

**Minutes of the Transitional Committee Meeting of the Town Council held on
Wednesday 4th March 2026 at 7.30pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Doran
Cllr R Sexton

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Craddock
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk

25/11/TC

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Pearsall and Wakefield.

25/12/TC

Declarations of Interests

None

25/13/TC

Dispensations

None

25/14/TC

Public Question Time for items on the agenda

None

25/15/TC

[Transitional Committee held on 14th January 2026](#)

Committee RESOLVED to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Transitional Committee Meeting held on 14th January 2026 as published and circulated with this agenda.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0

25/16/TC

[Local Government Re-organisation \(LGR\) Feedback from Other Authorities](#)

Committee highlighted its disappointment with EDDC, which raised expectations with the Town Council since September 2025 planning for assets/service transfer (but EDDC did not put in writing); the Town Council in turn increased its Precept 26/27.

Committee **NOTED** the update: developments from EDDC, DCC, DALC.

25/17/TC

[Asset/Service Transfers](#)

Committee considered the strategic options:

- a. Do Nothing (short and long term – not to transfer);

- b. Do Nothing (in short term) and await new Unitary council (as Cornwall, Somerset and Wiltshire);
- c. Lease and SLA (short term e.g. up to 7 years from EDDC (transferring to any succession authority)); and
- d. Freehold transfer (may or may not be with SLA from a unitary council).

Committee highlighted impact on areas if not transferred to the Town Council and that good communications are needed with taxpayers (eg describing what would be achieved and at what cost) and based on consultation. Evaluation of transfer of assets/services needed before any individual final Decisions are made to transfer.

Committee RESOLVED a strategic approach to assets and services transfer: to select preferred option c. Lease and SLA (short term e.g. up to 7 years from EDDC (transferring to any succession authority)); and if not achievable then option d. Freehold transfer (may or may not be with SLA from a unitary council).

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0

Committee highlighted that, if forthcoming, transfer of the Lace Walk public convenience would be without a dowry as facility has recently been rebuilt; at the public convenience is not included in HTC's shortlist of assets/services for transfer; and a new unitary council may offer transfer in which HTC may reconsider.

Committee RESOLVED that it will not accept freehold transfer of Lace Walk toilet block, if forthcoming.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0

25/18/TC

Working Together with Parish and Town Councils

Committee highlighted that the Town Council must lead dialogue with Parish Councils and Honiton's VCSE. Topics of mutual benefit must be found; to have a purpose in engaging and the benefits seen in other parts of Devon.

Committee RESOLVED that the Council continues to engage (threads of common cause) for all parish and town councils and other partners and opportunities to work together) with:

- a. **Honiton's surrounding Parish Councils; and**
- b. **statutory, voluntary, community and business partners operating in Honiton,**

**to jointly develop a Honiton focused community engagement model
Neighbourhood Area Committee/Local Community Network concept.**

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr S Sexton
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0

25/19/TC Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay

Committee highlighted that local councils are pivotal to securing community engagement to influence Decisions so that “grass roots” local involvement in unitary council Decision making is from an early stage. None of the reorganisation bids appear to fulfil Government’s intention without a clear model of engagement or local service delivery. There was concern that some services currently provided by EDDC will disappear. Concern that Planning and Housing services will not be locally influenced.

Committee RESOLVED its Recommendation to Full Council, to ask that Delegated Authority to given to Members of the Transitional Committee to provides the Council’s consultation comments:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-devon-plymouth-and-torbay>

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton
For 4, Against 0, Abstentions 0

25/20/TC To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 20:50..