



**Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Market Hall, The Square, Holsworthy on
Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 19:00**

Present: Councillors; J. Tadman, H. Parker, J. Hutchings, D. Cole, D. De ste Croix, I. Edwards, N. Kenneally, J. Allen, P. Brown.

In attendance: Town Clerk (TC) and Assistant to the Town Clerk (ATTC)

Absentees: No absentees.

5846. Public Open Question Time

No members of public present.

5847. County Councillors' Report

Councillor Lynne Rowsell's Report

1 Southwest Water – Sewage Disposal Concerns

A number of locals have raised concerns about rumours involving South West Water subcontractors allegedly transporting untreated sewage to land sites for direct ground injection. While sewage transport can be a normal industry practice, the allegation that the waste is not being treated prior to disposal has raised major public health concerns. Residents report strong ammonia smells causing illness, suggesting potential treatment failures. Untreated sewage may carry harmful substances, including drugs or contaminants, and poses potential risks to livestock, soil quality and the wider food chain. The matter is significant enough to require follow-up. It is not at this stage verified but it would be good to have reassurance that this is not the case.

2 Potholes and Road Maintenance Inequality

Continued concerns were raised about disparities in road maintenance across regions. Observations from site visits indicate that some areas—appear to receive full road resurfacing, whereas Holsworthy Rural is more often given short-term “dragon patch” repairs, which are less durable and often need repairing shortly after the first repair is done. Comparisons include reports of long stretches (over ¼ mile) of road in other wards, (photos taken) being completely renewed, while similar local roads with equivalent pothole density in Holsworthy are being reported as not being , not a safety issue or are not receiving the same treatment, this is happening across many areas and I would like to know what the issue is with and when that will be resolved to the same quality as other wards are receiving.

3 Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting – Recruitment Concerns

At a recent meeting chaired by Police & Crime Commissioner Alison Hernandez, the topic of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) was raised. Concerns were expressed by attendees regarding comments made by the PCC about the audience lacking diversity and the implications that recruitment should reflect specific demographic groups. Surely recruitment should be based on ability, not protected characteristics.

3.2 Speed Traps and Resource Allocation

Devon & Cornwall Police have launched speed-trap operations across multiple areas, including Bude, Holsworthy, Exeter, Ilfracombe, Bideford and Barnstaple. While acknowledging local speeding issues, residents question whether this focus is driven by revenue generation rather

than addressing more pressing issues such as agricultural crime and antisocial behaviour, which remain inadequately addressed. I want to see more done locally within our community, I am sure people would appreciate that more than dubious speed trap areas.

4. Antisocial Behaviour in Holsworthy

There has been a noticeable increase in antisocial behaviour around Holsworthy over the past 2–3 months, which I have been told about including:

- dangerous speeding and racing between Stratton and Holsworthy, often with their cars loudly backfiring, the air horns being used late at night, and collections of people doing donut rings outside the local police station often until gone 10pm and later.
- Using the war memorial car park as a meeting point for racers, who then speed around the area and have been seen leaving town and going towards Launceston direction. There has been a recent incident of a car leaving the road in a local village, which we can only hope isn't part of this ongoing problem in our town.
- more reports of an incident of a person who appeared to be intoxicated or drug-affected threatening to kill a neighbour while shouting in the street at midnight.
- These incidents have been reported multiple times apparently and are causing safety concerns amid the community. Please can you advise if anything has been reported to your Town council or indeed actioned by yourselves.

5. council tax questions

Since this years council tax has been announced for 2026, I have been asked to raise locals question regarding the Town Council as follows :-

last year the HTC portion of the council tax was 14% and I am told it was listed as being requested "in case the waste collections did not go ahead as had been the concern in some other areas".

- As the situation with waste collection did not occur locals would like to know What the 14% as eventually used for and how was it allocated.
- Please advise what has this year's HTC requested amount been allocated to, or whether that is still to be allocated.

Councillors requested the TC to respond to Councillor Lynne Rowsell's report and request updates on resident complaints as HTC may be able to assist due to close communications with the local police force. In addition, to this ask for clarity regarding the precept mention as this does reflect Holsworthy's increase. Cllr. J. Tadman will contact the Police and forward any correspondence received to the TC.

5848. District Councillors reports

Councillor Lyndon Piper's Report

Worrying rumours circulating about the agri-business park project. It will be incredibly disappointing if the potential of the livestock market is not realised after such a long delay and the golden opportunity of government funding to kick start things. I have asked for an update from officers. Cllr Shepherd may have more insight from the Leader Cllr James. This coupled with the old market site still lying in rubble is somewhat taking the edge off of the very successful new livestock market.

I am meeting with Andrew Combes at the weekend. He has been keeping up communication with Historic Railways Estate regarding the Coles Mill viaduct which will hopefully keep this project on course for de-vegetation next winter.

I see works appear to be progressing in the area of the promised footpath at Rydon Fields. I have asked the developer for an update.

The Sports Hall is having further upgrade works to the netting this week. Please see Active Torridge website for updates. I believe classes are being carried out in the scout hut to minimise disruption.

The youth football club have carried out the annual renovations to the football pitch north of Stanhope Park and have asked if use of the space can be kept to a minimum to allow the new seed to take hold.

I will be attending a Health and Well Being workshop on Monday involving North Devon Biosphere. This will feed into the new Local Plan for Northern Devon. The biosphere team do fantastic work, mostly in the north of the region, and I will be lobbying for their positive impacts to be spread more in our direction.

Final thought - I am seeing a rise in vital community groups across Torridge coming up against serious financial challenges. We seem to be in a world which forces costs onto these groups where they once did not exist and coupled with a society less able to volunteer time I have concerns as to where things are heading. With Local Government Reorganisation on the horizon perhaps it is time to really think hard about how we spend our precept monies and how we can support groups and organisations that make lasting improvements to people's lives.

As always I am happy to take questions from Councillors via e-mail or ideally phone and apologies again for not being there in person tonight.

5849. Apologies for absence.

Councillors: L. Piper, G. Mardle, S. Preston, TDC Cllr. P. Shepherd & DCC Cllr. Lynne Rowsell.

5850. 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.

5851. Council Meeting Minutes – To approve and sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 4th March 2026 & Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 11th March 2026.

Councillor J. Tadman proposed to sign the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on the 4th March 2026 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor N. Kenneally and approved. (Unanimous)

Councillor H. Parker proposed to sign the Minutes of the Extraordinary Full Council Meeting held on the 11th March 2026 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor D. Cole and approved. (8 For, 0 Against, 1 Abstention).

5852. Matters Arising - *To consider matters arising from the Minutes of the 4th March 2026 & Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 11th March 2026. Meeting. For information only.*
To amend numbering duplication.

5853. Review Action Items from Full Council Meetings.

The committee reviewed the action list and noted the following items:

- Correspondence has been received by TDC regarding the allotments. TDC advice that no planning permission is required but suggested a consultation with residents.
- The Annual Towns Meeting will include the presentation of Cheques, Grants and Community Awards.

5854. Mayor's Announcements – To receive a report from the Mayor.

The Mayor updated the committee on recent items such as the refurbishment of the bus shelter on North Road, Torridge District Council have painted it and cleaned the area. HTC will have new noticeboards to replace the former boards.

The mayor was invited to visit Highgate Hill House School and had a tour. It was a great experience and the teachers are doing a great job supporting the students. The students were very friendly.

The mayor also visited a resident that turned 100 years old.

A coffee morning was held in March which was successful and had great help from Councillors and the coffee morning ladies.

5855. To Review payments and budget – To receive and approve the accounts

Councillors reviewed the Finances. Brief discussion ensued.

Councillor N. Kenneally proposed the Finances for are a true record and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (unanimous).

5856. To Receive, and to Note, the Minutes of the following Committee Meetings:

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| A) Parks Committee | No meeting was held |
| B) Finance & General Purposes Committee | No meeting was held |
| C) Planning & Highways Committee | No meeting was held |
| D) Market Committee | No meeting was held |

5857. To agree the Earmarked Reserves of the Council to be brought forward to the financial year 2026/27.

Councillors discussed the Earmarked Reserves briefly and agreed to await the Finance and General Purposes Committee discussions and decisions.

5858. To agree the Civility and Respect Pledge as initiated by the National Association of Local Council's (NALC).

The TC advised councillors of the Civility Respect Pledge noting that it is initiated by the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) and is to promote a safe environment. Cllrs expressed uncertainty asking what the benefits of agreeing the pledge. Further discussion

ensued. Cllr. J. Hutchings asked if HTC has a dignity at work policy at is one of the requirements. Further discussion ensued. Cllrs clarified that they were not against the pledge but noted that it's aims are what HTC strive for anyway.

Councillor N. Kenneally proposed to agree to the Civility and Respect Pledge as initiated by NALC and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor D. De ste Croix and approved. (7 For, 2 Abstentions, 0 Against).

5859.To discuss and agree an internal auditor for 2025/26

The TC has contacted 4 separate internal auditors and have received responses from all 4. 3 of the 4 internal auditors are unavailable, however, one internal auditor is available. Discussion ensued.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed to appoint Elucidate Consulting Limited as Internal Auditor for the end of year accounts 2025/26 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (Unanimous).

5860.To appoint a new banking signatory for HSBC

The committee discussed the current signatories for HSBC. The TC advised that the current signatories are Cllrs J. Hutchings, H. Parker, N. Kenneally and J. Tadman. The TC advised that there be a minimum of 3-4 councillors appointed as signatories. Further discussion ensued. Councillor J. Hutchings suggested waiting until the new council after the Annual Meeting of the council then approve the signatories then as it may be a different council. Discussion ensued.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed Cllrs I. Edwards & J. Allen are appointed as signatories for HSBC and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (Unanimous).

5861.To discuss and agree a public tender process for the green space management.

Councillors briefly discussed the Public tender process for the green space management and discussed discussing it later in the meeting.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed to move item 16 to after 24 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (Unanimous)

5862.To appoint a new Trustee for the Stanhope and Badock Gardens Charities.

The committee discussed the options for Trustees for the Stanhope and Badock Charities.

Councillor H. Parker proposed Councillor D. De ste Croix is appointed the new trustee for Stanhope and Badock Gardens Charities and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor J. Hutchings and approved.

5863.To Receive External Committee Updates.

Councillors reviewed the Police and Crime Commissioner report submitted by Councillor J. Tadman.

5864. To Receive Correspondence – To receive correspondence and make decisions on any actions to be taken on matters arising from these.

The council reviewed the following correspondence:

North Devon Hospice – A request to erect advertising banners in the square on the lampposts. Councillors agreed to allow North Devon Hospice to erect lamppost banners in the square. It was suggested to source quotes to enable the council to review and reprint the previous banners and replace them.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed to allow North Devon Hospice to erect 3 advertising banners on the lampposts in the Square and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor J. Tadman and approved. (Unanimous).

SWAST - Gifting of Defibs. Councillors suggested the office investigate the costs involved in the upkeep of the Defibrillators.

5865. Town Clerk's Report - To receive a report from the Town Clerk for information only.

The Mayor's Charity Coffee morning raised £230.00 towards the HAFC and the Holsworthy Museum.

HTC has received 8 grants with the closing date for applications on April 2nd, 2026.

The Holsworthy bus shelter was refurbished in March by Torridge District Council, and the HTC notice boards will arrive next week for installation by TDC.

The rubber mulch matting located under the youths play area in Stanhope Park will be upgraded and replaced on April 20th and will close the play area for up to 3 days for works to be completed.

The ATTC is in the final stages of the CiLCA certification training, and the TC started the CiLCA portfolio component of the course in March.

Please advise the Town Clerk of any Member nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2026/27 prior to the May AGM.

Cllr Jeremy Tadman and Cllr Nigel Keneally have tendered their resignations as HTC Members effective from May 2026 and HTC would like to recognise and give thanks for their efforts towards the community in their time on Council.

5866. Exchange of information - – With permission of the mayor, to exchange information only on any other subject.

Councillor J. Hutchings read a letter received from a resident for information.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed that in view of the special or confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, it is advisable, in the public interest, that the public and press temporarily be excluded and they will be instructed to withdraw. This was seconded by Councillor N. Kenneally and agreed. (Unanimous).

5867. To receive a staffing update and to agree on workload priorities

Councillors received an update on staffing from the TC.

5868.To discuss and agree the Freeman of Holsworthy Award 2026/27

Councillors reviewed Freeman nominations.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed to nominate Jim Harvey as Freeman of Holsworthy for 2026/27 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor N. Kenneally and approved. (Unanimous).

5869.To discuss and agree the Community Champions Award 2026/27

Councillors reviewed Community Champion nominations.

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed to award the Community Champions Award of 2026/27 to 7 of the above nominees and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor H. Parker and approved. (Unanimous)

5870. To discuss and agree a public tender process for the green space management.

Councillor N. Kenneally proposed to keep current green space arrangement and investigate the tender process and amend alongside the Financial Regulations and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor J. Allen and approved. (Unanimous).

Councillor J. Hutchings proposed that the meeting returns to Part 1 and be agreed. This was seconded by Councillor I. Edwards and approved. (Unanimous).

5871.Close

Councillor J. Hutchings closed the meeting at 21:05

Signed

Dated