

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

**Present**

**St Michael's Ward**

Cllr S Atherton  
Cllr R Fowles  
Cllr L Wakefield  
Cllr R Sexton  
Cllr M Baldock  
Cllr C Doran

**St Paul's Ward**

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

**In attendance**

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk  
Ruth Davenport, Town Clerk's Assistant  
Cllr R Collins (EDDC)

**25/247 Apologies for absence**

Cllr R Coombs (personal)  
Cllr S Thorne (personal)  
Cllr C Maunder (personal)  
Cllr J Brown (EDDC)

**25/248 Declarations of Interests**

Cllr C Kolek – Pecuniary Interest (Items 25/264, 25/265, and 25/274) Personal Interest (Item 25/235)  
Cllr R Sexton and Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/253, 25/264, 25/265 and 25/274)

**25/249 Dispensations**

The Town Clerk confirmed he had granted Cllr Kolek a dispensation in relation to items 25/264, 25/265 and 25/274 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.

**25/250 Public Question Time for items on the agenda**

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had been received (relating to item 25/ - Changing Place) from a member of the public (J Zarczyński) ([attached](#)) and this was read by Cllr Wakefield.

**25/251 Reports from District and County Councillors**

The [attached report](#) was received from Cllr R Jefferies

Cllr Collins advised he had attended and spoke at EDDC regarding HTC Council Tax, EDDC performance at The Glen, strategic planning, Honiton STW and Honiton Bottom.

**25/252 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 to gauge interest in establishing a Town Centre Management Board.

Cllr S Sexton reported that Honiton Carers had appointed a Project Co-ordinator.

Cllr Craddock reported that Trip had a new website, finances were good, an asset manager has been appointed and passenger numbers at 188. The Patient Participation Group (PPG) has stated surgery would have capacity if new houses built, with 8k registered patients, 10k appointments in 4 weeks and 134k patients in 2025 and that the ICB funds Care Nurse.

Cllr Wakefield fed back on the HTC/HCC Review Meeting and highlighted that HCC aims to appoint a new Director, complete its new Business Plan, has proposals for Changing Place, and discussed a dishwasher replacement, solar panels, air handling at the JLA and gas supply (BGL will invoice ££8k and HCC accrued £29.5k – HCC is evaluating financial impact on HTC).

**25/253 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, Maintenance Working Group or the Low Carbon Working Group.

The reports were **NOTED**.

**25/254 Correspondence: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

Cllr S Sexton highlighted it helpful to see Richard Foord MP support. Members **NOTED** the item.

**25/255 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 February 2026**

Cllr Taylor suggested several revisions to the draft Minutes 9 February 2026 Full Council Meeting, including beneficiaries of payments, membership of Working Groups, floor condition at Changing Place and recording of Vote Against.

**Council Decided to reconsider amended Minutes of Full Council 9 February 2026 at its meeting 13 April 2026.**

**Proposed by Cllr Kolek and seconded by Cllr Baldock**

For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.

**25/256 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Members **NOTED** the item.

- 25/257 Membership of Committees and Working Groups**  
Cllr Hayler to be included on the Footpaths WG. Cllr Wakefield to be removed as HTC rep. for Friends of Honiton Station and HTC/HCC Review Meeting. Cllr S Sexton to be added as rep. for Trip and instead of Cllr Wakefield for the HTC/HCC Review Meeting.  
**Members RESOLVED to make the changes above.**  
**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr R Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.
- 25/258 Designation of Outside Bodies and Councillor Representatives**  
**Council RESOLVED to:**  
**a. remove East Devon Local Care Partnership as an Outside Body;**  
**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.  
**b. appoint the DCT led Honiton VCSE Network as an Outside Body; and**  
**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr R Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.  
**c. appoint Councillor Doran as its Representative on the VCSE Network.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.
- 25/259 Date for Annual Town Meeting April 26**  
**Council RESOLVED to request that the Chairman convenes the Annual Town Meeting at 7pm, Monday 27 April 2026.**  
**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Wakefield**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.
- 25/260 [Royal British Legion \(RBL\): Remembrance Day timing](#)**  
**Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk (in consultation with Chairman and Deputy Chairman) to respond to [RBL's consultation on changing the time of Honiton's Sunday Remembrance Day Parade / Service ie. from afternoon to 11am morning.](#)**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Kolek**  
For 12; Against 0; Abstentions 1.
- 25/261 Judges for Annual Awards**  
**Council RESOLVED 3 Councillors (Cllrs Fowles, R Sexton and Wakefield) to judge the Council's Annual Awards 2026.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Turner and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.

- 25/262 **Honoured Citizen panel**  
**Council RESOLVED Councillors (Cllrs Wakefield, S Sexton, Turner and Fowles) to support the Chairman in the informal meeting with and interviewing proposers. [Honoured Citizen Policy 2026.pdf](#)**  
**Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0.
- 25/263 **Lloyds Bank Planned Closure and Banking Hub**  
The Chairman gave EDDC Cllr Collins permission to speak, who highlighted retention of Lloyds, problems with ATMs, banks deliberately “run down”, visits to Honiton for Banking services, could HTC initiate a campaign to retain Lloyds. Cllrs highlighted a letter from a concerned resident, demographics of Honiton and risks from scammers, use of ATMs, additional Banking services must be provided, did not support other Honiton Banks closing and the need for several Banks to be represented at a Bank Hub.  
3 Motions were put the Council.  
**Council RESOLVED to request the SET Committee gather information and feedback a strategy to Full Council.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Doran and seconded by Cllr Fowles**  
For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 5.
- 25/264 **Changing Places, Beehive**  
Cllr Taylor stated that Minutes of February 26 Full Council included that disabled people should be out of sight; that was challenged by Cllrs, highlighting that Minutes did not state (as suggested), disabled people themselves prefer to use rear more discrete public convenience. Cllrs discussed merits of a mobile hoist instead of fixed hoist. That Carers use hoist, not HCC staff. A bed will not be provided to the rear public convenience. People’s dignity must not be compromised. The public convenience at the rear of Beehive is too small to be classified as a Changing Place.  
**Council RESOLVED to agree (subject to EDDC confirming that Building Regulations certification is not required) that Honiton Community Complex (HCC) provides a Community Changing Space (instead of a relocated Changing Place) to the rear disabled access toilet room.**  
**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr R Sexton**  
For 10; Against 1 (Cllr Taylor); Abstentions 2 (Cllrs Kolek and Baldock).
- 25/265 **Beehive Sign**  
Cllr Taylor suggested HTC’s embezzlement of PWLB loan for community centre and HCC provides an arts education & entertainment centre and that this is currently with the Council’s External Auditor.  
**Council RESOLVED to approve HCC’s alternative new sign at the Beehive, as requested.**

**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Pearsall**  
For 10; Against 1 (Cllr Taylor); Abstentions 2 (Cllrs Kolek and Baldock).

**25/266** [Night Bus](#)

Council discussed the demand, age-group of passengers, any animosity between passengers, dealing with people disembarking the bus and concern that increase in Precept funding leisure interests. Funding may be available from OPCC. The importance of keeping people safe including young people and women. Council **RESOLVED** to a. express its interest in establishing a Night Bus to Honiton; and b. support an application for funding of a Night Bus Exeter-Ottery St Mary-Honiton.

**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**  
For 12; Against 1 (Cllr Taylor); Abstentions 0

**25/267** [Yellow Day](#)

Yellow Day was discussed at the Market WG; there appears to be no fixed date. There appears to be insufficient time for Council to operate a June/July 26 Event. The options were not recognised and instead Option C with no expectation of HTC funding but HTC encouraging shops/traders in liaison with HBN to celebrate Yellow Day.

**Council RESOLVED to promote Yellow Day June 2026 at no cost to the Council.**

**Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Kolek**  
For 5; Against 4; Abstentions 4

**25/268** [Devon Local Government Reorganisation \(LGR\)](#)

Council **NOTED** progress (Parish Councils meeting 21.1.26 and EDDC briefing 5.2.26 and (virtual) meeting 16.2.26).

**25/269** [Consultation on Proposals for Local Government Reorganisation in Devon, Plymouth and Torbay](#)

Council highlighted that some Members of Transitional Committee have commented; none of the bids appear to recognise “grass roots” decision making. EDDC Cllr Collins was permitted to speak and said that Government is not funding LGR (savings appear to be from less CEX, Directors and assistants), that LGR will be unsuccessful and that he will share slides from EDDC.

**Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Town Clerk to provide a response to the Government’s consultation (in consultation with Chairman and Deputy of the Transitional Committee).**

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

**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Atherton**  
For 12; Against 1 (Cllr Taylor); Abstentions 0

- 25/270 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 Contributions**  
Council **NOTED** the 2025 annual update on CIL neighbourhood contributions and S106 contributions.
- 25/271 Twin Tigers Grant Application**  
Council considered this application for funding outside of the Grants policy and therefore considered separately in recognition of the success of Honiton's young people.  
**Council RESOLVED to approve payment of a £2k grant to Twin Tigers.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Kolek**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0
- 25/272 Bank Reconciliation**  
**Council RESOLVED Cllr S Sexton as signatory for monthly reconciliation of accounts.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Wakefield**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0
- 25/273 Bank Signatories**  
**Council RESOLVED Councillors (Craddock, Fowles, Kolek and Coombs) as signatories for Council's Nationwide bank account.**  
**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Baldock**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0
- 25/274 Accounts**  
**Council RESOLVED to approve the schedule of account payments to HCC (479, 184, 185, 492 and 496) for February 2026.**  
**Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles**  
For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 2 (Cllr Taylor and Kolek)
- Council RESOLVED to approve the remainder of the schedule of account payments for February 2026.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**  
For 13; Against 0; Abstentions 0
- 25/275 Meeting Extended**  
**Council RESOLVED to extend the meeting to 9:30pm.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Turner**  
For 12; Against 1; Abstentions 0  
Cllrs Taylor and Kolek left the meeting 9pm.
- 25/276 Exempt Business**  
**Members RESOLVED to take the following items into exempt business.**  
**Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr Wakefield**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 0.

**25/277 Dowell Street Wall: Contract**

**Council RESOLVED to award the contract for construction at the Dowell Street retaining wall.**

**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr Turner**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 0

**25/278 Job Evaluation: Implementation**

**Council RESOLVED to implement:**

**a. new Council Pay and Grading structure;**

**Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr Wakefield**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 0

**b. results of Job Evaluation, from 1 April 2026; and**

**Proposed by Cllr Wakefield and seconded by Cllr S Sexton**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 0

**c. pay protection at no more than 2 full years.**

**Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles**

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 0

**25/279 To close the meeting**

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.