

**Minutes of the Town Management Committee Meeting of the Town Council  
held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

Cllr R Fowles

Cllr T McCollum (Chairman)

**St Paul's Ward**

Cllr K Cloke

**In attendance**

Heloise Marlow, Deputy Clerk

Cllr R Coombs (via Zoom)

**22/73/TM**

**Apologies for absence**

Cllr C Maunder (personal)

Cllr J Furneaux-Gotch (personal)

**22/74/TM**

**Declarations of Interests**

Cllr T McCollum – Personal Interest Item 22/81/TM.

**22/75/TM**

**Dispensations**

There were no requests for, or grants of dispensations made by the Town Clerk in relation to the business of the meeting.

**22/76/TM**

**Public Question Time for items on the agenda**

There were no public questions.

**22/77/TM**

**Minutes of the Town Management Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Town Management Committee meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr Cloke**

**22/78/TM**

**Bus stop, High Street, Honiton and Bus Shelter, Whitebridges**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that an email had been sent to Mike Brown DDC Highways further to Resolution 22/58/TM. No response has yet been received.

The damaged bus shelter at Whitebridges was being dealt with by Fernbank. Stagecoach had admitted responsibility for causing the damage and therefore would be covering the costs of the repairs. The Deputy Clerk could not confirm whether the bus shelter at Whitebridges was one of the bus shelters due to be replaced at HTC's expense.

Cllr McCollum advised that the bus shelters at Whitebridges, Sidmouth Road and Church Road has been replaced.

**22/79/TM High Street power cable replacement works**

Cllr McCollum advised that these were nearly completed with most of the yellow barriers gone. However, he was unhappy about the re-instatement of some paving slabs which were already lifting up. He had contacted National Grid as an EDDC Councillor and had asked them to return and replace and repair. Mike Brown of DCC Highways has been made aware of the issue.

**22/80/TM Street Art**

Cllr McCollum advised that this project was on hold until after the elections in May.

**22/81/TM Streetscene Update**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had received an update from Streetscene re the list of works previously identified and would send that update out to Members after the meeting. She had met with Barry Maher from Streetscene earlier in the day and after a discussion in the office, they visited some parts of the town. The works are ongoing. Barry Maher had advised the Deputy Clerk that he was aiming to spend more time in Honiton dealing with issues. The following was noted:

- Clearing of litter, leaves and detritus: ongoing. A mechanical sweeper does go round Honiton once a week. Barry Maher is hoping to obtain funding from EDDC to purchase a small electrical sweeper which would go round Honiton more often and which would reach the areas that the big sweeper cannot. This requires a capital bid to EDDC. Storage also needs to be sourced – possibly a new compound behind the pavilion at All Hallows with charging facilities at Blackdown House. The cost of the electrical sweeper is approximately £200,000.
- EDDC are unable to use pesticides to deal with weeds etc for environmental reasons. As such much of the work has to be done manually.
- EDDC have decided against the hot foam machine so the removal of moss and weeds on high street cobbles has to be done manually.
- The replacement of the railing at Oaklea is subject to a capital bid for funds to do the work at EDDC. Barry Maher is hoping to tie this in with repairs to fencing at Old Elm Road.
- The issue with the bamboo at All Hallows had been addressed. The Deputy Clerk has also raised issues with fencing at All Hallows which Barry Maher advised that he would look into.
- The planter outside Lloyds Bank has been planted by the British Legion.

- Wonky signs around Honiton. Some are the responsibility of DCC e.g., the signpost on New Street, outside Lloyd Bank and the sign on Queen Street. The signs at the car park at the top of New Street have been cleaned by Streetscene but the repairs to the signage are with the car parks department at EDDC who have been made aware of the issue.
- The rotten sleeper bench plant on New Street has been replaced. The planting from the narrow raised beds has been removed – planting will be done in due course.
- The planter and the bench on the corner of Pottery Close provided under the Welcome Back funding scheme – the planter needs to be planted up. Barry Maher had met with HTC's new town orderly with a view to the planter being planted up by HTC.
- Barry Maher had advised the Deputy Town Clerk that he wanted to arrange regular meetings with HTC to address issues in the town.
- Cllr Fowles queried the provision of litter bins in Honiton. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that Streetscene were in the process of putting together a map of all the bins in Honiton with details as to type of bin and how often they are emptied. HTC will receive a copy of the map when it is finalised.
- Cllr Cloke advised that there are no bins on the Heathpark Industrial Estate, and these are needed. Also, that a member of the public Myriam Thomas had posted on Facebook that she would be planting herbs in the narrow raised beds behind the bus shelters in New Street. The Deputy Clerk will contact Ms Thomas and EDDC with regards to this.

**22/82/TM**

**Christmas Lights/Shop trees**

Cllr McCollum advised that the remainder of the Christmas lights would now be taken down as the power cable replacement works were coming to an end. The new market assistant would be removing the advertising posters which would go into storage.

**22/83/TM**

**King's Coronation**

Cllr Cloke thanked the Chamber of Commerce for erecting the flags in the town. The working group were meeting regularly and planning for the event was progressing well.

**22/84/TM**

**Market Assistant and Town Orderly and Market Update**

Cllr McCollum advised that the Market Superintendent would now be in a position to reorganise the market pitches now that National Grid had completed its work.

The Town Orderly has now started work. A meeting will need to be held with him asap to discuss what works need to be done in the town and how that work will be organised. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had already discussed the maintenance work required at the Allotments. Other work which needed to be looked at urgently was the flower beds at Ottery Moor Lane and the repainting of the railings in the High Street. A work programme will need to be agreed in consultation with EDDC Streetscene.

**22/85/TM Dowell Street Corner**

Cllr McCollum advised that this would be reviewed after the elections in May. Two issues would need to be considered:

- Repair of the wall
- The siting of a local resident's wheelie bin.

**22/86/TM Clapper Lane/Littleton School crossing**

Cllr McCollum reminded Members that HTC had recently resolved to contribute to the cost of the crossing with DCC agreeing to make up the shortfall. The Town Clerk is in correspondence with Cllr Phil Twiss with a view to the works being completed no later than summer 2023. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she would update Members as soon as further information was provided. The matter was now in the hands of DCC.

**22/87/TM Battishorne Way Allotments**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that a meeting of the plot holders had been arranged for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at the Beehive. She had discussed allotments maintenance work with the new town orderly and after the election Members would also need to consider the contract for the soft landscaping to satisfy the planning condition of the planning grant. The signage approved by the Working Group had yet to be ordered and all plots are now allocated again, after one plot recently became available. Cllr Cloke advised that PCSO Darren England had agreed to attend the plot holders meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> June to discuss security. Cllr Cloke also raised a possible issue with a plot holder subletting his plot. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that this was against the terms of the tenancy agreement and that she would investigate.

**22/88/TM Chapter 8 Training**

Members **NOTED** the item.

**22/89/TM Access Ramp at Manor House, Honiton**

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that the Clerk had been chasing the contractor for a response to the loose paving slab. Cllr McCollum confirmed that the slab was still loose.

**22/90/TM Request to site a bench at the top of Buttery Road**

Cllr McCollum queried where the bench would be sited. The Deputy Clerk confirmed that she had been up to Buttery Road earlier in the day and had noted that there was an existing bench which had a plaque “in commemoration of the abolition of the paving tolls” at the top of Buttery Road. The bench was in need of maintenance.

Cllr Coombs confirmed that this was a Town Council bench. The resident referred to a bridle path in the correspondence. Cllr Coombs confirmed that there are no bridle paths in Honiton so the reference could be to FP 23 but this would be very close to the existing bench. He suggested that the HTC dog bin could be moved to the Gardiner’s Lane/Cross end of FP 23 with the siting of a bench as that would be more widely used. However, would EDDC empty the dog bin if it were to be re sited there?

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that EDDC had one more Welcome Back funded bench to install as well as the Coronation Bench and the Coronation Working Group are currently looking at potential sites for this bench.

Members agreed to a site meeting prior to making any recommendations to FC.

Cllr Coombs referred to the road at Stout Farm which currently stops at the hill. He would like to see a link to Farway Common Road in due course. Where the road at Stout Farm stops, there is a viewpoint over the Gissage Valley which he thought would be a good site for the Coronation bench.

**22/91/TM To close the meeting.**

The meeting was closed at 7.50 pm.