

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 11th March
2024 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr J Brown
Cllr L Passmore-Smart
Cllr T McCollum (Chair)
Cllr R Sexton
Cllr S Thorne
Cllr J Fotheringham
Cllr N Ingham
Cllr L Wakefield

St Paul's Ward

Cllr A Pearsall
Cllr S Craddock
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Dawn Reed, Deputy Town Clerk's Assistant
1 member of the public
Cllr Phil Twiss (DCC)

23/297 Apologies for absence

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

23/298 Declarations of Interests

Cllr McCollum – Personal Interest (Items 23/316, 23/317 and 23/327)
Cllr J Brown – Personal Interest (Items 23/316, 23/317 and 23/327) Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/323, 23/324, 23/329 and 23/331).
Cllr S Sexton – Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/323, 23/324, 23/329, 23/322 and 23/331).
Cllr R Sexton – Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/323, 23/324, 23/329, 23/322 and 23/331).

23/299 Dispensations

The Clerk confirmed that he had granted either one of Cllrs Brown, R Sexton and S Sexton a dispensation in relation to Agenda items 23/323, 23/324, 23/329, 23/322 and 23/331, which allowed one of them to remain in the meeting whilst the agenda items were being discussed, to debate the items but would prevent him/her from voting.

23/300 Re-ordering of the Agenda

Members RESOLVED unanimously to discuss item 23/322 (Accounts) immediately after to item 23/321 (Mid-Week Herald) and item 23/328 (Pollarding and Felling Trees at Beehive) prior to item 23/329 (Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs).

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Pearsall.

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/301 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

Cllrs R Sexton, J Brown and S Sexton Declared a Pecuniary Interest. Cllr S Sexton remained using the Dispensation.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown left the room at 7:10pm.

The Town Clerk read a public question from P Carrigan to which the Council (Town Clerk in consultation with the Council Chairman and Deputy Chairman) will later respond.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown returned to the room at 7:12pm.

Cllrs N Ingham and J Fotheringham joined the meeting at 7:12pm; no Declarations of Interest were Declared.

23/302 Exempt Business

Members RESOLVED to take items 23/329, 23/331 and 23/328 into exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Passmore-Smart

For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/303 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Twiss had sent the [attached report](#), and highlighted the Devon Devolution Deal (Combined Authority); Recommendation to DCC Cabinet NOT to proceed with implementation of proposed on-street parking charges; and pavement reinstatement enforcement notice issued to utilities contractor. Cllr J Brown reported on EDDC report on Playing Pitches Strategy which will feed into the Local Plan.

Cllr T McCollum reported on vandalism at Lace Walk public convenience; request that new Lace Walk public convenience includes CCTV; that the old TIC is suffering vandalism; and that PSPO at Allhallows signs are planned for April 24. Cllr S Craddock highlighted that EDDC plans to spend £400k on refurbishing low use play areas whilst public conveniences are being closed.

23/304 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr R Sexton attended the Chamber of Commerce 20.2.24, which intends to support Totally Local, will support any visit to DCC Cabinet 13.3.24 and has received financial report.

Cllr S Thorne reported from the Baton which is linking to Charter Day and D-Day commemorations with the Armed Forces Covenant fund and is undertaking the Three Peaks Challenge.

Cllr S Sexton attended Trip and The Den location at 140 High St is planned for official opening 5.6.24.

Cllr T McCollum discussion the Street Art project proposal for landlord's preference for 3-D artwork, the need to secure artwork insurance and planned monthly (Cllrs R Sexton and T McCollum) walkabout with PCSO Darren England. Cllrs S Sexton, McCollum and Passmore-Smart attended the Honiton Police Station opening.

Cllr J Brown has met with the Thelma Hulbert Gallery (with Cllrs S Sexton and S Craddock) re artwork at Council storage containers.

23/305 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.

Council **NOTED** that the Market Working Group met 22.2.24, the Grants Policy was reviewed 26.2.24 and the Beehive Working Group met 28.2.24.

23/306 Correspondence: 6th February 2024 – 6th March 2024

Members **NOTED** the correspondence received.

23/307 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 5th February 2024.

Cllr N Ingham queried budget of £600 for purchase of Deputy Town Crier hat and Guild Membership.

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 5th February 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock.

For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 3.

23/308 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Council **NOTED** the minutes of the a. Strategy Committee [7th February 2024](#); b. Town Management Committee [19th February 2024](#); and c. Planning Committee [6th February 2024](#);

23/309 Operation Rudolph, Outside Bodies

Cllr S Thorne Declared a Personal Interest.

Council RESOLVED to a. include Operation Rudolph as an Outside Body.

Proposed by Cllr Passmore-Smart and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 10, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

Council RESOLVED to b. elect Cllr S Sexton as Council representative to Operation Rudolph.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Brown

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

23/310 [Membership of Committees and Working Groups](#)

Cllr Kolek resigned from the Climate Change WG and Cllr S Craddock resigned from the G&OS Committee. Cllrs R Sexton and Fotheringham joined the G&OS Committee. Cllr Wakefield joined the HTC/HCC Review Meeting.

Council RESOLVED Membership of each Committee and Working Group and Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr R Sexton
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/311 Community Strategy Action Plan

Council **RECEIVED** an update on the Action Plans prepared by [Strategy](#) and [Town Management](#) Committees and **Council RESOLVED to approve those Action Plans.**

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr R Sexton
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/312 Mayor Making

Council RESOLVED the date for Mayor Making as 6 June 2024.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Pearsall
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/313 Annual Town Meeting

Council RESOLVED the date for the annual Town Meeting as 22 April 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Fotheringham and seconded by Cllr Thorne
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/314 Honiton Show, 1 August 2024

Council RESOLVED a) Council attend Honiton Show,

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

Council RESOLVED b) Councillors Craddock, Passmore-Smart, Wakefield, Thorne, S Sexton and Pearsall attend.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Wakefield
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

Two event tickets are provided with the stand, one of which is used by the Deputy Town Clerk. The Chairman receives a separate invitation.

Council RESOLVED c) to have a Council dedicated stand.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/315 [Visit to Mezidon](#)

Council RESOLVED Councillor Wakefield as representatives to attend with the Mayor, to visit Mezidon May 2024 for the Twinning celebration.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Passmore-Smart
For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/316 King Street Toilet Block

Council RESOLVED to approve the [EDDC proposed Heads of Terms](#) for the transfer of the King Street toilet block from EDDC to the Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Brown

For 9, Against 1, Abstentions 1.

23/317 Community Asset Transfer

Council RECEIVED an update regarding the proposed Community Asset Transfer from EDDC to HTC and **Council RESOLVED the completion of the Expression of Interest Form.**

Proposed by Cllr Passmore-Smart and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/318 Grass Cutting

Council RESOLVED that Honiton Town Council, G&OS Committee will consider entering into an [Urban Highway Grass Cutting Agreement](#) (see [maps 1](#) and [maps 2](#) attached) with Devon County Council from 1 April 2025.

Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham

For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/319 Market Handbook

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Chairman and Chairman of the Market Working Group and Market Superintendent) to approve the Market Handbook 2024/25.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 10, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

23/320 Market Risk Assessments

Council RESOLVED to approve a) [the Market Risk Assessment 2024/25](#) and b) [the trial Market Risk Assessment.](#)

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

23/321 Mid-Week Herald

Councillors R Sexton, Brown and S Sexton Declared a Pecuniary Interest.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown left the room at 8:25pm.

Cllr S Sexton remained using the Dispensation.

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Council Chairman, Chairman of the Beehive Working Group and the Chair of the HTC/HCC Review Meeting) to write to the Mid-Week Herald to clarify, correct and apologise for its editorial 28 February 2024: lease of the Beehive.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Pearsall

For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 1.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown returned to the room at 8:35pm.

23/322 Accounts

Council RESOLVED to approve the schedule of accounts for December 2023 payments, excluding underwriting payment to HCC.

Proposed by Cllr Passmore-Smart and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

Councillors R Sexton, Brown and S Sexton Declared a Pecuniary Interest.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown left the room at 8:40pm.

Cllr S Sexton remained using the Dispensation.

Council RESOLVED to approve the accounts for December 2023 payment, including underwriting payment to HCC.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 5, Against 2, Abstentions 2.

23/323 Honiton Community Complex, Revised Mission Statement

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with Councillors) its comments on HCC's proposed Mission Statement.

Proposed by Cllr Passmore-Smart and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 7, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

23/324 Freedom of Information (Fol) Request

Council **NOTED** the Fol request 16 February 2024 and Delegation to the Town Clerk (Minute 20/162) to respond and **Council RESOLVED a) reference to Hope & May to provide specialist Fol advice and b) to utilise Fol Act S43 (2): Commercial Interests.**

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Passmore-Smart

For 7, Against 1, Abstentions 1.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown returned to the room at 8:50pm.

23/325 Grants Policy

Council made comments on the draft revised Grants Policy including to refer to Grants Panel, alignment with budget, timescale for spend/implementation of projects, attendance at Full Council and limitation of Grants to £5k. Council **RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Chairman of F&P Committee) to approve its Grants Policy March 2024.**

Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Pearsall

For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/326 Devon & Torbay Devolution Deal

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with Councillors) its consultation comments (by 24 March 2024) on the Devon & Torbay Devolution Deal: [Devon and Torbay's deal - Devon and Torbay Devolution Deal \(devontorbaydeal.org.uk\)](https://devontorbaydeal.org.uk)

Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

23/327 EDDC Draft Economic Development Strategy

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with Councillors) its consultation comments (by 10 March 2024) on the EDDC draft Economic Development Strategy: [Economic Development Strategy - East Devon](#)

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Brown

For 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

The meeting went into exempt session.

23/328 Pollarding and Felling of Tree/s at Beehive

Council RESOLVED to approve award of contract for pollarding/felling of trees at the Beehive.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

For 11, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

23/329 Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs

Councillors R Sexton, Brown and S Sexton Declared a Pecuniary Interest.

Cllrs R Sexton and J Brown left the room at 9:00pm.

Cllr S Sexton remained using the Dispensation.

Cllr L Passmore-Smart left the meeting.

23/330 Council RESOLVED to extend the meeting to 9:30pm.

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Ingham

For 8, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

Council **RECEIVED** an update from Councillor assigned to Review Meeting and the HTC Director of HCC and **Council RESOLVED to determine financial support of HCC's net operating loss December 2023 and January 2024.**

Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 4, Against 1, Abstentions 3.

23/331 Underwriting Agreement with Honiton Community Complex (HCC)

Council to approve the revised Underwriting Agreement 24/25 with HCC.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

For 3, Against 4, Abstentions 1.
The Motion failed.

23/332 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 9:23 pm.