

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday 3rd June
2021 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr J Bonetta
Cllr L Dolby
Cllr H Hurford
Cllr A McCollum
Cllr J McNally
Cllr D Munge
Cllr A Proszowska
Cllr J Taylor
Cllr J Zarczynski (Chairman)

St Paul's Ward

Cllr P Carrigan
Cllr R Coombs
Cllr K Cloke
Cllr C Gilson
Cllr F Hanratty
Cllr S Keene
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
18 members of the public
1 member of the press

The Chairman welcomed the newly elected Councillors who in turn introduced themselves. The Town Clerk explained housekeeping issues for the meeting.

21/20 Apologies for absence

Cllr V Howard (personal reasons)
Cllr P Twiss (DCC/EDDC)
Cllr D Barrow (EDDC)
Cllr M Allen (EDDC)

21/21 Declarations of Interests

Cllr S Sexton (Honiton Community Complex)
Cllr T McCollum (Items 21/31 c i & ii, 29/36)

21/22 Dispensations

There were no grants of dispensation made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

21/23 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

1. [Cllr McNally read out a statement from a member of the public.](#)
2. [Mr J Burgess](#)

Cllr Zarczynski's response – [click here](#).

21/24 Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Registers of Interest.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had received Declarations of Acceptance of Office from all the newly elected Councillors. He had received 8 out of 9 Registers of Interest. The query raised regarding the disclosure of home addresses on the forms had been directed to EDDC.

Members NOTED the above

21/25 Training and Induction Briefing

Internal training and induction briefing will be available for all Councillors to attend starting early June 2021.

Members NOTED the above

21/26 Minutes of Council Committees

Members NOTED the draft minutes of the Planning Committee of 27th April 2021 and HR Committee of 28th April 2021.

21/27 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss provided the following report – click [here](#).

21/28 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities

Cllr Coombs provided the following report – click [here](#).

21/29 Correspondence: 28th April – 26th May 2021

Members discussed the correspondence received from the Royal British Legion.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to accept responsibility for the annual Remembrance Day parade and church services with the Honiton branch of the Royal British Legion facilitating the event on behalf of Honiton Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Gilson.

21/30 Minutes of the Full Council meetings held on the 26th April 2021 and Annual Council 4th May 2021

Members discussed whether Cllrs who were not present at the meetings could vote to approve the minutes.

Members RESOLVED to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Full Council meetings on the 26th April 2021 and 4th May 2021, as published and circulated.

For 7, Against 0, Abstentions 9.

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

21/31 Motions

Members discussed the validity of the proposed motions and were advised by the Town Clerk that the motions were in accordance with Standing Orders. Cllr Coombs requested a recorded vote and Cllr Zarczynski advised that a recorded vote would take place for all the motions:

a. Temporary Suspension of the 6-month rule

Cllrs Taylor, McNally and Coombs spoke against the motion and specifically whether it was a lawful motion under Standing Orders.

Cllr Sexton spoke in favour of the motion.

The Town Clerk re-iterated his advice that the motions and all the following motions were in accordance with Standing Orders.

Cllr Hurford presented the motion.

Members reviewed and RESOLVED that under the provisions in Standing Order 26, Standing Order 7a be suspended for the duration of the meeting.

For: Bonetta, Cloke, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McCollum, Munge, Proszowska, Sexton

Against: Coombs, Carrigan, McNally, Dolby, Gilson, Taylor, Zarczynski

For 9, Against 7, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Sexton.

b. Vote of No Confidence in the Mayor

Cllr Hanratty presented the motion.

That due to the many difficulties experienced by the Council during his chairmanship in the past two years, this Council has no confidence in the current Mayor Cllr Zarczynski.

i. Accordingly, this Council proposes that he resign his position as Mayor with immediate effect.

Cllr Zarczynski, Cllr McNally, Cllr Gilson, Cllr Taylor and Cllr Coombs spoke opposing the motion.

Cllrs Keene, Munge and Proszowska spoke in favour of the motion.

Members RESOLVED that Cllr Zarczynski resign his position as Mayor with immediate effect.

For: Bonetta, Cloke, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McCollum, Munge, Proszowska, Sexton

Against: Coombs, Carrigan, McNally, Dolby, Gilson, Taylor, Zarczynski

For 9, Against 7, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Hanratty and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

In response, Cllr Zarczynski confirmed that he would not be resigning.

- ii. In the event that he once again refuses to accede to a democratic request, the Council **RESOLVES** that the Town Clerk is directed to seek legal advice from NALC as to the Council's options to remove him from office prior to the Annual Town Council meeting in 2022.

Members RESOLVED that the Town Clerk is directed to seek legal advice from NALC as to the Council's options to remove Cllr Zarczynski from office prior to the Annual Town Council meeting in 2022.

For: Bonetta, Cloke, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McCollum, Munge, Proszowska, Sexton

Against: Coombs, Carrigan, McNally, Dolby, Gilson, Taylor, Zarczynski

For 9, Against 7, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

c. Focus on Governance Structure

Cllr Bonetta requested a vote be taken on each item i – vii separately.

Members RESOLVED to take each item i – vii separately.

For: Bonetta, Coombs, Cloke, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McCollum, McNally, Munge, Proszowska, Sexton, Taylor, Zarczynski

Against: Carrigan, Dolby, Gilson

For 13, Against 3, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

- i. To undertake a review of standing orders, the Council's scheme of delegations, its communications policy and its current work programme.

Members unanimously RESOLVED to undertake a review of standing orders, the Council's scheme of delegations, its communications policy and its current work programme.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Hurford.

- ii. To suspend all non-essential activities of the Council with the exception of the creation of new allotments and dealing with any essential legal and employment matters, pending the above reviews.

Cllr Bonetta presented the motion.

Cllrs Zarczynski, Taylor, McNally and Coombs spoke against the motion.

Cllr Sexton spoke in favour of the motion.

Members RESOLVED to suspend all non-essential activities of the council with the exception of the creation of new allotments and dealing with any essential legal and employment matters, pending the above reviews.

For: Bonetta, Cloke, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McCollum, Munge, Proszowska, Sexton

Against: Coombs, Carrigan, McNally, Dolby, Gilson, Taylor, Zarczynski

Abstention: McCollum

For 8, Against 7, Abstentions 1

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Hurford.

21/32 Members RESOLVED unanimously to extend the meeting by 30 minutes.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

21/33 Members RESOLVED to re-order the agenda to enable the exempt items on the agenda to be considered. A further meeting would take place to conclude the remainder of the items in Part A.

For: Bonetta, Carrigan, Coombs, Cloke, Dolby, Gilson, Hanratty, Hurford, Keene, McNally, Munge, Proszowska, Taylor, Zarczynski

Against: McCollum, Sexton

For 14, Against 2, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Gilson.

21/34 Members RESOLVED to take the following items into exempt business

For 13, Against 3, Abstentions 0

Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Keene.

21/35 Town Clerk Hours of Work

The Town Clerk presented his report which Members discussed.

Members RESOLVED to approve a temporary reduction in Town Clerk & RFO hours of work including staff budget and resource implications.

For 15, Against 0, Abstentions 1

Proposed by Cllr McNally and seconded by Cllr Gilson.

21/36 Access to Council's Solicitor and Staff

Members RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting of Full Council.

For 15, Against 0, Abstention 1.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Keene.

21/37 Payments in lieu of Annual Leave

Members RESOLVED unanimously to make staff salary payments in lieu of annual leave not taken during 2020/21.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Keene.

21/38 To close the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9.40pm.