

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 3rd April
2023 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr J Bonetta
Cllr J Brown
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr H Hurford
Cllr C Maunder
Cllr T McCollum

St Paul's Ward

Cllr K Close
Cllr J Furneaux-Gotch
Cllr D Hulin
Cllr S Keene
Cllr A Pearsall
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
4 members of the public
Cllr R Coombs (via Zoom)
Cllr P Twiss (DCC/EDDC)

22/336 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Coombs (personal)
Cllr C Kolek (personal)

22/337 Declarations of Interests

Cllr J Bonetta – Personal Interest (Item 22/353)
Cllr D Hulin – Personal Interest (Item 22/353) – Pecuniary Interest (Item 22/351)
Cllr J Brown – Personal Interest (Item 22/353) – Pecuniary Interest (Item 22/351)
Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 22/351 and 22/353). Cllr Sexton confirmed that she would also leave the meeting during the discussion of items 22/351 and 22/353)

22/338 Dispensations

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had granted Cllr J Brown a dispensation in relation to items 22/353 which allowed Cllr Brown to remain in the meeting whilst this agenda item was being discussed and which allowed Cllr Brown to debate the item but would prevent her from voting.

22/339 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

None received

22/340 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss provided the [attached report](#). He added that the proposed pedestrian crossing at Clapper Lane was debated at the recent HATOC meeting when he added a third recommendation to the report namely that

Devon County Council fund the shortfall to complete the project. This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Fowles queried the time it was taking for DCC to fill in potholes. Cllr Twiss advised that additional funding had been allocated to address the issue and that the DCC teams were working hard to complete the works.

Cllr Bonetta queried the ongoing DCC consultation into the proposal to cut homelessness services funding by the Council.

Cllr Bonetta provided the [attached report](#).

22/341 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr Sexton advised that she had attended the Charter Day meeting when it was reported that the fundraising quiz had raised £388.00.

Cllrs Sexton and Maunder would be attending the Devon and Cornwall Police Awards on the 17th April – PSCO Darren England would be presented with a medal for rural policing.

Cllr McCollum advised that he and Cllr Furneaux-Gotch were staying on the Chamber of Commerce Board.

22/342 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.

Cllr Cloke advised that the King's Coronation Working Group were busy planning the event on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Cllr Furneaux-Gotch confirmed that the Chamber of Commerce had agreed a £100 grant towards the costs of the event.

22/343 Correspondence: 9th March 2023 – 29th March 2023

Members **NOTED** the correspondence received.

Re item 2 - Cllr Cloke advised that the Green & Open Spaces Committee had looked at length at the proposal to erect a barrier at Whitmore Way but that the proposal was considered to be too costly especially as Honiton Town Council did not own the land.

Re item 3 – this would be referred to the Green & Open Spaces Committee after the election.

Re item 5. Members received a presentation from Mr Robert Bailey.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to:

- a) **Endorse the principle of swift next boxes as part of Honiton Town Council's response to reversing urban biodiversity loss.**
- b) **Support the project proposal, and to receive and consider concise project progress reports submitted to future Committee/Council meetings in 2023/24.**

Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Pearsall.

- 22/344 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13th March 2023.**
Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 13 March 2023
Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Pearsall.
For 10, Against 0, Abstention 2.
- 22/345 Minutes of Previous Meetings**
Members **NOTED** the item.
- 22/346 Membership of Committees and Working Groups**
No changes were proposed.
- 22/347 Lone Working Policy and Risk Assessment**
Cllr Sexton confirmed that the risk assessment was a live document.
Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Lone Working Policy.
Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.
- Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Risk Assessment.**
Proposed by Cllr Hurford and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.
- 22/348 Town Crier Role Resilience**
The Town Clerk confirmed that the HR Committee had recommended that an advert be placed to recruit an apprentice who would work with and learn from Mr Dave Retter about the role and for succession planning. Mr Retter supported the recommendation and had asked to be involved in the recruitment process.
Members RESOLVED unanimously to advertise for the role of Assistant Town Crier.
Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Cloke.
- 22/349 Twinning Civic Event – Mezidon**
Cllr Sexton advised that the proposal was to invite the Mayor of Mezidon to a civic reception on Friday 28th July with the Twinning Committee arranging the remainder of the weekend to include Charter Day and arranging for host families.
Members RESOLVED unanimously to lead on the organisation (in collaboration with the Twinning Association) of a planned Civic Event weekend visit 29th July 2023 to mark the 50th anniversary of twinning with Mezidon.
Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Cloke

22/350 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Contribution to Clapper Lane Crossing

Cllr McCollum confirmed that further to meetings with the school and DCC the proposal was for HTC to allocate CIL monies towards the cost with DCC funding any shortfall. It was hoped that the work could be done in July (during the school holidays) but the timescale would depend on when the DCC could be released.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the allocation of £27.7k of CIL Neighbourhood contribution towards the costs of DCC providing a crossing at Honiton Primary School, Clapper Lane.
Proposed by Cllr Cloke and seconded by Cllr McCollum.

22/351 Accounts

Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the schedule of accounts for February 2023 payments (excluding the HCC underwriting loss for January 2023)

Proposed by Cllr Keene and seconded by Cllr Bonetta

22/352 Exempt Business

Members RESOLVED unanimously to take the following items into exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Cloke

Cllr Sexton left the meeting at 7.44pm and Cllr Hurford took over as Chair of the Meeting.

22/353 Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs

Members received an update from the Councillors at the Review Meeting:

- 1) Members RESOLVED to accept the underwriting of HCC's net variable operating costs from 1 January 2023 to 31 January 2023 at £11,421.95.**

For: Cllrs Bonetta, Fowles, Hulin, Hurford, Keene, Maunder, McCollum and Pearsall.

Against: Cllrs Cloke and Furneaux-Gotch.

Abstentions: Cllr Brown.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Bonetta.

- 2) Members RESOLVED to accept HCC's net variable operating profit from 1 February 2023 to 28 February 2023 at £493.84 to be shared 50/50.**

For 10, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

Proposed by Cllr Bonetta and seconded by Cllr Pearsall.

22/354 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.