



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Market Hall, The Square, Holsworthy on  
Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 7.00pm.**

**Present:** Councillors; J. Hutchings, H. Parker, J. Allen, P. Brown, D. Cole, D. De ste Croix, N. Kenneally, G. Mardle, L. Piper, S. Preston & J. Tadman.

**In attendance:** Town Clerk (TC), Assistant to the Town Clerk (ATTC), TDC Cllr P. Shepherd, N. Evans,

**5742. Apologies for absence.**

Councillors: I. Edwards, DCC Cllr. Lynne Rowsell.

**5743. Declaration of interests - *To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on this agenda.***

The mayor asked councillors to declare any relevant interests as they arise.

*Councillor S. Preston declared an interest regarding Agenda Item 16, Minute Number 5758.*

*Councillor P. Brown declared an interest regarding Agenda Item 16, Minute Number 5758.*

**The Chairman Suspended Standing orders (Unanimous)**

**5744. Public Open Question Time**

No questions asked by members of public.

**5745. County Councillors' Report**

**Councillor Lynne Rowsell's Report**

Solar farms – no update at present but I have further information on the wind turbines which is worrying . we are already aware they cannot be recycled at the end of their lives, but the recent news is that wind turbines coming from China, have been found to contain Asbestos. I don't know what is more worrying, the asbestos or the fact that when they are at the end of their life, they have to be buried in chunks because they do not rot down over time.

LGR – There are no confirmed updates I can give you regarding LGR, . the proposals are now being sent to central government for approval. If central government do not approve the recommendations that have put forward, they can override them and implement their own options. Of course, if we do go into a general election before all of this can be finalised this could all potentially change depending on who wins the election. So at this point nothing is set in stone.

Children's Scrutiny – I recently joined the Children's scrutiny committee at DCC where I will be looking at the foster care system in the county. If you have any concerns or question about this please contact me.

Adult Social Care – I have been contacting and meeting with the local care homes to discuss with them what they would like me to deal with, and again if you have any concerns or questions around Adult Social Care please contact me

Public Transport- The re opening of Bideford train station has been given the green light. This would bring in an Estimated £1 billion to the area and would be a welcome addition to the town. This also feeds into our push to bring better public transport links to the area. In light of this I am keen for feedback from you on what public transport serves your part of Holsworthy rural and whether you feel things should be looked at. I have seen first-hand how bad the public transport situation is in Holsworthy; it took me 5 hours to get from Holsworthy town to Bideford and back for 1 appointment. That quite clearly is not acceptable, particularly as the surrounding area to the town itself is now expanding rapidly. This has been mentioned to me on many occasions, by people in the ward and those comments are increasing daily, our local voluntary transport service is doing great things and has supported the community for many years to date and I hope for many years to come but they alone can't supplement the lack of transport here at the moment, so any feedback is useful for future consideration.

Councillors requested the Town Clerk to thank County Councillor Lynne Rowsell for her report. Cllr. L Piper raised concerns regarding the solar farm comments referencing wind turbines and requested clarity on this.

#### **5746. District Councillors reports**

##### **Councillor Lyndon Piper's Report**

Two significant issues currently on the table:

##### Local Government Reorganisation

TDC full council voted through the District Proposal of a 4-5-1 set up for Devon. I supported this, not necessarily through significant confidence that it is the best option on the table but because central government is very likely to make the decision and I would like multiple options on the table for consideration.

##### Holsworthy Agri Business centre

Going to Full Council on 8th of December to decide whether to re divert funds or progress the project. I remain hopeful that the project will progress.

Sorry for the minimal notes. Other things bubbling away nicely but progress not particularly rapid.

Cllr J. Hutchings requested the District Councillors to provide clarity on the decisions made regarding the Agricultural Business Centre to enable Holsworthy Town Council to understand what progress is being made with the project.

##### **The Chairman Resumed Standing orders (Unanimous)**

**5747. Council Meeting Minutes** – To approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Councillor H. Parker proposed to sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor N. Kenneally and approved. (10 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention).**

**5748. Matters Arising** - To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 Meeting. For information only.

Cllr. L. Piper recommended that wording is amended on page 2077 to 'The Ruby Way is continuing to face challenges but is progressing positively'.

Cllr J. Hutchings noted that Holsworthy Town Council should have a representative at the Ruby Way meetings. Further discussion ensued. Cllr. L. Piper noted that he will continue to keep HTC updated as much as possible. Discussion ensued. Cllr. L. Piper suggested adding to January Full Council an agenda item to receive and update on the Ruby Way.

**5749. Review Action Items from Full Council Meetings.**

Councillors reviewed the action list noting the following:

Cllr N. Kenneally has progressed with sourcing advice from Planning at TDC and aims to go to planning in 2026. Cllr. L. Piper queried if this project will be going to consultation. Cllr. N. Kenneally clarified that the project will go to consultation and the idea is to give first refusal to residents in the area that do not have a garden.

The TC informed councillors that DCC are unaware of a road closure for the market now but will investigate further.

Coodes have confirmed that the additional costs for the Lease are items that may occur, however, they noted that in this case, they are unlikely to happen. F&GP to make the decision on the remaining finances for the football club noting the new information.

**5750. Mayor's Announcements – To receive a report from the Mayor.**

The Mayor informed the council of a letter received from the Portreeve, thanking the Council for their efforts for Remembrance Sunday, noting a few suggestions for the future.

He attended the Carnival which was well attended and noted that it may have been the best of yet.

The Army Cadets assisted with the Christmas Lights, measuring the lights and attaching them to the wires. This was a big job which they were able to complete a large amount of the work, which volunteers continued to progress with.

The Christmas Lights were erected. A big thank you to everyone that helped out.

The Christmas Switch-on was very successful and it may have been the first year where every Councillor assisted during the day. Thank you to all councillors.

The Mayor invited all councillors, volunteers and staff that assisted with the event to a get together to say thank you.

Cllr. J. Hutchings met with Lesley the practise manager at Ruby Country medical group to discuss the situation with the blood tests, which they asked to be paid £6 per blood test and were declined by the ICB. Stratton medical centre no longer comes under Ruby Country Medical Centre. There is a full complement of doctors and partners for the first time in a while. They requested to attend a meeting which Cllr. J. Hutchings suggested February Full Council Meeting.

**5751. To Review payments and budget** – To receive and approve the accounts

Councillors reviewed the payments and budget noting that they are happy with the agreed documents. Cllr. L. Piper suggested adding a percentage column to the Monthly Working Budget sheet to show remaining budget.

**Councillor N. Kenneally proposed the Finances for October & November 2025 are a true record and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor G. Mardle and approved. (Unanimous)**

**5752. To Receive, and to Note, the Minutes of the following Committee Meetings:**

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| A) Parks Committee                      | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 |
| B) Finance & General Purposes Committee | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 |
| C) Planning & Highways Committee        | 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 |
| D) Market Committee                     | Cancelled November – No Quorum |

**5753. To give an update on the Council's Earmarked Reserves**

Councillors noted the Earmarked Reserves and are happy with them.

**5754. To discuss the Draft Budget for 2026/27 including projects and reserves.**

Councillors reviewed the Draft budget for 2026/27 noting the budget for Penrose Terrace will remain the same as an increase may not be able to occur, the TC will investigate this. The budgeted income for VAT will be removed. Discussion ensued. Cllrs requested a budget meeting prior to January Full Council to discuss the Budget further.

**5755. To agree the expenditure for the purchase of a new rubber mulch padding under the kiddie play area in Stanhope Play Park as recommended by the November Parks Committee.**

Councillors discussed the wet pour briefly noting Park's recommendation. Councillors felt further information should be presented prior to approval.

**Councillor J. Hutchings Proposed to accept Parks recommendation to purchase replacement wet pour flooring / wood chip mulch in Stanhope Play Park from the Parks and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor J. Tadman and approved. (10 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions)**

**5756. To discuss and agree Market costs for dates in December.**

Councillors discussed their previous decision to approve the additional Markets in December, with the condition that it breaks even. Further discussion ensued. Cllr. D. De ste Croix asked if a personal donation would help cover the excess fees for the Market.

**Councillor J. Tadman Proposed to use Mayor's Allowance to cover any subsidies for the additional Christmas Markets 10<sup>th</sup> Dec & 17<sup>th</sup> Dec and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor J. Allen and approved. (10 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstentions)**

**5757. To give an update on the Christmas Switch-on Event Finances and if applicable authorise any expenditure.**

The TC informed Councillors that most expenditure has now been paid. Cllr. J. Hutchings informed councillors that donations are usually given out to the organisations that have assisted with the event. Further discussion ensued.

Holsworthy Band: £100  
Holsworthy Lions: £100  
Holsworthy Primary School: £50  
Holsworthy Community College: £50  
Holsworthy Army Cadets: £50  
Magical Tots: £50

*Councillors P. Brown & S. Preston declared an interest.*

**Councillor J. Hutchings proposed that a total of £400 is donated the above organisations and be paid from the Christmas Event's Budget and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (9 For, 0 Against, 2 Abstentions).**

The TC asked the committee if there are usually donations given to the Christmas Carols around the tree. Cllrs confirmed that it was usually the sum of £150.

**5758. To Receive External Committee Updates.**

There were no additional external committee updates.

**5759. To Receive Correspondence** – To receive correspondence and make decisions on any actions to be taken on matters arising from these.

The TC informed the council that a request for CCTV had been received from Holsworthy Police Station. Councillors discussed it being a project and noted the locations proposed are on private buildings. Cllrs added that the property owners would need to provide consent. To be discussed by F&GP.

**5760. Town Clerk's Report** - To receive a report from the Town Clerk for information only.

Cllr Cole has asked if the Council would like to invite the Holsworthy medical Centre administrators and/or the PPG (Patient Participation Group) to discuss any concerns at a future Council meeting. **They will be attending the full council meeting in February.**

Cllr Cole has investigated the Southwest Water Storm overflow System in Devon and would like Council support to reduce timelines that currently see best results in 2050- an agenda item with current Holsworthy sewerage overflow system reports will be added to Full Council- February 2026. **(TC to send the information to Cllrs from Cllr. D. Cole).**

TC visited the new Allied Pharmacy and met with the Regional Manager. He explained that Allied has purchased the building. Allied is currently rolling out new signage and advertising throughout all Devon outlets, (formerly JHoots), re-assigning patients from Holsworthy medical centre for prescriptions, filled up to 60% retail inventory based on customer feedback and are recruiting new staff.

After discussion with the Chairs, Planning and Highways and the Parks Committee next meetings will next be held in January 2026. Due to the holiday period, F & GP and Markets will also have their next meeting in January 2026.

Thank you to Cllr Allen and Cllr Parker for judging the Xmas window decoration competition on 3/12/25 and for decorating the Church Xmas Tree on 8/12/25.

The HTC office will be closed for the holidays from Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm until Monday January 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am.

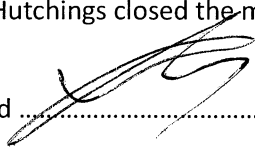
A very big thank you to all the Volunteers that participated in both the Remembrance Day Civic Events and the Christmas Switch On Event.

**5761.Exchange of information** - - With permission of the mayor, to exchange information only on any other subject.

There were no additional items exchanged.

**5762.Close**

Cllr J. Hutchings closed the meeting at 20:12

Signed  .....

Dated  .....

