

**Minutes of the Strategy Committee Meeting of the Town Council held on  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 6.00pm**

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

Cllr McCollum  
Cllr R Sexton

**St Paul's Ward**

Cllr S Sexton

**In attendance**

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk

**24/75/SC Apologies for Absence**  
Cllrs Brown and Wakefield

**24/76/SC Declarations of Interests**  
None

**24/77/SC Dispensations**  
None

**24/78/SC Public Question Time for items on the agenda**  
There were no public questions.

**24/79/SC Strategy Committee held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025**  
**Members RESOLVED to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Strategy Committee meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as amended.**  
Proposed by Cllr T McCollum and seconded by Cllr S Sexton  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/80/SC Youth Council**  
Committee **NOTED** progress of the Working Group (WG) including that the WG has been invited to attend HCC; the first meeting of the WG was December 24; and the second meeting of the WG to be scheduled.

**24/81/SC Council Surgeries**  
Following Strategy Committee 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (24/50/SC), 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (24/59/SC) and Full Council 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (24/260), Committee **RESOLVED arrangements for Council Surgeries Thursday 3 April 2025 (or Thursday 10 April 2025, if that date has already been booked) (at Mackarness Hall) and Saturday 9 August 2025 (at the**

**Chapel or Methodist Hall in reserve), both at 11:00 – 12:30 and 19:00 – 20:30.**

The revised arrangements will be presented to Full Council in March 2025.  
Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr T McCollum  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/82/SC**

**Annual Awards**

Some posters asking for nominations have been given to shops. **Committee RESOLVED how to select Councillors to judge nominations for Annual Awards 2025: Councillors to put themselves forward at Full Council and 3no. Councillors selected at random.**

Proposed by Cllr T McCollum and seconded by Cllr S Sexton  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/83/SC**

**Honiton Festival Meeting**

Following Full Council Decision 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 (24/175) and Strategy Committee 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (24/60/SC), Committee is asked to **NOTE** meeting 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was attended by 3 Councillors and 18 local organisations. There was not a consensus that a Honiton Festival was the right way forward and that something else, smaller may be appropriate max 3 days (initially 1 day), themed (eg music or Pride) sponsored and first Event 2026. Committee. Cllrs Wakefield and S Sexton to discuss with D Sheridan Shaw and report back to next Strategy Committee March 2025.

**RESOLVED not to pursue Honiton Festival Event.**

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr T McCollum  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**RESOLVED a preference for a 1-2 day Event starting 2026 to be reported to Strategy Committee.**

Proposed by Cllr T McCollum and seconded by Cllr S Sexton  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/84/SC**

**Tourism and Economy Working Group**

**Committee RESOLVED to approve the [Terms of Reference](#) for the Tourism and Economy Working Group with 2 amendments.**

Proposed by Cllr T McCollum and seconded by Cllr S Sexton  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/85/SC** Councillor Briefing

**Committee RESOLVED to arrange a briefing for all Town Councillors on responsibilities as Lead Councillor Projects, Special Responsibilities and Representation on Outside Bodies for evening 7pm, 19 March 2025.**

Proposed by Cllr T McCollum and seconded by Cllr R Sexton  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/86/SC** Devon Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Committee **NOTED** the Government's English Devolution White Paper (December 2024) and Devon Councils' responses and **RESOLVED** Recommendations to Full Council. Government has not selected Devon as a Unitary "frontrunner". Committee noted the importance of local councils having choice if services/assets are transferred. Honiton Town Council should state its preference now. Strategy Committee to draft aims/visions for Honiton and the services/assets needed to deliver that. Agreed to review Vision 2030 Honiton document (MCTI) and debate at fledgling Honiton Business Network and Council Surgeries. Subject to be reported to Strategy Committee in March 2025. **Committee RESOLVED that Cllr R Sexton will prepare a short summary report for Full Council describing what Strategy Committee plans and to invite other Cllrs to Strategy Committee.**

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr T McCollum  
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

**24/87/SC** To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 19:00.