

**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Town Council on Monday 13 April 2026
at 7.00pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr S Atherton
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr L Wakefield
Cllr R Sexton
Cllr C Doran
Cllr J Wilson
Cllr C Maunder
Cllr S Thorne

St Paul's Ward

Cllr S Craddock
Cllr D Hayler
Cllr S Sexton
Cllr J Taylor

In attendance

Stephen Hill, Town Clerk
Heloise Marlow, Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr R Collins (EDDC)
Cllr R Coombs (via Zoom)
4 Members of the Public (via Zoom)

25/280 Apologies for absence

Cllr R Coombs (personal)
Cllr C Kolek (personal)
Cllr M Baldock (personal)
Cllr J Brown (EDDC)
Cllr T McCollum (EDDC)

25/281 Declarations of Interests

Cllr R Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/286 and 25/300)
Cllr S Sexton – Personal Interest (Items 25/286,25/287,25/291 and 25/300)

25/282 Dispensations

None

25/283 Public Question Time for items on the agenda

None received.

25/284 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Collins advised he had attended

- EDDC licencing Committee which discussed issues around licencing and gambling and advised that there was help available for anyone addicted to gambling
- Standards Committee with Cllr S Sexton which discussed the Government consultation on standards which could lead to Cllrs being

disbarred. With a lot of different opinions nationally, once elected, Cllrs could be victimised for their views. Once elected a Cllr should remain a Cllr unless convicted of a criminal offence.

- Night bus supported by HTC would be discussed by Ottery St Mary at their Full Council meeting. There was no funding available from the Police Commissioner or Devon County Council. Three night buses would cost £18k pa. One bus costing £6k pa at 1 or 1.30am could be better supported.

25/285 Reports from Honiton Town Council Members with Special Responsibilities and/or on Outside Bodies

Cllr Craddock: attended TRIP Trustees meeting with Cllr S Sexton where it was reported that the accounts were very positive and that TRIP had undertaken over 300 trips per month.

Cllr R Sexton: attended the meeting of the Honiton Business Network and canvassed the High Street to gauge interest in attendance of an initial meeting to progress establishing a Town Centre Management Board. This had received a very positive response, and the first meeting would be held on Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 6.30pm. Attended the Police Advocates meeting and would be attending the Community Safety Group in May. Cllrs were invited to advise him of any issues to take to the meeting.

Cllr S Sexton: attended the Police Advocates meeting and would attend the next meeting in August. The meeting was very positive and fostered valuable contacts with the police which assisted in arranging a local welfare visit. Honiton Carers; EDDC Standards Committee. Cllr Sexton confirmed that she had been attending the Committee for the last 3 years. The Committee met every 2 months; EDDC had appointed a Deputy Monitoring Officer and was endeavouring to raise standards; Honiton Business Network and Volunteer Fayre at the Beehive with Cllrs Wakefield, Craddock and Maunder.

Cllr Wakefield: Attended the Honiton Hospital League of Friends meeting. A request has been made for volunteers to man the shop although the vending machine remains well stocked.

25/286 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 Beehive Low Carbon Working Group.

The reports were **NOTED**.

25/287 Correspondence: 3rd March 2026 – 7th April 2026

Cllrs S Sexton and Wakefield advised that they would be happy to meet with the parent & carer who had emailed.

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/288 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 February 2026
Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of Full Council 9 February 2026
Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr S Sexton
For 5; Against 0; Abstentions 7.

25/289 Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 9 March 2026
Cllr R Sexton suggested that minute number 25/265 should be amended as follows:

25/265 *Beehive Sign*

Cllr Taylor suggested that HCC's revised description amounted to embezzlement of PWLB loan for community centre by HTC. The fact that HCC provides an arts education & entertainment centre 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

Cllr Taylor disputed that this was what he had said at the meeting. The external auditor is in receipt of a number of letters, the content of which has been evaluated by 3rd party professionals. The letters exist and the PWLB loan was for a community centre. Cllr Taylor stated that it is not possible to obtain a PWLB loan for an Arts Centre as these are specifically excluded. One year after the loan was obtained the status of the charity was changed to include an Arts Centre. External Auditor advised that it was waiting for the new lease of the Beehive to be signed. The internal auditor refused to respond to a non-Council member. The external auditor had retired so a new external auditor was looking into the matter. Repurposing a loan is embezzlement.

The Town Clerk advised that it was the resolution made by Members which was important and not the wording above it. These were secondary as not in bold, but they should reflect what Cllr Taylor said and therefore Cllr Taylor should be given the opportunity to correct the wording if necessary. The Town Clerk also advised that the External Auditor had considered the objections and had completed its review of the 2025/26 accounts, and this had been published the week before. The external auditor is a company, and the company had not retired.

Cllr S Sexton reminded Members of the Civility and Respect Pledge and that opinions are not facts.

The Town Clerk advised that Members had 3 options:

1. Approve the draft minutes as written.
2. Vote on Cllr R Sexton's amendment to the draft minutes
3. Request proposed amended wording to the draft minutes from Cllr Taylor.

Members RESOLVED to vote on Cllr R Sexton's amendment to the draft minutes

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Atherton

For 9; Against 1 (Cllr J Taylor); Abstentions 2

Cllr Taylor advised that the proposed amendment to the minutes did not reflect what he said at the meeting.

Members RESOLVED to accept the changes to the Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on the 9 March 2026 as follows:

25/265 Beehive Sign

Cllr Taylor suggested that HCC's revised description amounted to embezzlement of PWLB loan for community centre by HTC. The fact that HCC provides an arts education & entertainment centre is currently with the Council's External Auditor.

Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 8; Against 1 (Cllr J Taylor), Abstentions 3

25/290 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Members **NOTED** the item.

25/291 Membership of Committees and Working Groups

Cllr Craddock resigned from the Strategy, Economy & Tourism Committee and from the Transitional Committee.

Cllr Craddock volunteered to be the Council representative for Friends of Honiton Station.

Cllr S Sexton volunteered for the Town Management Committee and the vacancy for Special Responsibility for Economy.

Cllr Maunder volunteered to be the second Council representative at the HTC/HCC Review meeting and vacancy for Special Responsibility for Economy

Cllr Atherton volunteered for the vacancy for Special Responsibility for Environment and Footpaths.

Members RESOLVED to make the changes above.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 1.

25/292 Co-option

The Chair advised that the proposed co-optee had advised that he was unable to attend the meeting as planned. Members could either defer the co-option to the next meeting or vote on the application in the absence of the candidate.

Cllr S Sexton spoke in favour of deferring the co-option to the next meeting as this would provide the applicant with an opportunity to make his presentation to Full Council.

Members RESOLVED to defer the co-option to the next meeting

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Craddock

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 1.

25/293 Civic Twinning Event

Council RESOLVED to support the Twinning Association with its joint (Mezidon-Canon and Gronau) Twinning event September 26 including financially (budget £1.1k) and Mayor/Deputy Mayor attendance.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Hayler

For 10; Against 0; Abstentions 2.

25/294 Local Government Sector Support

Council RESOLVED to Delegate to the Appeals Committee Members to prepare and submit a non-Decision making and non-binding confidential report to another local council.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 9; Against 0; Abstentions 3.

**25/295 Devon Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
Members NOTED the item**

Cllr Taylor stated that some of the play areas in Honiton were still owned by the housing developer but maintained by EDDC.

25/296 Sports Allocations s106 and HTC Sports Funds

Cllr Thorne queried whether Honiton Community College had provided answers to the questions raised regarding breakdown of costs, to include consultancy fees?

The Town Clerk confirmed that questions had been raised in December 2025 and chased in January 2026 to include a request for a copy of the draft Community Use agreement. The tenders for the construction of the 3G pitch have now been received and have revealed a gap in the funding which the Council is being asked to bridge in part.

Cllr Thorne agreed that the 3G pitch would be a vital asset, but HCC need to answer the queries raised to show that it will bring value to the town.

Council RESOLVED to delay consideration of the item until the questions raised of HCC had been answered.

Proposed by Cllr Thorne and seconded by Cllr Fowles

For 10; Against 1; Abstentions 1.

Cllr S Sexton queried what impact delaying the decision would have?

The Town Clerk advised that motion was for a recommendation to EDDC and that due to the number of parties involved and the procedure involved suggested that the delay would be likely to have no impact

25/297 Otter River Catchment Action (ORCA)

Cllr Fowles referred to the recent presentation received from ORCA and the list of actions they had proposed. This included hosting and promoting a joint public meeting with SWW, members of the public and ORCA – but not the Environment

Agency. The Planning Committee already refuse to support development of housing if SWW cannot show that they have the necessary treatment capacity at Honiton STW.

Council RESOLVED to support EDDC's statement that "further housing proposals will be deferred until SWW prove they have the necessary treatment capacity at Honiton STW" and to host and promote a joint public meeting with SWW and members of the public.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 11; Against 0; Abstentions 1.

25/298 Tourism Promotion

Cllr Wakefield confirmed that whilst the Council was in the early stages of employing a Communications Officer, that person would take on the liaison with Ignyte.

Members discussed the following:

- Whether HTC owned any of the current Visit Honiton content.
- Difficulties communicating with Ignyte due to staff changes and changes with Cllr representation.
- HTC's ability to create its own website.
- Whether the agreement with Ignyte was good value.
- Whether the Visit Honiton content was representative of Honiton.

There was no proposer for the motion that HTC renews its contract with Ignyte for the provision of Visit Honiton 26/27.

25/299 Project Implementation Plans (PIPs)

Council RESOLVED to approve PIPs for the Council's Priority Projects: Communications and Sports

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

For 9; Against 1; Abstentions 2

25/300 [Accounts](#)

Council RESOLVED to approve the schedule of account payments for March 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Craddock and seconded by Cllr S Sexton

For 10; Against 0; Abstentions 2

25/301 To close the meeting

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.