

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 13 October
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 C Maunder

St Paul's Ward

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

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr R Collins – EDDC
Cllr R Jefferies – DCC
3 Members of the public
5 Members of the public via Zoom
Cllr R Coombs via Zoom

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs C Maunder and Cllr J Taylor to Honiton Town Council.

25/132 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Coombs (personal)
Cllr M Baldock (personal)
Cllr S Thorne (personal)
Cllr J Brown (EDDC)

25/133 Declarations of Interests

Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/138, 25/145, 25/148 and 25/150)
Cllr R Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/138, 25/145, 25/148 and 25/150)
Cllr C Kolek -Pecuniary Interest (Items 25/138, 25/148, and 25/150)

25/134 Dispensations

The Town Clerk confirmed he had granted Cllr C Kolek a dispensation in relation to items 25/138, 25/148, and 25/150 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.

25/135 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

The Town Clerk advised that the [attached question](#) had been received from Mr J Burgess. The Chair noted that this did not relate to an item on the

agenda. Cllr J Taylor requested the right to respond and advised that whilst the previous Monitoring Officer at EDDC had issued said decision, this had been done prior to completing the investigation and had been challenged. Cllr Taylor described the entry on the EDDC website as false and that he would be seeking its removal.

25/136 Reports from District and County Councillors

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

Cllr Kolek asked a question regarding % of children in Devon with EHCP's, attendance in SEP & ICEP schools, and the annual cost of taxis to and from these schools. Cllr Jefferies advised whilst he did not have that information to hand, DCC had more EHCPs than other areas. If Cllr Kolek could email him her questions, he would provide her with a response.

Cllr R Collins spoke as follows:

- EDDC's Strategic Planning Committee had confirmed a second round of Regulation 19 consultation which was likely to be held in Oct/November.
- LGR was an opportunity for Honiton Town Council to take on the 13 acres off Hayne Lane from EDDC. The land did have a sports only condition attached to it.

25/137 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr H Turner:

- Members of The Den would be taking part in Honiton Carnival to raise awareness and attract donations, together with making items for the December craft festival at the Beehive.
- Devon Freewheelers – car wash on 12.10.25 and charity shop in Lace Walk car park would be open Tuesdays and Saturdays between 10am and 2pm and when possible, on Thursdays.

Cllr S Craddock – [see attached report](#).

Cllr R Sexton:

- Attended Honiton Business Network meeting- with a presentation from Honiton Fair Trade and EA Dodds Funeral Directors. Cllr R Sexton spoke at the meeting about the Honiton Town Council Christmas Lights switch-on event, the shop window display competition and Christmas craft market.
- Attended Devon Resilience Forum on emergency planning.

Cllr J Fotheringham – see [attached report](#)

Cllr C Kolek – Attended annual Honiton Fairtrade bingo.

Cllr A Pearsall – had presented the Sports Person and Pride of Honiton awards; had attended Tesco's opening event, the 25th Anniversary of Honiton Running Club, the Police Awards with Cllr R Sexton, Chard Carnival.

25/138 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.

Members **NOTED** the item

25/139 Correspondence: 4th September 2025 – 8th October 2025

Members **NOTED** the item.

The Town Clerk advised that letters of thanks had also been received from the Den and Citizens Advice.

25/140 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 8 September 2025

Cllr Fotheringham advised as follows:

Item 25/122 FC 8 September 2025 should read “Cllr Fotheringham advised that she had voted against resolution 25/112” as Cllr Thorne had not attended the FC meeting on the 11th August 2025.

Item 25/124 FC 8 September 2025 should record Cllr Fotheringham thanks to former Cllr Tony McCollum who attended the Beehive Working Group meetings whilst not a Member but as Mayor.

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting on the 8th September 2025 as amended above.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Wakefield

For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 2.

25/141 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/142 Membership of Committees and Working Groups

Cllr Fowles requested that Mr Stephen Kolek, Honiton Community Complex Director join the Beehive Low Carbon Working Group

Cllrs Craddock and Taylor requested to join the Finance & Policy Committee and the Strategy Committee

Cllr Fotheringham requested that Mr Chris Share join the Footpaths Working Group.

Cllr R Sexton requested to join the Finance & Policy Committee.

Members RESOLVED to approve the above changes.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 14; Against 0; Abstentions 1

25/143 Community Asset Transfer (CAT) Allhallows: licence

Members RESOLVED unanimously to withdraw the Community Asset Transfer application to EDDC for the planters and bamboo hedging at Allhallows and replace it with an application for a licence of the planters and bamboo hedging at Allhallows

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham

25/144 Nationwide bank signatories

Members RESOLVED unanimously to nominate Cllrs Cathy Maunder and Malcom Sheen to be added as Nationwide Bank signatories.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

25/145 Tourist Information Points (TIPs)

The Town Clerk advised that EDDC provided an annual payment of approximately £2500 to Honiton Town Council to provide a Tourist Information Point outside its offices at The Beehive. It was proposed that instead there would be 3 TIPs at the Beehive reception, Library and Museum. All three entities had agreed to provide TIPs and already did so to a certain extent. The proposal would formalise what was already in existence and allow for branding and promotion. The proposed agreement had yet to be drafted but the payment would be shared equally.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to provide (in principle) TIPs at the Library, Museum and Beehive

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Sheen

25/146 Mayor's Robes

Cllr Pearsall confirmed that since becoming Mayor he had noticed the state of the existing Mayor's robes which he deemed beyond repair. Prior to becoming Mayor, he had not viewed new robes as being necessary but since becoming Mayor it had become clear that there were certain occasions where wearing robes was required. At his leaving event, the former Town Crier had offered to put his allowance towards the cost of replacing the robes.

Cllrs Sheen, R Sexton and Kolek spoke in favour of purchasing new robes.

Several Councillors offered to donate their 2025/26 allowance towards the cost of replacing the robes.

Cllr Fotheringham spoke against replacing the Mayor's robes as these were not required in the 21st century.

Members RESOLVED to purchase new Mayor's Robes and Bicorn

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Kolek

For 13, Against 1, Abstentions 1

25/147 Devon Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The following points were discussed:

- Ownership of buildings transferred to HTC
- Freehold transfers or leases
- Transfer of land
- Discussions with other Councils
- Cost implications of taking on assets requiring maintenance and upkeep

Members **NOTED** the long list of services/assets for possible transfer from EDDC to Honiton Town Council from earliest end 2026, which was considered by Strategy Committee.

25/148 Accounts

Cllr Craddock queried the cost of the by-elections and why these were more than previous by-election costs.

Cllr Fowles queried whether the charges from PKF Littlejohn LLP included the additional costs incurred due to complaints raised by members of the public. The Town Clerk confirmed that 1/3 of the fee was for the audit with 2/3 being additional costs due to public challenge.

Members RESOLVED to approve the August schedule of payments excluding HTC 21290, 21291, 21307, 21321, 21326 and 21327

Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Fotheringham

For 13, Against 0; Abstentions 2

Members RESOLVED to approve payments HTC 21290, 21291, 21307, 21321, 21326 and 21327

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 12; Against 0; Abstentions 3

25/149 Exempt Business

Members RESOLVED to take the following items into exempt business.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Turner

For 14; Against; Abstentions 1

25/150 Underwriting of Honiton Community Complex (HCC) Costs

Cllr Taylor requested a recorded vote:

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

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Sheen

For Cllrs Pearsall, Wakefield, Turner, Atherton, Maunder, Fowles, Doran, Hayler, R Sexton, S Sexton, Sheen and Craddock (12)

Against Cllr Fotheringham (1)

Abstentions Cllrs Kolek, Taylor (2)

25/152 Charter Day

Members RESOLVED to appoint Tonic Creatives to plan, manage and operate Charter Day.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 2

25/153 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 19.55pm.