

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 13th
September 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 K Cloke
Cllr R Coombs
Cllr C Gilson
Cllr F Hanratty
Cllr S Keene
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC/EDDC)
Mr T Darrant
13 members of the public

21/162 Apologies for absence

None

21/163 Declarations of Interests

Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (item 21/179)
Cllr J Bonetta – Personal Interest (items 21/173 and 21/180)
Cllr T McCollum – Personal Interest (items 21/173 and 21/180)

21/164 Dispensations

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

21/165 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

There were no public questions.

21/166 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss provided the following report – [click here](#).
Cllr Taylor requested that the yellow lines in the High Street be re-painted.
Cllr Twiss advised that he would need to receive the request in writing from the Town Clerk.

Cllr Twiss advised that the Highways & Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) would be meeting soon to discuss bids for parking restrictions (additions/removal). Any recommendations from the Town Council should be received by the end of October.

Cllr Munge raised the lack of street lighting between Vine Passage and Silver Street. Cllr Twiss confirmed that he would look into this but believed that the land in question was privately owned.

Cllr Coombs raised queries re planning grant 08/0914/MFUL and the delays in enforcing the planning conditions. Cllr Twiss confirmed that this was the remit of EDDC Planning department and acknowledged the delays.

Cllr Twiss left at 19.14pm

Cllr Jake Bonetta presented his report – [click here](#)

21/167 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities

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

21/168 Reports from Working Groups

Cllr Keene provided a report from the Christmas Lights working group – [click here](#). Cllr Keene confirmed that the PAT testing was being carried out at no charge to HTC.

Members RESOLVED to accept the recommendations from the Christmas Lights working group as set out below

- The Working Group to include Tony McCollum (HTC) and Jason Hannay.
- Instruct the town clerk/deputy clerk to contact the Christmas lights contractor and rearrange date for street light installation to day of week beginning 15th November to coincide with Christmas tree lights switch on 20th November (by Chamber of Commerce); so the lights are up in the town before the Xmas lights tree switch on, otherwise will only be Christmas tree lights up and not rest of town.
- Lights to be checked by members of working group and PAT testing by Cool Heat SW (already decided by HTC), on 19th September 2021.

- Full council is asked to delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Christmas Lights Working Group) to approve to allow canvassing for sponsorship towards the Christmas lights.
- Instruct clerk/deputy clerk (in consultation with the Christmas Lights Working Group) to send letters to businesses about Christmas trees and Christmas lights seeking sponsorship.
- Full council is asked to approve delegation to the town clerk (in consultation with the Christmas Lights working group) to implement all actions regarding the Christmas lights except net revenue spend above budget.

For: 9. Against 0, Abstentions 7
Proposed by Cllr Sexton and seconded by Cllr Keene.

Cllr Hanratty provided a report from the Allotments working group – [click here](#). Cllr Hanratty confirmed that the working group's recommendations regarding the planning application that is required would be brought to the next FC meeting.

Cllr Taylor requested that details regarding the allotment budget be brought to the next FC meeting.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to accept the recommendations from the Allotment working group as set out below:

- Covers for the water troughs to be purchased by officers and a notice made stating that the water is for allotment use only and not drinking water
- Signage should be displayed on the fencing, running parallel to the permissive path stating "Allotments, Private Property"
- Signage should be erected at the top and the bottom of end of the site informing vehicle users that no parking is permitted/area for turning only.
- The working group agreed on naming the site " Battishorne Allotments Way" and it recommends to Full Council to hold an opening ceremony, cutting of the ribbon to be done by Richard Marker on a yet to be decided date in October. Remaining grant money to be used for this event and to provide refreshment. Invites to be sent out to Richard Marker, plot holders, EDDC, Martin Banks and local media outlets and newspapers.
- In line with the above recommendation, it is recommended to full council that a name plate for the gate entering the site to be quoted for,

ordered and fitted in time for the opening ceremony. A proposed sign has been produced by Terry Darrant and a quote from A1 Print and Stitch has been received. This is the only quote we have received so it is recommended to Full Council to go ahead with this design and quote.

- Officers are still trying to get hold of some people on the waiting list for an allotment plot. It is recommended to send out a final letter with a deadline date to get in touch with the Town Council to confirm their plot. A meeting is to be held with plot holders at the Beehive this Thursday 16th September for information and to assign plots. It is recommended that a proof of address is to be required by plot holders upon signing the tenancy agreement.

Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

Members **NOTED** the report from the Review WG presented by Cllr Hurford– [click here](#).

21/169 Correspondence: 26th August – 5th September 2021

Council **NOTED** the correspondence received.

21/170 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 31st August 2021

Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 31st August 2021

Proposed by Cllr Hanratty and seconded by Cllr Sexton

21/171 Co-option

The Town Clerk advised that Mrs Jenny Brown had sent her apologies. He read out her email of 9th July 2021 which set out why she wanted to be co-opted onto HTC.

Mrs Theresa Howard spoke and explained to Members why she wanted to be co-opted onto HTC.

Members ELECTED by secret ballot Theresa Howard to the vacant St Michaels seat on Honiton Town Council

Cllr Howard duly signed the Declaration of Office and took her seat as a Councillor.

21/172 Motion

Council discussed Cllr Munge's Motion.

Cllr Zarczynski spoke against the Motion and made the following points:

- The matter had been reported to the police who were investigating.
- The matter was personal, and he was represented by solicitors.
- The issue was nothing to do with the Town Council.
- He had been surprised to see the Motion being put forward and accepted onto the Agenda.
- It was not in his interests to agree to the Motion and disclose the information.
- The screen shots involved three social media sites namely Honiton Forward, Honiton Nub News and Honiton Forum.
- Honiton Forward had published 3 open letters which were very critical of himself, and which had been signed by individuals who were now Councillors.
- The Deputy Chair, Cllr Gilson, had now been brought into the matter following a posting of a picture of himself and Cllr Gilson after the Gate to Plate event when they had taken a wrong turn. Some of the comments posted were offensive.
- He was under no obligation to provide the information requested and reiterated that it was a private matter.
- He requested that the motion be withdrawn.

Cllr Proszowska stated that she saw the motion as one where the Town Council working as a team were trying to support one of its members who was having problems. If the Chair was of the view that it was a private matter, why did he continue refer to the matter at every Council meeting? By doing so, he had made the matter a Town Council issue and as such she would be seconding the motion.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that he had raised the matter previously as an issue as all the Councillors elected in May 2021 had been sponsored by Honiton Forward.

Cllr Proszowska took issue with the above comment and advised that she was not a member of Honiton Forward and was independent. However, she would after the meeting join Honiton Forward.

Cllr McNally spoke against the motion and stated the following:

- She was surprised by the motion which followed on from a motion of no confidence in the Chairman at the first full council meeting after the election.
- This was despite new Cllrs receiving advice from DALC that there was no requirement that the Chairman had to resign following a successful motion of no confidence.
- She was glad the Chairman had had the courage to stand firm and not resign.
- One Councillor had started a Facebook poll asking members of the public to support the request that the Chairman resign only to remove it from his page a week later.
- The motion was disgusting and had nothing to do with supporting the Chairman. Rather it had been brought out of spite.

Cllr Hurford spoke in favour of the motion.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that even if the motion was being brought with the best of intentions, he saw it as another personal criticism of himself and referred to the clear split on the Council since the election.

Cllr McNally spoke again stating that the 9 new Cllrs had been promoted by Honiton Forward, that 4 denied being members of Honiton Forward, but that 2 had signed 2 of the open letters published by Honiton Forward which were pernicious, spiteful, and foul, and that the new Cllrs were block voting on motions. In view of the above Cllr McNally advised that she was resigning from the Council.

Cllr McNally left the meeting at 20.06pm.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that he would only accept Cllr McNally's resignation if provided in writing.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 20.07pm.

Cllr Zarczynski adjourned the meeting until 20.10pm.

Cllr Cloke responded to the statements made by Cllr McNally as follows:

- She signed one of the open letters published by Honiton Forward as a resident of Honiton and before standing for election.

- She did so as she agreed with the content of the letter having attended various Town Council meetings.
- She stood for election with the intention of working with the existing Councillors for the good of Honiton and because she did not agree with some of the decision which had been taken such as increasing the precept by 11%

Cllr Zarczynski advised that that the precept increase had been for the youth budget. With regards to the motion, even if passed, he would refuse to provide the information requested.

Cllr Munge proposed an amendment to the motion as follows:
In view of the fact that the Mayor refuses to allow the Town Council to assist, will the Mayor refrain from social media diatribes in future during Council meetings.

Members RESOLVED to accept the amendment to the motion.

For: 10, Against 0, Abstentions 5

Proposed by Cllr Sexton and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

Cllr Carrigan queried whether the amended motion was meaningful. The Town Clerk confirmed that under Standing Orders it would be for the Chairman to decide.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that he was happy to stop discussing social media at future meetings but would resume doing so if he was once again attacked on social media.

Members RESOLVED to agree that in view of the fact that the Mayor refuses to allow the Town Council to assist, the Mayor will refrain from social media diatribes in future during Council meetings.

For:10, Against 0, Abstentions 5

Proposed by Cllr Hanratty and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.

The Chairman asked whether there were any further amendments but there were none.

21/173 Public Toilets consultation from EDDC

Members discussed the draft response prepared by the Town Clerk from the comments he had received from Members. The following points were raised:

- Honiton Town Council should endeavour to persuade EDDC to re-categorise the King Street toilets as category A or B toilets.
- The King Street toilets should remain open due to traffic issues, health problems suffered by those who are older or have a disability, to assist pregnant women.
- The cost involved if Honiton Town Council took on the running of the King Street toilets at approximately £24,000 p.a.
- Alternative uses for part of the toilet block.
- Hidden costs to EDDC if the toilets are closed.
- 1 toilet block is insufficient for a town with over 12,000 residents which is growing.
- The effect closing the King Street toilets would have on the market and high street shops.

Members RESOLVED to approve the consultation comments on the East Devon District Council consultation to be provided by 1st October 2021.

For: 14, Against 0, Abstention, 1.

Proposed by Cllr Proszowska and seconded by Cllr Cloke.

Cllr Gilson left the Chamber at 20.31 and returned at 20.34pm.

21/174 Membership of Appeals Committee

Cllr Sexton spoke against the need for an Appeals Committee and suggested that instead any appeals should be heard by an outside body such as another Council.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to accept the amendment to refer all Appeals to an outside body/other Council.

Proposed by Cllr Hanratty and seconded by Cllr Sexton.

Cllr Zarczynski asked if there were any other amendments but there were none.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to refer all Appeals to an outside body/other Council.

Proposed by Cllr Proszowska and seconded by Cllr Hanratty.

21/175 Council Structure

The Town Clerk confirmed that it had been the Review working group which had recommended the establishment of a Strategy Committee and not the Council as stated in the Agenda. He confirmed that if the

Committee was agreed, its first action would be to prepare Terms of Reference.

a) Members RESOLVED to establish a Strategy Committee

For, 13, Against 0, Abstentions 2

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Hurford.

b) Members RESOLVED to elect Cllrs Bonetta, Proszowska, Munge, Sexton and Hanratty to the Strategy Committee.

For 13, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

c) Cllr Keene confirmed that the Surgeries which had taken place to date had been productive and well received.

Cllr Hurford requested that the Surgeries be promoted on the HTC Facebook page to improve communication.

Cllr Munge presented his report on the Mind, Body and Soul event – [click here](#).

Cllr Zarczynski advised that the CAB had moved to Exmouth and was only available online for Honiton residents. A new advisory group had set up in the library and was hoping to receive Town Council support by way of a Grant.

Cllr Coombs advised that HTC had a list of tools available at the storage unit.

Cllr Keene confirmed that he and Cllr Munge were inspecting and having the Christmas lights PAT tested on 19th September 2021.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to establish a Council Surgeries Working Group (to oversee, co-ordinate, organise and communicate the resolution of Full Council 17 June 2021 21/43.

Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Cloke.

d) Members RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllrs Sexton, Keene, Hurford, McCollum and Munge to the Council Surgeries Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Hanratty.

21/176 Members RESOLVED unanimously to extend the meeting by 30 Minutes.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr McCollum

21/177 Outside Bodies

Cllr Munge queried whether the Gate to Plate event should be added to the list. The Town Clerk advised that this would need to be discussed at a Full Council meeting.

Cllr Bonetta queried whether the Thelma Hulbert Gallery should be added to the list. It was confirmed that the THG had not been listed as an outside body previously.

Members RESOLVED to nominate the following Councillors to the listed Outside Bodies:

Allhallows Charity – Cllrs Proszowska and Cloke
Charter Day – Cllr McCollum
Citizens Advice – Cllr Hanratty
Devon Association of Local Councils (Larger Councils) – Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk
Devon Association of Local Councils (County Committee) – Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk.
Honiton and Axminster Community Safety Group – Cllrs Cloke and Hurford
Honiton Community Complex – Cllrs Keene and Sexton
Honiton United Charities – Cllrs Hurford, Proszowska, Cloke, Bonetta, McCollum and Theresa Howard.
Millenium Green – Cllr Hanratty
TRIP – Cllr Bonetta
Twinning Association – Cllrs Bonetta and Munge (until the return of Cllr Vera Howard).
Honiton Hospital & Community League of Friends – Cllr Sexton
Dementia Friendly Steering Group – Cllr Hanratty
Glen Conservation Group – Cllr Hurford, Proszowska and Cloke
Honiton Hot Pennies Ceremony – Cllr McCollum
Fair Trade Honiton Steering Group – Cllrs Hanratty and Bonetta
Primary Care Mental Health – Cllrs Proszowska, Sexton and Hanratty
Friends of Honiton College – Cllrs Cloke, Proszowska and Keene

For:12, Against 0, Abstentions 3

Proposed by Cllr Hanratty and seconded by Cllr Bonetta

21/178 Special Responsibilities

Members RESOLVED to appoint Councillors with special responsibilities as follows:

Arts, Culture and Heritage – Cllr Bonetta
Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour – Cllrs Sexton and Cloke
Economy – Cllrs Hanratty and Proszowska
Environment & Footpaths – Cllr Coombs
Health & Social Care – Cllr Sexton
Sport – Cllrs Proszowska, Munge and Cloke
Young People & Education – Cllrs Hanratty, Proszowska and Cloke

For 13, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Proszowska

- 21/179 Beehive Room Hire Cost**
Members RESOLVED unanimously to defer this item to the next Full Council meeting.
Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr Proszowska
- 21/180 Freedom of Information Request to EDDC**
The Town Clerk confirmed that since writing the agenda, a response had been received from the Monitoring Officer and that as such there was no longer any need for a FOI request to be sent to EDDC.
Members
- Cllr Coombs proposed, and Cllr Zarczynski seconded a motion to issue a Freedom of Information request to EDDC, requiring information relating to the CGR to be provided.
For: 5, Against 7, Abstentions 0.
The motion was lost.
- 21/181 Corporate Risk Assessment**
a) **Members RESOLVED to delegate to the Town Clerk to prepare a draft Corporate Risk Assessment (in consultation with 3 Councillors).**
For:11, Against 0, Abstentions 4.
Proposed by Cllr Sexton and seconded by Cllr Hanratty.
b) **Members RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Sexton, Hurford and Theresa Howard as Cllrs to be consulted by the Town Clerk in the preparation of the draft Corporate Risk Assessment.**
For: 13, Against 0, Abstentions 2.
Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Proszowska.
- 21/182 Accounts**
Members RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments.
For: 14, Against 0, Abstentions 1.
Proposed by Cllr Coombs and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.
- 21/183 Exempt Business**
Members RESOLVED to defer Agenda items 22 and 23 to the next Full Council meeting.
For: 14, Against 0, Abstentions 1.
Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Coombs.
- 21/184 Employment Tribunal (case 1406620/2020)**
This item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

21/185 Town Clerk Hours of Work

This item was deferred to the next Full Council meeting.

21/186 To close the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT