

**Minutes of the Strategy, Economy, Tourism and Transitional Committee Meeting of
the Town Council held on
Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 7pm**

Present

St Michael's Ward

Cllr Doran (from 19.07pm)
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr R Sexton
Cllr R Wallis

St Paul's Ward

Cllr S Sexton

In attendance

Heloise Marlow, Acting Town Clerk
Cllr R Collins (EDDC)

26/01/SETT Election of the Strategy, Economy, Tourism and Transitional Committee Chairman
Committee RESOLVED to elect Cllr Wallis as Chairman for 2026/27.
Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles
For 3, Against 0, Abstentions 1

26/02/SETT Election of the Strategy Economy, Tourism and Transitional Committee Deputy Chairman
Committee RESOLVED unanimously to elect Cllr Fowles as Deputy Chairman for 2026/27.
Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr x

26/03/SETT Apologies for absence
Cllr C Maunder (personal)

26/04/SETT Declarations of Interests
None

26/05/SETT Dispensations
None

26/06/SETT Public Question Time for items on the agenda
None

26/07/SETT Terms of Reference
Committee discussed the following:

- The importance of the Committee's lead on "horizon scanning" and the preparation of a draft Council strategic plan.

- The importance of Youth mental health & employment, in addition to the Council's adopted priorities of the Environment, Economy and Tourism.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to recommend the Terms of Reference to Full Council.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles

26/08/SETT Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Acting Town Clerk advised the Committee that a Devon Town and Parish Council meeting was being held on 1st September 2026 with the Interim Assistant to the Acting Town Clerk attending on the Acting Town Clerk's behalf and 1 Cllr (to be agreed).

EDDC had written to Honiton Town Council and others with an update on the Community Asset Transfer programme. The update advised that EDDC were committed to the CAT programme but that this had been affected by lack of staffing resources and other demands on existing staff. This was being addressed and EDDC were also looking at reviewing the CAT policy, and reconvening the cross-party Portfolio Holder Working Group in August 2026. EDDC would provide HTC and others with a further update.

Cllr Doran's referred to a previous paper he had written on Honiton's identity and working with other stakeholders.

The Committee highlighted its role of leading on "horizon scanning" as per its TOR and the possibility that Honiton would have fewer Unitary Cllrs representing it than the current 5 EDDC Councillors. The Committee discussed the impact the meeting on 1st September would have on whether the draft letter would still be relevant, that Honiton Town Council could still challenge the decision, whilst at the same time work with EDDC and DCC to deliver the decision.

Cllr Fowles suggested that the paragraph relating to the vast road network should be strengthened by inserting the words "which could fall further into a state of further disrepair".

The Acting Town Clerk suggested that the letter be amended to refer to Honiton Town Council as a corporate entity.

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to Recommend to Full Council that the draft LGR (with amendments above) is sent to all Town Councils in the proposed new Devon Unitary Authority.

Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles

Cllr R Collins spoke and made the following points:

- EDDC were holding a meeting on Friday 14th August 2026 to discuss new ward boundaries and an Extraordinary Council meeting on 17th September 2026.
- EDDC could not transfer any assets to Town Council's worth in excess of £100,000.

26/09/SETT Proposed use of Lace Walk unit as a Tourism Information Centre

The Acting Town Clerk confirmed that Full Council had received a report in August 2019 relating to the use of the kiosk in Lace Walk as a joint community and tourism kiosk. Full Council in August 2019 had RESOLVED to authorise Officers to establish an information kiosk in the Kiosk at Lace Walk so that Community Groups, Charities, and other organisations can promote themselves, whilst also providing a Tourist Information Point (Minute number 19/918).

Research however has indicated that the resolution was never implemented. Full Council 13/10/25 RESOLVED unanimously to provide (in principle) Tourist Information Points (TIPs) at the Library, Museum and Beehive (Minute number 25/145). That resolution was implemented with the 3 venues sharing the EDDC Information Desk funding.

Cllr R Sexton confirmed that the Market Working Group had discussed an approach by the landlord of Lace Walk for the market to use the kiosk. The Market Working Group were not proposing to put forward any such proposal but had discussed the advantages of using the kiosk as a Tourist Information Centre due to its location. No costings had yet been put together nor had there been any discussions as to how the kiosk would be staffed (volunteers or paid staff).

Committee discussed:

- whether a Tourist Information Centre in the kiosk at Lace Walk would detract from the 3 existing TIPs.
- The current offering from the 3 existing TIPs and their locations and opening hours.
- Number of requests to the Museum for a town map.
- The 26/27 £20,000 Tourism budget and draft Tourism PIP
- The proposed new website

Cllr Collins spoke and made the following points:

- In 1970s the Tourist Information Centre was in the Angel Hotel, prior to moving to Lace Walk carpark.
- The TIC in the Lace Walk carpark was not successful.

- The kiosk in Lace Walk is not in a good state of repair and is extremely small.
- The kiosk has previously been advertised rent of £6k pa.
- With the closure of the Co-op supermarket and removal of the cash machine, footfall in Lace Walk is now limited.
- The Museum is in an excellent location for the provision of Tourist Information, which could also be provided at the Three Tuns, the Holt and the Railway Station.

26/10/SETT To close the meeting

Committee suggested that approved PIPs be included on the next Agenda of the SETT Committee for review.
The meeting was closed at 20.20pm