

## HONITON ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Town Meeting held on 27th April 2026 commencing at 7.00pm

### **Present**

24 members of the public

### **St Michael's Ward**

Cllr S Atherton  
Cllr M Baldock  
Cllr C Doran  
Cllr R Fowles  
Cllr C Maunder  
Cllr R Sexton  
Cllr S Thorne  
Cllr L Wakefield (Deputy Chair)

### **St Paul's Ward**

Cllr S Craddock  
Cllr D Hayler  
Cllr S Sexton

### **Also present**

Stephen Hill – Town Clerk  
Heloise Marlow – Deputy Town Clerk  
Cllr R Jefferies DCC  
Cllr R Coombs via Zoom

### **Apologies**

Cllr C Kolek  
Cllr J Wilson

### **25/1 Deputy Town Mayor's Welcome**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **25/2 Public speaking and Questions**

A Member of the Public queried the increase in the precept for 26/27. Cllr Fowles confirmed that he would address this in his report as Chair of Finance & Policy.

### **25/3 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on the 28th April 2025.**

**Members RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting on 28th April 2025.**

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

For 8; Against 0; Abstentions 3

### **25/4 Presentation from HTC Deputy Chairman**

Cllr Wakefield presented her report.

### **25/5 Presentations from HTC Chairmen/Deputy Chairmen of Committees:**

#### **Finance & Policy Committee Report**

Cllr R Fowles presented the report.

#### **Town Management Committee Report**

Cllr R Sexton presented the report.

Public questions were raised regarding the future of the empty Co-op building in Lace Walk and its potential for an indoor market.

Cllr R Sexton expressed disappointment over the empty shops in Honiton. Lace Walk was privately owned, and the owner was endeavouring to find new tenants for the empty units. It was unlikely that Honiton Town Council could afford the rent to site an indoor market at Lace Walk, but this is an example of what the new Town Centre Management Board will look into.

A public question was raised about the loss of Lloyds Bank and the proposed new banking hub.

Cllr R Sexton confirmed that a presentation had been received from Cash Access UK which was currently looking for a suitable location for a Banking Hub. The banks used in Honiton would each be allocated a day in the Hub and there would be a cash machine. Cllr Atherton added that Lloyds Bank would not close prior to the banking hub being operational and Cllr Craddock confirmed that if there was demand, the Banking Hub would open on Saturdays.

A public question was raised about the Honiton street market – the re-opening up of some market pitches was welcomed but why is Honiton Street market not as successful as Axminster or Bridport?

A public question was asked as to what effect the new Home Bargains store at Heathpark was likely to have on traders and shops?

### **Green & Open Spaces Committee Report**

Cllr D Hayler presented the report.

### **Human Resources Committee Report**

Cllr L Wakefield presented the report.

### **Planning Committee Report**

Cllr R Fowles presented the report.

Public questions were raised regarding the proposed Care Home on the former Mill Water School site.

Cllr Fowles confirmed that the application had yet to be determined by EDDC with HTC a consultee in the process.

HTC is trying to protect Honiton's infrastructure. EDDC are in the process of preparing a new local plan in line with national Government targets.

A public question was raised about local sewerage issues and the proposal to build another 136 homes opposite Copper Castle.

A public question was raised regarding a proposed MacDonalds in Honiton. Cllr Fowles confirmed that no planning application has yet been submitted and that a request to make a presentation regarding the proposal would be considered by the Planning Committee.

A member of the public noted that no Honiton EDDC Cllrs were in attendance.

### **Strategy, Economy & Tourism Committee Report**

Cllr L Wakefield presented the report

### **Transitional Committee Report**

Cllr C Doran presented the report

**Cllr R Jefferies (DCC) presented his [report](#).**

### **25/5 Annual Award presentations**

Cllr Wakefield presented Captain Lucy Wyatt with the 2026 Award for Sports person of the Year.

### **25/6 Feedback from Council Grant recipients**

Presentations were received from:

Roger Sleeman – Twinning Association  
Sharon Collins - Hospiscare  
James Kyberd – 1064 Squadron  
Stephen Kolek - CUB  
Winnie Cameron – Honiton Carers Support Group  
Sharon Thorne – Operation Rudolph  
Lauren Smart – The Den, Honiton Community Interest Co.  
Kassa Retter – Honiton Millenium Green  
Stephen Kolek – Honiton Fairtrade

Reports from the following were read out:

Foodbank (Community Church)  
Honiton Primary School  
Foodsave CIC

The Mayor thanked those present for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.