

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 9 February
2026 at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr S Atherton
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr C Maunder
Cllr R Sexton

St Paul's Ward

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

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr R Collins (EDDC)
2 Members of the public
4 Members of the public via Zoom
Cllr T McCollum (EDDC) via Zoom

25/224 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Coombs (personal)
Cllr S Thorne (personal)
Cllr M Baldock (personal)
Cllr C Doran (personal)
Cllr S Sexton (personal)
Cllr H Turner (personal)
Cllr L Wakefield (personal)
Cllr R Jefferies (DCC)

25/225 Declarations of Interests

Cllr C Kolek – Pecuniary Interest (Items 25/230, 25/240, and 25/243) Personal Interest (Item 25/235)

Cllr R Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/230, 25/240 and 25/243)

25/226 Dispensations

The Town Clerk confirmed he had granted Cllr Kolek a dispensation in relation to items 25/230, 25/240 and 25/243 which allowed Cllr Kolek to remain in the meeting whilst these agenda items were being discussed, contribute to the debate but would prevent her from voting.

25/227 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received from a member of the public and this would be read out at item 25/240 on the agenda when Mr Stephen Kolek would also be allowed to speak.

25/228 Reports from District and County Councillors

The [attached report](#) was received from Cllr R Jefferies
Cllr Collins advised as follows:

- Had attended EDDC's Overview Committee meeting where EDDC's Climate Change officer had confirmed that training was available. A minimum of 6 attendees was required so Cllr Collins was opening the training up to Honiton Town Council members and members of the public.
- Devon's Police and Crime Commissioner was providing funding for a late-night bus service to and from Exeter. These had been successful in other towns and Ottery St Mary Town Council had expressed an interest in such a service for Honiton and Ottery St Mary.

25/229 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr R Sexton: Attended the meeting of the Honiton Business Network.

25/230 Reports and Recommendations from Working Groups and Meetings.

The Town Clerk suggested that there were no recommendations to approve arising from either the Market Working Group or the Low Carbon Working Group and highlighted that the proposed Apple Day and Yellow Day referred to in the Market Working Group notes had not been sanctioned by the Town Council.
The reports were **NOTED**.

25/231 Correspondence: 7th January 2026 – 3rd February 2026

Cllr Craddock confirmed that the Town Management Committee had discussed that attracting coaches to Honiton could support High Street traders and suggested that the town needed to hold events such as Apple Day and Yellow Day.

Cllr R Sexton confirmed that the Market Superintendent had distributed leaflets to shops and businesses advertising the Christmas Tree lights switch on event. It was the Honiton Business Network accompanied by a Councillor who had publicised the late-night shopping.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the complaint regarding scrap in a residential road had been passed to EDDC.

Cllr Fowles noted that the scrap business was not a big enterprise.

The Chairman gave permission to a member of the public in attendance to speak. The member of the public advised that he lived in Northcote Lane opposite the Close in question and that the low loader with the damaged vehicle had been parked up for about 3 ½ years. He confirmed that the business owner had a valid licence and that EDDC has advised that its Environmental Health Department carried out annual checks and that the business was not contravening its licence. This was queried by the member of the public as the vehicle had been there for 3 ½ years. He was aware that the matter was not Honiton Town Council's

responsibility but wished to make the Town Council aware of the problem which was adversely impacting on residents parking.

Cllr Collins (EDDC) agreed and suggested that Devon County Council should be informed.

The Town Clerk confirmed that both EDDC and DCC would be informed of the issue and the residents informed of responses received.

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/232 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 12 January 2026

Cllr R Sexton noted that the Minutes did not include Cllr Fotheringham leaving the meeting early. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be added to the Minutes.

Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes, as amended of the Full Council meeting on the 12 January 2026

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 7; Against 0; Abstentions 2.

25/233 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/234 Membership of Committees and Working Groups

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Jo Fotheringham had asked to be a member of the Footpath Working Group.

Cllr S Sexton asked to join the Finance & Policy Committee.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Wakefield had resigned from the Finance & Policy Committee.

Members RESOLVED unanimously to make the changes above.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Craddock

25/235 Rota of Attendance at the Beehive Volunteer Fayre 20th March 26

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Fayre was running between 10am and 2pm in the JLA at the Beehive.

Members RESOLVED to prepare a Councillor rota for the Council's attendance at the Volunteer Fayre

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 8; Against 1; Abstentions 0

25/236 Charter Day

a) **Members RESOLVED to provide a donation to the current mayor's charity, of any profit generated from the Event capped at £1000.**

Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 8; Against 1; Abstentions 0

b) **Members RESOLVED unanimously to delegate the choice of theme for Charter Day 2026 to the Deputy Town Clerk on condition that the theme related to the granting of the original Market Charter**

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Maude

c) **Members RESOLVED to charge food/bar stallholders 20% of their net profits as advised by traders**

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 7; Against 2; Abstentions 0

25/237 Roundabout at Sidmouth Road

Members RESOLVED to Delegate Authority to Town Management Committee to Decide (within budget) maintenance of the Devon County Council Sidmouth Road roundabout.

Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 1

25/238 Town Centre Management Board

Members RESOLVED to support a Town Centre Management Board as recommended by Town Management Committee.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 8; Against 1; Abstentions 0

25/239 Draft EDDC Playing Pitches and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)

Cllr R Sexton expressed disappointment that there was no mention of alternative locations for new sports pitches, there was little for the older generation apart from bowling and that golf was not mentioned at all despite the benefits involved.

Members RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with the Sports Working Group and Green & Open Spaces Committee) to provide comments to EDDC on the draft PPOSS by 27th February 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Kolek

For 8; Against 1; Abstentions 0

25/240 Changing Places, Beehive

The Town Clerk read out the [attached letter](#) received.

Cllr Craddock queried which other public buildings locally had a Changing Places?

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had done some limited research and could not find any legislation which made a Changing Places a requirement for public buildings. There was a government consultation in 2019 regarding Building Regulations and a proposed requirement for a Changing Places in new buildings but it was not clear whether this had been implemented and in any event it would not apply to the Beehive as it was not proposed to be retrospective.

Mr S Kolek was permitted to speak on behalf of Honiton Community Complex. He advised as follows:

HCC was committed to providing disabled facilities.

- In January 2026 Disability Together visited the Beehive and have provided HCC with a report confirming that the disabled toilet was too small to accommodate a Changing Places

- Under the new lease Honiton Town Council is responsible for replacement items in the Changing Places.
- The current Changing Places has been infrequently used.
- Relocating the facility to the rear disabled toilet has advantages: it is adjacent to fire escape doors with a level access compared to the front of the building which has a ramp and steps.
- Maintaining the Changing Places in situ would be more costly.
- There are two other Changing Places in Honiton although both are currently closed.

Cllr Taylor advised as follows:

- The House of Commons has a Changing Places facility.
- The new lease would categorise the Beehive as a new building.
- The Changing Places was part of the Council's emergency planning.
- The damage to the floor was caused by HCC using the facility for storage.
- Removing the facility was discrimination towards the disabled.

Cllr Fowles requested that the legal position be established but suggested that Part M of the Building Regulations used the words "should" and "desirable" rather than "must" and that the privacy of users should not be compromised. As such the rear location was more suitable.

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/241 Honiton Show

Members RESOLVED unanimously to attend the Honiton Show 2026.
Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr R Sexton.

25/242 Devon Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Town Clerk confirmed the following:

- A meeting with surrounding parish councils had been held on 21.1.26 where a community engagement model was discussed.
- EDDC had held a briefing with Parish/Town Clerks where EDDC had advised that they would be focusing on the transfer of public conveniences and non-strategic related assets.
- A 1:1 with EDDC and Clerks was being arranged.
- HTC will work with other towns and parish councils.

Cllr Taylor raised the issue of Councillors being able to reside outside the parish.

Members **NOTED** the item

25/243 Accounts

Members RESOLVED to approve payments HTC 21451,21456,21458,

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For: 7. Against 1 (Cllr J Taylor), Abstentions 1

Members RESOLVED to approve the remainder of the schedule of payments for January 2026 together with invoice 4073 received from Taylor Signs.

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Maunder
For 8; Against 0; Abstentions; 1**

25/244 Exempt Business

Members RESOLVED to take the following items into exempt business.

**Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Maunder
For 8; Against 1 (Cllr J Taylor); Abstentions 0**

25/245 Health & Safety and HR contract

Members RESOLVED unanimously to

a) outsource provision of professional services for HR support.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Fowles

b) appoint South West Councils for HR professional services.

Proposed by Cllr Maunder and seconded by Cllr Kolek

25/246 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 20.45pm.