

**Minutes of the Strategy, Economy & Tourism Committee Meeting of the Town
Council held on
Wednesday 14th May 2025 at 6.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Fowles
Cllr Wakefield
Cllr Sheen

St Paul's Ward

Cllr A Pearsall

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
1no. member of public, remotely

- 25/01/SC Election of the Strategy Committee Chairman**
Committee **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Wakefield as Chairman for 2025/26.
Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Fowles
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.
- 25/02/SC Election of the Strategy Committee Deputy Chairman**
Committee **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Sheen a Deputy Chairman for 2025/26.
Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Wakefield
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.
- 25/03/SC Apologies for absence**
Committee **RECEIVED** apologies for absence from Cllrs R Sexton and Brown.
- 25/04/SC Declarations of Interests**
None
- 25/05/SC Dispensations**
None
- 25/06/SC Public Question Time for items on the agenda**
None
- 25/07/SC [Strategy Committee held on 9th April 2025](#)**
Committee **RESOLVED** to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Strategy Committee Meeting held on 9th April 2025 as published and circulated with this agenda as amended: Cllr Pearsall as St Paul's Ward.
Proposed by Cllr Pearsall and seconded by Cllr Sheen

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0.

25/08/SC Decisions from Annual Council May 2025

Committee **NOTED** Decisions from Annual Council 12 May 2025 in particular name of Committee change to Strategy, Economy & Tourism.

25/09/SC Youth Council

Committee **NOTED** progress from the Working Group: Cllrs Kolek, R Sexton, S Sexton and Wakefield to meet initially, then meeting with outside bodies and then to engage with young people.

25/10/SC Council Surgeries

Following Full Council 10th March 2025, Committee **NOTED** conclusions from Council Surgery on Thursday 10 April 2025 and preparations for Council Surgery Saturday 9 August 2025, including survey and infographics. More public attendance would be welcomed. Cllr R Sexton's presentation was good. Next Council Surgery Saturday 9 August 2025 (Methodist Church) must be well publicised; the newly establish Communications WG to be asked how best to publicise. Council should also attend Beehive Open Day 2 August 2025.

25/11/SC Annual Awards

Committee **NOTED** comments on the Annual Awards 2025 including limited number of nominations, Awards presented at Annual Town Meeting May 25, quality of Awards, need for more time for nominations, number of Award and categories questioned and advertisement on proposed Tesco noticeboard. The matter to be brought back to Committee.

25/12/SC Honiton Festival

Following Committee on 12th March 2025, Committee **NOTED** progress with actions and agreed to bring this back to Strategy Committee.

25/13/SC Communications Strategy

Following Committee on 12th March 2025, Committee **NOTED** progress with actions: question about website included in Council survey and Working Group established.

25/14/SC Streamlining Decision Making

Following Committee on 12th March 2025, Committee **NOTED** progress with any actions arising from Annual Council May 2025: inclusion on Delegation of Decisions on Committee Terms of Reference.

25/15/SC Devon Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

Committee **NOTED** the Government's English Devolution White Paper (December 2024); East Devon District Council's and Devon County Council's responses. Full Council 14 April 25 Delegated to Strategy Committee to **CONSIDER** Cllr R Sexton's (with Clerk's comments) draft paper (Planning for Unitary Authorities) and responses to DALC, DCC and EDDC). Cllr Fowles will provide his comments in email; Cllr Wakefield to review paper and comments will be grammatical and punctuation. To be included on future Committee Agenda for Committee to complete and then seek approval from Full Council; Committee is content for responses to DALC questions to be submitted to DALC.

25/16/SC

Coast to Country

Committee **RESOLVED** to subscribe to the Coast to Country initiative (Ignyte) for 25/26. Visit Devon is now Honiton specific and not now a subset of Visit Sidmouth but Honiton must still benefit from "overspill" from Sidmouth. Council information to be forwarded to Ignyte for inclusion on the Visit Devon website.

Proposed by Cllr Sheen and seconded by Cllr Wakefield
For 2, Against 0, Abstentions 2.

25/17/SC

To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 19:35.