

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on  
Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm**

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

Cllr M Baldock  
Cllr J Brown  
Cllr J Fotheringham  
Cllr T McCollum (Chair)  
Cllr R Sexton  
Cllr C Maunder  
Cllr M Sheen

**St Paul's Ward**

Cllr S Craddock  
Cllr D Hayler  
Cllr C Kolek  
Cllr S Sexton  
Cllr H Turner

**In attendance**

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk  
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk  
Cllr P Twiss DCC  
Cllr R Collins EDDC – via Zoom  
2 Members of the public – via Zoom  
5 Members of the public

**24/267 Apologies for absence**

Cllr R Coombs (personal)  
Cllr L Smart (personal)  
Cllr L Wakefield (personal)  
Cllr S Thorne (personal)  
Cllr A Pearsall (personal)

**24/268 Declarations of Interests**

Cllr R Sexton - Pecuniary Interest Items 24/282, 24/283, 24/285, 24/290  
Cllr S Sexton - Pecuniary Interest Items 24/282, 24/283, 24/285, 24/290  
Cllr C Kolek - Pecuniary Interest Items 24/282, 24/283, 24/285, 24/290  
Cllr T McCollum – Personal Interest Items 24/273, 24/280, 24/284 (d), 24/288  
Cllr J Brown - Personal Interest Items 24/273, 24/280, 24/284 (d), 24/288  
Cllr J Fotheringham – Pecuniary Interest Item 24/277

**24/269 Dispensations**

The Town Clerk confirmed he had granted Cllrs R and S Sexton and Cllr Kolek a dispensation in relation to item 24/282 which allowed them to remain in the meeting whilst this agenda item was being discussed, contributing to the debate but which would prevent them from voting.

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had granted either Cllr R Sexton, Cllr S Sexton or Cllr C Kolek a dispensation in relation to items 24/283, 24/285 and 24/290 which allowed one of them to remain in the meeting whilst these

agenda items were being discussed, contributing to the debate but would prevent them from voting.

## **24/270 Public Question Time for items on the agenda**

Cllr R Sexton and C Kolek left the meeting at 19.08pm

The attached question was received from [Victoria Davis](#).

Cllr McCollum advised that a response to this question had already been provided. Honiton Town Council is not able to authorise Honiton Community Complex to issue contracts for events. Honiton Town Council is the landlord of the Beehive, and it would be wrong to give HCC instructions so close to the finalisation of the tender negotiations. The Town Clerk confirmed that progress was being made with regards to a new lease with further detail to be provided later until item 24/283. This should provide HCC with some level of certainty that action is being taken to renew the lease before September 2025.

The attached question was received from [Mr P Carrigan](#).

Cllr McCollum advised that the auditor was not currently carrying out an investigation.

The Town Clerk advised that a letter had been received from the external auditor with a list of queries/challenges which had been sent in about the annual accounts. Only one challenge was being investigated re the use of the power of competence. No investigation report has been received, and the external auditor has not asked HTC to provide any information. The challenge to the annual accounts was discussed by the Finance & Policy committee on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The public report was noted in the minutes and brought to Full Council on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

As regards financial risks, decisions are made by Full Council and Cllrs are not jointly and severally liable for those decision which are made by a collective body. The Town Clerk was not aware of any difference with the power of general competence but had asked the Council's solicitor to advise.

Cllr S Sexton noted that the question had been sent also to the external auditor.

Cllrs R Sexton and C Kolek returned to the meeting at 19.15pm

**24/271 Reports from District and County Councillors**

[The attached report was received from Cllr P Twiss.](#)

Cllr Brown advised that Devon County Council would be holding their elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 as Devon had not been selected to be part of the first tranche of the devolution process.

Cllr P Twiss left the meeting at 7.15pm

**24/272 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies**

Cllr Craddock advised

- Honiton Surgery was still out of action although progress was being made. It is likely that it would be 6 months before the surgery was fully operational again.
- TRIP Directors meeting: Attempt to reduce costs by purchasing 35 scooters for sale now. In 2024 TRIP sold 133 scooters. Salaries would be increasing due to increase in minimum wage, but Directors were positive about the future

Cllr Fotheringham advised

- With changes to the EDDC PSPO for Allhallows, the Charter Day committee was reintroducing animal activities/dog show on the day. A Charter Day representative had attended the recent Honiton Festival meeting and would be writing to HTC with the Committee's views.

**24/273 Correspondence: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Cllr Craddock took issue with EDDC's reply to HTC's letter re Lace Walk Public Convenience. Other members of the public have complained and the reply from EDDC was not nice. HTC should respond.

Cllr McCollum advised that he had requested a sign advising members of the public as to the location of King Street toilets, but this had not been actioned. Cllr Fotheringham proposed a map showing the location of the King Street toilets. Cllr McCollum advised that EDDC were of the view that adequate signage had been provided. He would discuss this again with Streetscene. Members **NOTED** the item.

**24/274 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**

The Town Clerk advised that two minor amendments to the draft minutes were being proposed

- to record the votes at item 24/256 Budget 25/26
- to substitute the word "consultation" for "Town Clerk" at item 24/257

**Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 with the amendments above.**

**Proposed by Cllr Fotheringham and seconded by Cllr Brown**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 1

**24/275 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Members **NOTED** the item.

**24/276 Membership of Committees and Working Groups**

No changes were proposed.

Cllr Fotheringham left the meeting at 19.28pm

**24/277 Honiton Business Network**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr R Sexton to be the Council's representative at the first meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025.**

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**

Cllr Fotheringham returned to the meeting at 19.29

**24/278 Honiton Show**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to attend the Honiton Show on 7 August 2025.**

**Proposed by Cllr McCollum and seconded by Cllr Kolek**

**24/279 Annual Appraisal of Town Clerk**

Cllr McCollum proposed that he and Cllr Wakefield be appointed to undertake the Annual Appraisal for the Town Clerk.

Cllr Kolek proposed that Cllr McCollum and Cllr Fotheringham be appointed

**Members RESOLVED to appoint Cllr McCollum and Cllr Fotheringham to undertake the Annual Appraisal for the Town Clerk.**

**Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Sheen.**

For 7; Against 4; Abstentions 1.

**24/280 Emerging East Devon Local Plan Site Hon\_12: Footpath**

Cllr Brown advised that when Hon\_12 was discussed at EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee, HTC supported the inclusion of the site in the draft Local Plan. In part this was to keep Honi\_15 and Honi\_1 out of the draft Local Plan.

Cllr Fotheringham advised that the Footpath Working Group were concerned that the site had been allocated for development at the last minute when it had previously been rejected. HTC had previously objected to development in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and there was a footpath running through the site which if developed would result in a loss of amenity to Honiton. The footpath was well used and EDDC had included the site within the new Local Plan without proper consultation.

Cllr S Sexton advised that when the site was considered by the planning committee what was approved was not what was presented at the EDDC meeting leading to confusion as she would not have had the authority from the planning committee to approve or not approve a site which had not been

discussed. Her advice to EDDC was based on what the planning committee had authorised and this was not included.

Cllr McCollum agreed that Honi\_12 was not originally identified as suitable for development and had been inserted into the new Local Plan later.

Cllr Brown advised that additional sites had to be found, and the inclusion of Honi\_12 kept Honi\_15 and Honi\_1 out. Honi\_12 also linked well with Honi\_07.

Cllr Craddock agreed that FP 12 was well used and linked to another footpath. Development would lead to the loss of a good footpath.

The Town Clerk highlighted paragraph 14 of the report which set out the reasons the Footpath Working Group had noted to object to the inclusion of Honi\_12 for development in the new EDDC Local Plan. EDDC are now at the Regulation 19 stage of the process and any objections will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate who has a narrow remit to review the new Local Plan. The Town Clerk suggested that the objection which was more likely to succeed would be that the land was not publicised as being allocated for development in any public consultation, and that therefore there had been no opportunity for residents to be consulted in a meaningful way.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to OBJECT to the allocation of Honi\_12 for development of 71 houses during the Regulation 19 consultation.**

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Kolek**

**24/281 Armed Forces Day 2025**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to delegate the Deputy Town Clerk to implement and manage the Armed Forces Day (in consultation with the group of voluntary organisations) within Budget.**

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

**24/282 Beehive: No Smoking**

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had not received a formal request for this from Honiton Community Complex.

Cllr Craddock queried how the decision could be enforced.

Cllr McCollum suggested that there could be a designated smoking area.

Cllr Kolek suggested that the decision would be difficult to implement and enforce.

Cllr Brown suggested that the proposal was not feasible. Volunteers could not be expected to police the building.

Cllr Baldock suggested that a designated smoking area would require a shelter/bin which would cost money and agreed that the proposal could not be policed.

**Members RESOLVED NOT to implement a ban on smoking around the Council's Beehive**

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Brown**

**For 9; Against 0; Abstentions 3**



Cllrs R Sexton and Kolek left the meeting at 19.45pm

**24/283 Beehive Tender for Lease Progress Report**

Cllr Fotheringham provided the following update:

- The Beehive Working Group met with HCC on 30.1.25 and had held a review meeting on 5.2.25.
- In between meetings there had been ongoing email correspondence.
- HCC had provided a summary of its financial information and its response to the SMART targets that day.
- The Beehive WG will review this information as the lease will set out clear measures and targets to be agreed.
- The next step would be to agree Heads of Terms.

Cllr Craddock agreed that there had been a good meeting with HCC.

The Town Clerk advised that if the Head of Terms were received in time, these would be discussed at the Full Council meeting in March and if agreed the solicitor would be instructed to draft the lease.

Cllr S Sexton noted the positive report but that the proposed timescale was different to the one in the PIP. Could reassurance be provided to HCC that the lease would be ready in March rather than July 2025?

The Town Clerk confirmed that swifter progress had been made than originally anticipated and the PIP now needs to reflect this. It is hoped that the Heads of Terms will be ready in March. This depends on the completion of the post tender negotiations and how long the solicitor will take to prepare the Heads of Terms. The sooner the Heads of Terms are agreed the sooner the lease can be drawn up.

Cllr Baldock agreed that HTC should do what it can to assist HCC with bookings by providing what assurances it can.

Cllr McCollum highlighted that it is HCC who is running the Beehive, but that HTC will do all it can to progress the new lease.

The Chairman allowed Mr Stephen Boyd, HCC Director to address Members.

Mr Boyd suggested that if the Beehive WG was supportive of a new lease after their next meeting, it would be reasonable to allow HCC to take responsibility to provide a positive view to the bookings made as those bookings are vital to the financial viability of HCC's business plan. Failure to do so could leave HCC with a massive hole during the most important period of the year for HCC when bookings and income are at their strongest. HCC are positive about the outcome of the negotiations, and it is not unreasonable for them to give that assurance to HCC's suppliers of events.

Cllr McCollum confirmed that he would take the above request to the Beehive WG.

The Town Clerk confirmed that it was not for HTC to tell HCC whether they could take bookings. HTC had provided reassurance to HCC regarding the new lease, and it was for HCC to decide how to act on that reassurance.

**Members NOTED progress towards new lease of the Beehive**

Cllrs R Sexton and Kolek returned to the meeting at 20.00pm

**24/284 Consultations**

Members were advised of the dates by when the Town Clerk required their comments:

- a. Honiton Primary School age range: Immediate
- b. Blackdown Hills National Landscape Management Plan 2025-30: 25.2.25
- c. Clyst St Mary & Sowton (Bishops Clyst) Neighbourhood Plan (Modification Proposal): 7.3.25
- d. EDDC Draft Housing Strategy 2025-2030: 21.3.25
- e. Devon & Cornwall Neighbourhood Alert: Let's Talk Devon & Cornwall Priority Survey: 28.2.25
- f. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service; Automatic Fire Alarms: 8.3.25.

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to Delegate to the Town Clerk to respond to consultations on behalf of the Council (in consultation with all Councillors)**

**Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Kolek**

**24/285 [Accounts](#)**

**Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve all payments except HTC 21034, 21035 and 21036**

**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Sheen**

Cllrs R Sexton and Kolek left the meeting at 20.04pm

**Members RESOLVED to approve payments HTC 21034, 21035 and 21036**

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Brown**

For 9; Against 0; Abstentions 1

Cllrs R Sexton and Kolek returned to the meeting at 20.06pm

**24/286 Exempt Business**

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

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Brown**

- 24/287 Re-ordering of the Agenda**  
**Members RESOLVED unanimously to re-order the Agenda by moving items 24/288 and 24/289 to be discussed before item 24/290.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Maunder and seconded by Cllr Craddock**
- 24/288 Appointment of Contractor: King Street Toilet Block**  
**Members RESOLVED unanimously to appoint BPM Building Services for occasional and planned maintenance at the King Street toilet block from 1.4.25.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Sheen**
- 24/289 Annual Leave 24/25 and Carry Over to 25/26**  
**Members NOTED annual leave 24/25 and RESOLVED unanimously to approve Delegation of carry-over to 25/26 to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Council Chairman and Deputy).**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham.**
- Cllrs R Sexton and Kolek left the meeting at 20.14pm
- 24/290 Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs**  
**Members RESOLVED to agree to underwrite total contribution to HCC of £5000.00 for November 2024.**  
**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Brown**  
For 8, Against 1, Abstentions 1.
- 24/291 To close the meeting**  
The meeting closed at 8.30pm.