to development, there was a need to preserve as much of the history remaining as possible.

Further to the discussion above, Cllr Sheridan-Shaw advised that he would be removing the siting of the toll gate at Dowell Street from his proposal.

Cllr Macve suggested a bike rack on the site and a water fountain.

Cllr Hattle-Spence suggested that a Party Wall Act notice should be served onto the owner of the property adjacent to the wall.

Members noted the report.

### **19/37 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Report**

The Town Clerk presented the report and confirmed that 3 groups who had attended the recent sports meeting had been in touch requesting funds for projects. Additional and more accurate information has now been received from EDDC as provided in Appendix 8A and the Town Clerk confirmed that he would be sending an update out to all the attendees of the sports meeting. Some of the projects could not be funded from CIL but could possibly be funded by the Town Council from other budget headings. Further details will be provided to Members at the October Full Council meeting.

Members noted the report.

### **19/38 Honiton Show/Projects report**

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Letters had been received from the children at Honiton Primary School with their ideas for the town which the Mayor and Deputy Mayor had replied to and 62 ideas has been put forward by members of the public at the Honiton Show. Councillors should review those ideas and advise which ones they would wish to pursue further.

It was agreed that Honiton had a shortfall of public open space and allotments and that there was a legal obligation on the Council to provide these.

Members noted the report.

### **19/39 To close the meeting**

The meeting was closed at 8.10 pm.