

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April  
2024 at 7.00pm**

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

Cllr J Brown  
Cllr J Fotheringham  
Cllr C Maunder  
Cllr T McCollum (Chair)  
Cllr R Sexton  
Cllr L Wakefield (from 19.09)

**St Paul's Ward**

Cllr A Pearsall  
Cllr S Craddock  
Cllr D Hayler  
Cllr S Sexton  
Cllr H Turner

**In attendance**

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk  
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk  
Cllr R Collins (EDDC) via Zoom  
1 member of the public via Zoom

**23/333 Apologies for absence**

Cllr R Coombs (personal)  
Cllr S Thorne (personal)  
Cllr Lauren Passmore-Smart (personal)  
Cllr C Kolek (personal)  
Cllr P Twiss (DCC)

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr N Ingham had resigned by letter dated 8.4.24.

**23/334 Declarations of Interests**

Cllr J Brown – Personal Interest (Item 23/346) Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/349,23/350,23/351 and 23/352).

Cllr S Sexton – Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/349,23/350,23/351 and 23/352).  
Personal Interest (Item 23/346).

Cllr R Sexton – Pecuniary Interest (Items 23/349,23/350,23/351 and 23/352).  
Personal Interest (Item 23/346).

**23/335 Dispensations**

The Clerk confirmed that he had granted either one of Cllrs Brown, R Sexton and S Sexton a dispensation in relation to items 23/349,23/350,23/351 and 23/352 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.

**23/336 Public Question Time for items on the agenda**

No public questions had been received.

**23/337 Exempt Business**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to take items 17, 18, and 19 into exempt business.**

**Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to consider items 16 and 20 after item 14.**

**Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham.**

**23/338 Reports from District and County Councillors**

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Twiss had sent in the [attached report](#).

Cllr J Brown provided a verbal report:

- EDDC is currently preparing a new Tree Strategy.
- EDDC has recruited 2 out of the 4 advertised s106/CIL posts starting in April and May. A planning obligations manager commenced in post in March.
- EDDC were planning a training workshop on S106 funding for Clerks as it was agreed that the process for accessing the monies was difficult.
- Changes had been made to the PSPO Orders regarding dogs on Allhallows and The Glen.

Cllr McCollum provided a verbal report:

- The new toilets at Lace Walk had been granted planning permission. There were still some discussions to be had re security as they had again been recently vandalised.
- He was dealing with various housing complaints – 12 of which were in Honiton.

**23/339 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies**

Cllr R Sexton had attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting but had no items to report.

Cllr Craddock had attended Honiton Surgery and had had a tour of the 2 new self-service weight/height and blood pressure kiosks which automatically update your medical records. He had also attended the Honiton Community College Sixth form fundraiser cycling to Paris and back (1600km) where £8370 was raised.

Cllr S Sexton advised that the Honiton Community League of Friends AGM would be on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6pm and all Cllrs were welcome. She had also visited TRIP's new premises next to Honiton Surgery. All Cllrs were invited to the TRIP opening party on 16<sup>th</sup> April at 5.30pm.

Cllr McCollum advised that the Street Art project had encountered difficulties due to an inability to secure insurance for the proposed 3D installation at 103 High Street and as such it may not proceed. Instead, he was looking at other options such as the side elevation to Lloyds Bank.

**23/340 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.**

Cllr R Sexton provided a verbal report on the Easter Market 30/3/24:  
10 gazebos were hired from Cullompton, and 20 traders attended. Good feedback from the event had been received although there had been some minor issues regarding the erection and dismantling of the gazebos.  
The Town Clerk advised that the Sports Pitches Working Group had met and agreed a list of actions which included consulting with EDDC as to the form of public consultation required and whether the projects identified met the S106 criteria.

**23/341 Correspondence: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 – 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024**

Members **NOTED** the correspondence received.

**23/342 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024.**

**Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 11 March 2024 subject to the following amendment:**

**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 9, Against 0, Abstentions 2

**23/343 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Members **NOTED** the minutes of the HR Committee 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**23/344 Membership of Committees and Working Groups**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the following changes:**

- Cllr McCollum resigned as Council representative on TRIP.
- Cllr Craddock volunteered to be a Council representative on TRIP.
- Cllr Wakefield volunteered to be a Council representative on Honiton United Charities.
- Cllr S Sexton joined the Strategy Committee.
- Cllr D Hayler joined the Green & Open Spaces Committee, the Town Management Committee, the Footpaths Working Group, and the Market Working Group.
- Cllr J Fotheringham resigned from the Strategy Committee
- Cllr Wakefield jointed the Allotments Working Group.
- The Climate Change Working Group, Oaklea Bridge Working Group and the Volunteer Working Group were all disbanded and instead the projects would be allocated a lead Councillor and lead Officer by the Green & Open Spaces Committee.

- The On-Street Parking Charges Working Group was disbanded.  
**Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Brown.**

#### **23/345 Cllr Absence**

The Town Clerk confirmed that this item related to Cllr Roy Coombs who is currently unwell. Both he and the Chairman had spoken with Cllr Coombs who wishes to remain on the Council. Cllr Coombs has been advised by his GP to avoid large gatherings but hopes to attend the next meeting of the Green & Open Spaces Committee and the Footpath Working Group. Members **NOTED** a Councillor may resign 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024 through absence more than 6 months.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the above reasons for absence.**

**Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Craddock**

#### **23/346 Council Meeting with HCC 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Members **NOTED** a meeting with HCC planned for 7pm, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024, to which all Councillors are invited.

Cllr S Sexton confirmed that this would be an informal meeting where Cllrs could put questions to HCC Directors. She asked if Cllrs attending could let the office know in advance.

#### **23/347 Honiton Town Council 50 Years Celebration**

Cllr McCollum advised that the oldest bench in Honiton had recently been restored and his proposal was to arrange for a plaque commemorating 50 years of Honiton Council to be affixed to the bench. The bench could then either be sited at Dowell Street corner once the works have been completed or an alternative site if preferred.

**Members RESOLVED to put a plaque on the newly restored bench to celebrate 50 years of Honiton Town Council.**

**Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Brown.**

Members discussed a possible event to celebrate 50 years of Honiton Town Council:

- EDDC are holding their event on 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- Charter Day already had a D Day theme.
- Hot Pennies
- Honiton Show
- Hire of Mackarness Hall for an exhibition.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to arrange an event to celebrate 50 years since the formation of the Town Council 1<sup>st</sup> April 1974**

**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr R Sexton.**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to defer the arrangements of the event to the Town Management Committee.**

**Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Hayler.**

Cllrs R Sexton, S Sexton and J Brown declared a pecuniary interest in the following item.

**23/348 Accounts**

**Members RESOLVED to approve the attached schedule of accounts for March 2024 payments excluding the underwriting payment to HCC.**

**Proposed by Cllr Fotheringham and seconded by Cllr Pearsall**

For 9; Against 0; Abstentions 2

Cllrs S Sexton and R Sexton left the meeting at 19.55pm

**Members RESOLVED to approve the underwriting payment to HCC for December 2023 and January 2024**

**Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Craddock**

For 7, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

**23/349 Beehive Lease Expressions of Interest (Eol)**

Members **NOTED** that 1 Eol had been received.

The meeting went into exempt session at 19.57pm

**23/350 Underwriting Agreement with Honiton Community Complex (HCC)**

Members **NOTED** that;

- a) HCC provides accounts to the Council (as reasonably required for Full Council to consider underwriting payments) via the Council's Accountant to advise the Council, and not directly to Full Council; and
- b) The "revised proposed" underwriting agreement includes that concise qualitative and quantitative financial information will be provided (in manner described) by HCC to Town Councillors.

**c) Members RESOLVED to agree the draft "revised proposed" financial safety net underwriting agreement 24/25**

**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Craddock**

For 4, Against 3, Abstention 2

d) HCC'S Reserves Policy

There was no proposer and therefore no vote.

**23/351 HCC Future Bookings Beyond September 2025**

Council to resolve to underwrite HCC's cancellation fees (if required) for acts booked now beyond its lease end September 2025.

There was no proposer and therefore no vote.

**23/352 Beehive Dilapidations**

Members **NOTED** the draft Beehive Dilapidations report.

**23/353 To close the meeting**

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.