

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 8
September 2025 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr S Atherton
Cllr C Doran
Cllr J Fotheringham
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr R Sexton
Cllr M Sheen
Cllr L Wakefield
Cllr S Thorne

St Paul's Ward

Cllr S Craddock
Cllr D Hayler
Cllr A Pearsall (Chair)
Cllr S Sexton
Cllr H Turner
Cllr C Kolek

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr R Collins – EDDC

25/114 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Coombs (personal)
Cllr C Maunder (personal)

25/115 Declarations of Interests

Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/128 and 25/130)
Cllr R Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/128 and 25/130)
Cllr C Kolek -Pecuniary Interest (Items 25/120, 25/128 and 25/130)

25/116 Dispensations

The Town Clerk confirmed he had granted Cllr C Kolek a dispensation in relation to items 25/120, 25/128 and 25/130 which allowed Councillor Kolek to remain in the meeting whilst these agenda items were being discussed, contribute to the debate but would prevent her from voting.

25/117 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

None received

25/118 Reports from District and County Councillors

The [attached report](#) was provided by Cllr R Jefferies after the meeting.

Cllr R Collins spoke as follows:

- EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee had reviewed the proposed allocations for Honiton at their meeting on 2.9.25. The Committee had retained two of the three sites adjacent to St Michaels but had rejected Honi_12. Instead, the Committee had increased the allocation of housing at Northcote Hill – 39a and 39b. As this was a sensitive

landscape EDDC was proposing another round of consultations which would allow HTC to discuss the plans further.

- Following on from HTC's Finance & Policy Committee discussing the impact the LGRC would have on Honiton's precept, EDDC's Cabinet were advised that there was nothing in the Government's documentation relating to Town and Parish Councils.

25/119 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr R Sexton – Attended the Police Advocates meeting on 3.9.25.

[See attached report.](#)

Cllr H Turner – [The Den](#) and [the Baton](#). See attached reports

Cllr S Sexton – Honiton Carers had received a donation of £1200 from the Charter Day Committee.

25/120 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.

Cllr R Fowles provided a [report](#) on the first meeting of the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group – see notes attached. The following points were raised:

- Involvement of Honiton Community Complex.
- Consequence of widening the remit of the WG causing delays in dealing with Honiton Community Complex's request for air conditioning in the JLA.
- Availability of low carbon grants
- Maintenance costs involved
- Ecological benefits

Members RESOLVED to widen the scope of the Air conditioning Working Group to incorporate a carbon assessment of The Beehive building and to change the name of the Working Group to The Beehive Low Carbon Working Group.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Cradock

For: 11; Against 0; Abstentions 3

Members RESOLVED to delegate to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group to instruct a consultant with a cost limit of £5000.

Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr Sheen

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 3

25/121 Correspondence: 9th July 2025 – 6th August 2025

Members **NOTED** the item.

The Town Clerk read out a letter of thanks received from Dave Retter.

25/122 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 11 August 2025

Cllr Thorne advised that she had voted against the resolution 25/112.

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 11 August 2025, with item 25/112 amended to show that 11 Cllrs had voted in favour of the motion, 1 against and 0 abstentions.

Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 12; Against 0; Abstentions 2.

Cllr S Sexton queried whether the action noted at 25/97 would be implemented. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be discussed at the Cllr briefing on 17th September 2025.

25/123 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/124 Membership of Committees and Working Groups

Cllr Fotheringham advised that the Beehive Working Group had fulfilled its task and therefore should be disbanded. Cllr Fotheringham thanked all the members of the Working Group (current and past) and the Town Clerk.

Cllr Sheen volunteered to join the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group.

Cllr Fowles requested that the Beehive manager be invited to join the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group as a representative for Honiton Community Complex. Cllr Fowles also requested that an HTC officer attend the Working Group meetings.

Cllr Wakefield resigned from the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group.

Cllr Fotheringham resigned from the Communications Working Group.

Cllr Pearsall resigned from the Planning Committee.

The Town Clerk advised that Working Groups are flexible with regards to meeting times/dates and officer attendance is resource intensive and unusual. However, if the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group requests officer attendance at meetings he will arrange this. Cllr Fowles advised that the request would be discussed at the next Beehive Low Carbon Working Group meeting.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to approve the above changes.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

25/125 Outside Bodies

Members RESOLVED to

a. include i) Honiton Library ii) Honiton Carers and iii) Devon Freewheelers as Outside Bodies

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 1

b. appoint unanimously Cllrs S Sexton and Wakefield as Council representatives for Honiton Library; Cllrs S Sexton and Kolek as Council representatives for Honiton Carers and Cllr Turner as Council representative for Devon Freewheelers.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

25/126 Draft Budget process and timetable for 26/27

Members RESOLVED unanimously that delegated authority to approve the Budget setting process and timetable for 2026/27 be given to the Finance & Policy Committee.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

25/127 Honiton Fair Trade Town Status

Cllr Kolek advised that Honiton had been awarded Fair Trade status 2 years previously. The Fair-Trade Steering Group has to re-apply every 2 years for the accreditation and has to show that Honiton is a Fair Trade town with relevant businesses and community groups together with confirmation that the Steering Group has the support of the Town Council.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to support Honiton remaining and continuing as a Fairtrade Town.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

25/128 Accounts

Members RESOLVED to approve the August schedule of payments excluding HTC 21264, 21267, 21287 and 21288

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham

For 13, Against 0; Abstentions 1

Members RESOLVED to approve payments HTC 21264, 21267, 21287 and 21288

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 12; Against 1; Abstentions 1

25/129 Exempt Business

Members RESOLVED to take the following items into exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 13; Against; Abstentions 1

Cllr C Kolek left the meeting at 19:52pm

25/130 Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs

Cllr Wakefield advised that the last HTC/HCC Review Meeting had been rescheduled to the end of the month and thanked the Beehive Working Group and HTC officers for concluding positively the lease negotiations with HCC.

Members RESOLVED to underwrite total contribution to HCC of £5000 for June 2025

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 11; Against 2; Abstentions

25/131 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 19.55pm.