

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 7 March 2016 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Michael Earthey Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent John Dyson Paul Wright
Sidmouth East	Frances Newth
Sidmouth West	Matt Booth Louise Cole John Rayson
Primley	Simon Pollentine Jeff Turner (Chairman)
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire Ian McKenzie-Edwards (Vice-Chairman)
Sidbury	Gareth Jones
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow David Barratt
Apologies:	John Hollick, Marc Kilsbie, Dawn Manley

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.05pm.

PART 'A'

165 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Brian Hadfield.

*The Chairman welcomed Cllr Gareth Jones,
the new ward member for Sidbury, to the Town Council*

166 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1 February 2016 were signed as a true and accurate record.

167 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received for items on this agenda.

168 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chairman

- The Chairman reported that a card of condolence had been sent on behalf of the Town Council following the bereavement of Jo Frith.
- The Chairman congratulated Sgt Andy Squires on his award for 20 years' service in the Devon and Cornwall Police service.
- The Chairman reported that Cllr Gareth Jones wished to become a member of the Planning Committee and asked for Members agreement.

RESOLVED: that Members agree that Cllr Gareth Jones would become a member of the Planning Committee.

169 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

170 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Dent congratulated County Cllr Hughes on helping to secure a return visit by the Tour of Britain cycling event to Sidmouth. He also asked Cllr Hughes to confirm that any traffic data which the County have would be made available to assist in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan. County Cllr Hughes reported that all relevant information would be supplied as and when it was needed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

171 Police Report

Sgt Andy Squires presented the police report for February 2016 which showed a total of 27 incidents compared to 24 incidents in February 2015.

172 Committee/Working Group Reports

172.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dyson, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 3 and 24 February 2016.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Committee reports be noted and agreed.

173 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

173.1 Finance Report

Councillor Dyson presented the January 2015 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: that the January 2015 Finance Report be noted and agreed.

173.2 Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Cole, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Feasibility TaFF, reported that a Chairman had been appointed for the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group; Mrs Deirdre Hounsom. The last meeting of the TaFF would take place on Thursday 10 March 2016 and the first meeting of the NP Steering Group would be held on Monday 21 March 2016.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Cole's report be noted.

173.3 Hopper Bus

Councillor Dyson reported that a tender process had been undertaken for this year's hopper bus service and one response had been received from the existing provider; negotiations were now underway with this company.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Dyson's report be noted

173.4 West Country Tourism Conference

Councillor Newth, Vice Chairman of the Tourism and Economy Committee gave a comprehensive report of the West Country Tourism conference that she had attended in place of Councillor Pollentine.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Newth's report be noted

174 Port Royal Flag Pole and Yardarm

The Town Clerk reported that a replacement flag pole and yardarm at Port Royal would be of a lightweight material which would be low maintenance but would not carry the weight of the existing weathervane.

Members were asked whether they wished to contribute half the cost of refurbishment of the weather vane, at a cost of £750, and if so where should be weathervane be relocated.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman of the Council, in consultation with the Town Clerk, be given delegated authority to refurbish and relocate the old weathervane from Port Royal if a suitable location could be found.

175 Alma Bridge – Update from DCC

Nick Jennings, Principle Bridge Engineer, Devon County Council attended the meeting to give an update on Alma Bridge; he tabled plans of the proposed replacement bridge and reported that a two-month consultation process had now commenced. This would be followed by a design process with the intention of a replacement bridge being in place by April 2017. However, this would require some interim protection to Pennington Point; the cliffs were currently eroding at a rate of 2 metres per annum.

RESOLVED: that as part of consultation being carried out by Devon County Council on the revised location for a new Alma bridge, representatives of Natural England and the World Heritage site organisation would be invited to attend a future Town Council meeting at their earliest convenience to brief members on their thinking regarding the bridge and protection for the town from the sea.

176 Provision of Night Time Landing Facilities for Devon Air Ambulance

Sidmouth Town Council had received a request from Devon Air Ambulance Trust to consider the provision of potential night time landing facilities in the Sidmouth area. Toby Russell, Devon Air Ambulance Trust attended the meeting to give a report.

RESOLVED: that Members were asked to inform the Town Clerk of potential sites in their wards which could be considered by Toby Russell.

177 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.

PART 'B'

178 Grant Payment 2016/17

Members were asked to consider the confidential letter regarding a grant payment for 2016/17.

RESOLVED: that a letter of thanks be sent and the £400 would be held in the Grant reserve for future allocation.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL