HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present

St Michael's Ward
Cllr R Fowles
Cllr C Maunder
Cllr R Sexton
Cllr R Wallis

St Paul's Ward
Cllr S Sexton

In attendance
Heloise Marlow, Acting Town Clerk
1 MOP (via Zoom)

26/11/SETT Apologies for absence
Cllr C Doran (personal)

26/12/SETT Declarations of Interests
None

26/13/SETT Dispensations
None

26/14/SETT Public Question Time for items on the agenda
None

26/15/SETT Minutes of the Strategy, Economy, Tourism and Transitional Committee meeting held on the 12th August 2026
Members RESOLVED to approve for accuracy the minutes of the Strategy, Economy, Tourism and Transitional Committee meeting held on 12th August 2026.
Proposed by Cllr Fowles and seconded by Cllr S Sexton
For: 4; Against 0; Abstentions 1

26/16/SETT Proposed use of Lace Walk unit as a Tourism Information Centre
Cllr Fowles queried whether any locations has been identified as viable for a Tourist Information centre with the Committee confirming that none had.
Cllr R Sexton queried what training and local knowledge future volunteers of a possible Tourist Information Centre would need.
Cllr S Sexton suggested that the existing 3 TIPs (Beehive, Library and Museum) were already staffed and provided consistency. They may be

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scope to add to the Library TIP although the library was currently going through a consultation which could lead to staff redundancies.
Cllr Maunder recalled the Tourist Information Centre in Lace Walk car park which had items for sale and paid staff.
Cllr Fowles suggested that the existing 3 TIPs were merely leaflet information points and that a High Street location was required.
Cllr R Sexton suggested that the existing TIPs were poorly signposted and queried what responsibilities the TIPs had under the agreements entered into.
Committee agreed that a Tourist Information Centre in Lace Walk was not a viable option and that improving the existing TIPs with regards to signage and training would be discussed at the next meeting.

26/17/SETT Neighbourhood Plan for Honiton

Committee discussed the following:

- LGR and changes in planning rules made having a Neighbourhood Plan more important than before
- NP's can assist in resisting unwanted changes.
- Need for NP's to be community led
- Need to avoid tying the hand of the New May 2027 Council.
- Costs

Committee RESOLVED unanimously to express an interest in making a Neighbourhood Plan for Honiton and to DELEGATE to the Acting Town Clerk to investigate further the process and costs required for a Neighbourhood Plan with a view to recommending a budget for 2027/28 to Finance and Policy Committee.
Proposed by Cllr R Sexton and seconded by Cllr Fowles

26/18/SETT Honiton Town Council Strategic Plan

Committee discussed the following:

- Current document only covered 1 year. Strategic Plans should cover at least 5 years to allow time to achieve aims.
- What does HTC want to achieve?
- What is HTC's strategy to achieve its core priorities of Tourism, Economy and the Environment?
- Timescales for delivery of HTC's strategy?
- Monitoring and review of strategy.
- SMART targets to demonstrate achievements.
- New Council in May 2027 will have a 4 year term to develop a strategy.
- Current Council to provide new Council in May with a framework to build on.

- Current document is lacking in detail eg does not list Tourist Information within services
- Approval of the Strategic Plan Rev 2 as an interim plan with a view to working towards a more complete Strategic Plan in the near future.

Committee RESOLVED to approve Strategic Plan Rev 2.
Proposed by Cllr S Sexton and seconded by Cllr Maunder
For 3; Against 2; Abstentions 0.

26/19/SETT Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
The Acting Town Clerk provided a verbal update to Committee.

26/20/SETT Project Implementation Plans
Committee discussed the following:

- Re-allocation of Priority Projects to a Lead Councillor and Lead Officer should be decided by Full Council.
- PIPs to be a Full Council standing agenda item to assist reviews.
- Whether having 3 lead Cllrs is required.
- Information regarding PIPs is too spread out – all information should be held together.

26/21/SETT Tourism Information Project Implementation Plan (PIP)
Committee discussed the following:

- The stated measures of success were not measures of success. Relevant measures of success could include data on the take up of leaflets, number of website hits, number of visitors to attractions such as Thelma Hulbert Gallery or the Museum.
- Current PIP was not specific enough.

26/22/SETT Budget 27/28

Committee RESOLVED unanimously recommended budgets 27/28:

Code	Title	Actual 26/27, £	Current Budget 26/27, £	Proposed Budget 27/28, £	Increase + or Decrease -, £	Comments
4185	Councillor Strategy	5000	0	3000	-2000	
4310	Town Council Newsletter	1000	0	1000		
4320	Website/IT Support/Backup	1000	483	tba		
4340	Tourism	20000	1633	20000		

4345	Health & Wellbeing	2000	0	0	-2000	
4450	EDDC Rates	0	0	0		
4455	Beehive Strategy	0	0	£5000	+5000	
4650	Neighbourhood Plan	0	0	tba		
4705	Youth Council	5000	0	tba		
		34,000	2116	(29,000)	+1000	

Proposed by Cllr Wallis and seconded by Cllr R Sexton

26/23/SETT To close the meeting

The meeting was closed at 20.58pm

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