

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Council Offices,
The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton on Monday 12th August 2019 at 7.00 pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr M Pollington
Cllr John Taylor
Cllr John Zarczynski (Chairman)
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw

St Paul's Ward

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

In attendance

Cllr D Barrow EDDC
Cllr L Jeffery EDDC
Mark Tredwin, Honiton Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr Nathan Hannay
Mr Paul Shaw – Royal British Legion
25 members of the public
1 member of the press

PART A

19/901 The Chairman welcomed Councillors and members of the public. The Chairman also welcomed Cllr Nathan Hannay who had been elected to the Council further to the casual vacancy which had arisen. Cllr Hannay was invited to join the Councillors although he would not be able to vote.

19/902 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr N Macve (personal reasons)
Cllr J McNally (personal reasons)
Cllr P Twiss (personal reasons)
Cllr T McCollum (personal reasons)

19/903 To receive declarations of interest and receipt of requests for new DPI dispensations on items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest

19/904 To note the grant of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of this meeting.

None were made.

19/905 Public question time on items on the agenda

Cllr Kolek advised that several members of the public were attending the meeting in relation to item 15 on the Agenda (Climate Emergency Declaration) and wished to

speak in relation to that item. She proposed that these members of the public be allowed to speak when the item was being discussed by Members and this was agreed by the Chairman.

Mrs Marjorie-Ann Howe had the following question regarding the car park update in the update report. As a regular attendee of the Beehive she has received many complaints about the lack of information from HTC and EDDC about the car parking charges to be introduced. The Town Clerk refers to factually inaccurate reports on social media but outside of the Council and those involved in the Beehive, very few members of the public are aware of the detail. The Town Council is not doing enough to inform the public with regards to this and other information. Not everyone looks at the HTC website or the notice boards. These are not adequate means of publicity and the recent press release was seen as hostile behaviour by the Town Council. The Town Clerk states that EDDC are referring the car park proposal back to their committee structure.

What does this mean? What happens now? How is the Town Council proposing to keep the public informed?

The Town Clerk responded by saying that he had to address the factually inaccurate statements such as that parking would cost £480 per year and that there would be no drop off time allowed. EDDC are now looking at the comments received. He does not know what they will do with these. He agreed that more can always be done to inform the public, but HTC will never reach everyone, and he can only do so much. He has had several meetings with Mr Simmonds of HCC to discuss what permits will be available. It is for Mr Simmonds to pass on that information.

Mrs Howe responded by saying that the message was not getting through and suggested that the Town Council prepare an information sheet which could be handed out at the Beehive Information desk.

The Town Clerk advised that he did not have any issue with this suggestion although there was still no final agreement regarding the car park.

Mr Paul Shaw spoke in relation to next year's Victory in Europe and Japan celebrations for the 75th anniversary. Friday 8th May will be a bank holiday and he has prepared a report on proposals put forward by the Royal British Legion. He is looking to set up a working group and would like to invite a Councillor onto the working group who will meet in September/October to work on the proposals.

Cllr Hanratty proposed that Cllr Darrant join the working group on behalf of the Council, and this was seconded by Cllr Kolek. Cllr Darrant confirmed that he would accept the role, and this was unanimously resolved.

19/906 Mayor's announcements

The Mayor confirmed that he had attended the following events:

TRIP AGM – Tuesday 9th July

Civic reception for the Twinning Association representatives from Gronau – Thursday 18th July
 Charter Day – Saturday 20th July
 Hot Pennies – Tuesday 23rd July
 Opened Garden Fete at Adelaide Lodge – Thursday 25th July
 Honiton Show – Thursday 1st August
 Opened garden at 55+ Centre – Thursday 8th August

Cllr Hanratty proposed a vote of thanks for the staff of Honiton Town Council who had attended the Honiton Show, and this was unanimously agreed.

Cllr Darrant thanked the Mayor and the representatives from Gronau for attending Charter Day on behalf of the Charter Day Committee.

19/907 To confirm the accuracy of the exempt minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Full Council meeting held on 1st July 2019

A copy of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advance. Cllr Kolek advised that she had not attended the meeting as stated in the draft minutes. The Town Clerk confirmed that these would be amended. Otherwise the minutes were approved by 9 votes in favour with 3 abstentions and signed as a correct record.

19/908 To confirm the accuracy of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 1st July 2019

A copy of the minutes of the meeting had been circulated in advice and the minutes were approved unanimously.

19/909 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Jeffery presented the following report:

Since the last town council meeting the majority of work has been towards the last full council meeting. At which I proposed an amendment to the cabinet's climate emergency response plan to commit EDDC to carbon neutrality by 2040, with a commitment to move that date forward if possible. I also seconded a motion by Cllr Rylance to have EDDC look into putting EV charging points in its car parks, which is a good development following the question re EV charging points at last council meeting. Otherwise I have been continuing to work on the young People's mental health project, which is primarily waiting on funding for mental health groups to be able to set up in Honiton. I have been looking into how best these mental health groups can work alongside existing mental health support in the town, and hopefully once funding has been found this can be moved further along.

Cllr Dean Barrow presented the following report:

- August is a quiet time at EDDC with not many meetings.
- EDDC's accounts have yet to be audited as the auditors have yet to arrive.
- This is due to a lack of resources from the auditors Grant Thornton and EDDC are waiting for a date from them.

Cllr Hanratty asked whether EDDC could change auditors and whether the unaudited accounts have been published?

Cllr Barrow confirmed that these were on the EDDC website. Appointing auditors is a group process based on quality and price and so EDDC do not get to choose on their own. He had already raised the issue of quality as there has been a price cut.

Cllr D Barrow left the meeting at 7.30pm

19/910 Reports from Councillors with Special Responsibilities

- a) Cllr Kolek presented her update report on single use plastics and confirmed that she had visited two further businesses on the 8th August and will submit a further report regarding these businesses.

The report was noted.

- b) Cllr Kolek presented her report on the Devon Wildlife Conference. The report has 4 recommendations which she will be bringing to the next Green and Open Spaces Committee meeting.

Cllr Taylor advised that Honiton already has a small town meadow at Roundball Wood. It is currently overgrown but enriched with orchids.

The report was noted.

- c) Cllr Sheridan-Shaw presented his report on the Dowell Street Corner re-vamp and thanked Cllr Hannay's sister and niece who carried out the recent clean-up.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that they were looking for a plasterer to repair the wall and had received a suggestion from Cllr Macve that a bicycle park should be sited there. It is important to thank the scouts who have been maintaining the planters despite concerns regarding the wall. This is part of their badge scheme and it has been confirmed that they wish to continue to be involved and work with the Council and the Thelma Hulbert Gallery.

Cllr Kolek suggested that if there was bicycle parking on the site, the town's CCTV should be extended to cover the area. It was noted that extending the town's CCTV was something the public had requested at the Honiton Show and enquiries have been made about linking it to the CCTV in Exeter.

Cllr Howard advised that there had been previous attempts to upgrade the site, but this had not been done as it had not been established who owned the wall. There had previously been seats on the site, but these had been removed due to safety concerns. She was of the view that the Toll Gate should be sited at Copper Castle and not at Dowell Street.

Cllr Coombs advised that the wall was a "silent wall" and queried whether there was any documentation as to ownership. He suggested that the Council should only be responsible for ½ the costs of repair to be shared with the neighbours. If the Toll Gate was sited at Dowell Street, would a listed building consent application be required? None would be required if it was reinstated at Copper Castle.

Cllr Zarczynski noted that in view of the above further investigations would need to be carried out.

Cllr Darrant recalled that the primary school had painted the wall in the past and may have had permission from the owner to do so?

Cllr Carrigan queried whether the Council had public liability insurance for the site.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would look into all the points made above.

- d) Cllr Darrant thanked Cllr Coombs and Taylor for the report as he was unable to attend the site visit.

Cllr Coombs presented the report and suggested that the circular path be closed whilst repairs were carried out.

The Town Clerk confirmed that subject to the HR resolutions being passed, this could be included in the Schedule of Work which Mr D Retter will be asked to undertake.

A risk assessment will need to be undertaken and monies will need to be allocated for repairs. The issue of the voluntary non councillor warden will need to go to the Green and Open Spaces committee.

19/911 Update Report

The Clerk confirmed that on Tuesday 13th August a meeting had been arranged with the various sports groups of Honiton to discuss projects which could be funded by CIL and/or Section 106 monies.

He will be meeting with Mr B Simmonds of HCC to discuss how to deal with the loading bay in the car park.

With regards to the dispute with HCC, he has requested further information from HCC, and this is required before matters can be moved on.

As regards the dispute with Bailey Partnership the advice from solicitors is to send a further letter reinforcing the arguments raised.

PART A MATTERS FOR DECISION

19/912 Planning Committee

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive the minutes of the planning committee meetings held on the 9th and 23rd July 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Howard and seconded by Cllr Kolek.

19/913 Human Resources Committee

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint the market and general assistant to a permanent contract in accordance with the pay details identified in the report to the Human Resources Committee on the 15 July 2019.

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

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to amend the deputy town clerk's salary in accordance with the pay details identified in the report to the Human Resources committee on the 15 July 2019.

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

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to make this effective from the 1st April 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Howard.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint an extra person that is willing to be employed on a casual basis to assist the market assistant for a one-year trial period in line with the report submitted to the HR committee on the 15 July 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Taylor.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to receive the exempt minutes of the Human Resources Committee meeting on the 15th July 2019.

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

19/914 Community Use Building Funding Request

The Town Clerk confirmed that it was Honiton Community College who was one of the trustees of Honiton Community Spaces rather than Honiton Community Complex as stated in the report.

Cllr Zarczynski stated that he was not in favour of loans and his preferred view would be to grant the funding to Honiton Community Spaces.

Cllr Taylor raised the issue of how the group would manage the asbestos in the building.

It was confirmed that the Trustees had copies of all the reports obtained by both DCC and HTC but that if Cllr Taylor has additional information, he could provide this directly to the Trustees.

A representative of the Trustees confirmed that the School were currently leasing the building, but the Trustees hope to take on the freehold. They will employ someone qualified to deal with the asbestos.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 10 for with 1 abstention to grant Honiton Community Spaces £12,000.00 to assist them with their aim to make the CUB fit for purpose.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Kolek.

19/915 Climate Emergency Declaration

Cllr Kolek confirmed that other Councils were aiming for carbon neutrality by 2030. Broadclyst Council have declared a climate emergency with Axminster Council meeting to discuss the issue tonight. Ashburton Council are aiming for carbon neutrality by 2025.

As had been agreed at the start of the meeting, Cllr Zarczynski invited those members of the public who had asked to speak to do so:

Sharon Pavey then spoke and read out a true story about climate change (see attached)

Adam Powell spoke regarding biodiversity and climate change and practical ways of reducing carbon such as growing wildflowers in Honiton on verges and meadows which is good for the community. However, it does require skill and experience. As such he is proposing to obtain a quote from a local contractor, Tony Benger in Axminster and will require assistance from Councillors to obtain prices and undertake training so that they can start small and then build on the success. Banks identified as possible sites are those on the main road A373 and the grassed roundabout near Tesco's. He is hoping to have costings by September with a view to

seeing the results in Spring/Summer of next year. There will be a cost and he has already received some donations, but the benefit will be priceless. He is planning to call it "Honiton goes wild".

Cllr Zarczynski gave his support to the project and suggested that it goes to the Green and Open Spaces Committee.

Cllr Kolek volunteered to liaise with Adam Powell regarding quotes which will then be brought to the Green and Open Spaces Committee.

Helena Whitten then spoke in favour of Cllr Kolek's motion.

Cllr Zarczynski suggested an amendment to the motion. To ensure that HTC was working with EDDC on the matter that the date be amended to 2040.

Cllr Taylor suggested that HTC set up a working group to work with EDDC on the matter, and that Cllr Phil Twiss had suggested that 2030 was unachievable taking into account that new houses currently being built have gas boilers which have a life span of 15-20 years.

Cllr Jeffery (EDDC) confirmed that his amendment suggested 2040 but that was only because EDDC were not proposing to provide a date.

Cllr Kolek maintained that 2030 should be the aim. If the date is 2040 this will be too late. Better to try and aim for 2030 and miss it by a couple of years.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 10 for with 1 abstention to declare a Climate Emergency. As a result of this HTC will set up a working party with all interested people and groups to make Honiton a carbon neutral town by 2030.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Hanratty.

Cllr Luke Jeffery left the meeting at 8.30pm

19/916 Co-option of new councillors onto Honiton Town Council

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint members of the public to act as co-opted Councillors of Honiton Town Council at the 9th September meeting in line with the co-option policy adopted at the 8th July Full Council meeting.

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

19/917 Committee Membership and representation on outside bodies

Cllr Michelle Pollington requested to join the Green and Open Spaces Committee, the Christmas Lights working group and to be the appointed representative for Honiton Primary School

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously for Cllr Pollington to join the Green and Open Spaces Committee, the Christmas Lights working group and to be the appointed representative for Honiton Primary School

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Howard.

Cllr Kolek requested to join the Christmas Lights working group.

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously for Cllr Kolek to join the Christmas Lights working group.

Proposed by Cllr Zarczynski and seconded by Cllr Darrant.

It was agreed that those Councillors who wished to be on the Climate Change working party should contact Cllr Kolek and this would be resolved at the September meeting.

It was confirmed that Cllr Hanratty was taken Cllr Taylor's place on the Charter Day Committee.

19/918 Information Kiosk

The Town Clerk presented the report.

The following points were discussed:

- Why was the previous TIC closed?
- The previous TIC had been making a loss before it closed. It was closed on the basis that it would be brought back fit for the 21st Century.
- Having the new TIC in the old building would be more expensive.
- Could CIL funding be used for the new TIC?
- Old TIC located in the main visitor car park and is a purpose-built building.
- Could the Town Clerk put together a business plan for the old TIC building and the proposed Lace Walk kiosk?
- The kiosk is in a better location than the old TIC building.
- Are rates payable on the proposed kiosk?
- The town needs a TIC.
- Who is going to man the building?
- Old TIC building is too big. No need for such a large space. Need to move into the 21st Century.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the intention was for volunteers to man the TIC. There is no intention to take on paid staff.

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 8 for and 3 against to authorise Officers to establish an information kiosk in the vacant kiosk in Lace Walk so that Community Groups, Charities, and other organisations can promote themselves, whilst also providing a Tourist Information Point.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Pollington.

19/919 Container Report

The Town Clerk presented the report.

Cllr Zarczynski advised that storage was required, and the containers sourced were a very reasonable price and that the seller was offering free delivery to the Beehive.

Cllr Coombs queried whether planning permission would be required?

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise officers to purchase two storage containers, one of use up on the allotment site and one to be used outside the Beehive.

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

19/920 Victory in Europe and Japan celebrations 2020

Members **RESOLVED** unanimously to appoint a member to represent the Town Council on a working party to be established with the objective of putting on commemorative events to remember both VE and VJ day.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Sheridan-Shaw

It was then proposed by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Darrant to extend the meeting by 30 minutes to allow item 19 to be discussed after 9pm.

The meeting went into confidential session at 9.00pm

PART B

19/921 Motion for individual's role as EDDC councillor to be considered

After discussion, Cllr Kolek requested a recorded vote.

Councillor	For the motion	Against the motion	Abstentions
Cllr Roy Coombs	x		
Cllr Terry Darrant			x
Cllr Phil Carrigan	x		
Cllr John Taylor	x		
Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw		x	

Cllr John Zarczynski	x		
Cllr Vera Howard	x		
Cllr Caroline Kolek		x	
Cllr Colin Hattle-Spence			x
Cllr Michelle Pollington		x	
Cllr Ray Hanratty		x	

Members **RESOLVED** by a majority vote of 5 for, 4 against and 2 abstentions to refer the election to East Devon District Council of the Town Development Manager to South West Council and the electoral commission as a result of a perceived conflict of interest and to seek guidance as to what action should be taken.

19/922 To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm.