SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth, on Monday 4 June 2018 at 6.30pm

Ward Councillors Present:

Sidmouth North Michael Earthey

Dawn Manley

Sidmouth South Kelvin Dent

John Dyson

Paul Wright

Sidmouth East Frances Newth

Sidmouth West Louise Cole

Sheila Kerridge John Rayson

Primley Simon Pollentine

Jeff Turner

Sidford Jack Brokenshire

Ian McKenzie-Edwards (Chairman)

Sidbury John Hollick

Gareth Jones

Salcombe Regis Ian Barlow (Vice-Chairman)

David Barratt

Apologies: Stuart Hughes, Marc Kilsbie

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.10pm.

PART 'A'

24 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Father Paul Cummins.

25 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 14 May 2018 were signed as a true and accurate record.

26 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received for this agenda.

27 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chairman

 Deirdre Hounsom reported that the SVNP team had applied for a Locality grant which may take up to four weeks to be received; she asked Members to consider underwriting expenditure up to a maximum of £3,000 whilst awaiting the grant payment.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council would underwrite SVNP expenditure up to a maximum of £3,000 whilst awaiting the grant payment.

28 Public Open Question Time

 District Councillor Cathy Gardner commented that it would be good to have the Fisherman's Sheds area looking neat and tidy for when the former Drill Hall site was marketed and sold as it could help increase the value of the whole area and help kick-start improvements in the area. The Chairman replied that this was already being dealt with by the Town Clerk who was liaising with current leaseholders and would report back to Council as Trustee as and when it was necessary.

 Councillor Dent asked Members to consider sending a letter of congratulations to Dominic Bess who was the first member of Sidmouth Cricket Club to be capped for England. He had scored a maiden half century in his first test match and took 3 wickets in his second test match to help England to victory. The Town Clerk replied that he would do so on behalf of the Town Council.

29 Sidmouth Lifeguard Beach Patrols

Members received a presentation and information from Guy Russell and Phil Shepperd of Sidmouth Lifeboat who wished to start an organised Lifeguard Beach Patrol on Sidmouth beach for the six weeks school summer holiday; they were not requesting any funding towards this project.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council congratulated Sidmouth Lifeboat for the initiative and fully supported the introduction of a Lifeguard Beach Patrol during the summer holidays and would assist in advertising and supporting the scheme where possible.

30 Fire Beacon Nature Reserve

Toby Taylor, RSPB gave a report outlining the work being carried out by the RSPB whilst managing the Fire Beacon Nature Reserve on behalf of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That Toby Taylor be thanked for his presentation and all the excellent land and wildlife management work carried out by the RSPB on behalf of the Town Council.

31 Police Report

Sergeant Andy Squires presented the police report for May 2018 which showed a total of 50 incidents compared to 56 incidents recorded in May 2017; which is a 10.7% decrease on last year's figures.

32 Committee/Working Group Reports

32.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Earthy, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 16 May 2018.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted.

32.2 Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Deirdre Hounsom gave a report of the work being carried out by the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report be noted.

33 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

33.1 Finance Report

a) In accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations Members were asked to note that Councillor Wright, Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, had verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of March 2018.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that Councillor Wright had verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of March 2018.

b) Councillor Wright presented the April 2018 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: That the April 2018 Finance Report be noted and agreed.

33.2 Sidmouth Hopper Bus

Councillor Dent reported that this year's Hopper Bus service had started and the first week had been successful.

RESOLVED: That the Hopper Bus report be noted.

32.3 Manor Pavilion

Councillor Dyson reported that the Paul Taylor Mills summer season bookings were higher than in previous years and that this was an encouraging trend for helping to safeguard the future of the Theatre.

RESOLVED: That the report from Councillor Dyson be noted.

34 Urban Fruit

Cllr Wright proposed that Sidmouth Town Council purchased and planted fruit trees on public land around schools and in public parks. It was hoped that Keith Owen would support this proposal and there was potential to team up with another town via the Communities Together Fund.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council gave 'in principle' support for the planting of fruit trees around the town and for further investigative work to be carried out.

35 Proposed Diversion of Public Footpath No. 60, Sidmouth

The Public Rights of Way Warden, Devon County Council, had written to ask whether Members had any comments regarding the proposed diversion of footpath No. 60, Sidmouth.

RESOLVED: That the proposed diversion of footpath No. 60, Sidmouth be noted.

Suspension and Exemption from Financial Regulations – Manstone Skate Park
Members were asked to consider making a Suspension and Exemption from
Financial Regulations to enable the appointment of a preferred contractor for the replacement of the Manstone Skate Park.

RESOLVED: That in line with Financial Regulation 18.2, Members agreed to the suspension of Standing Order 18(c) and Financial Regulation 11.1(b) to allow the appointment of Maverick Industries Ltd. as the preferred contractor for the Manstone Skate Park project.

37 East Devon Polling Place Review 2018

The District Council was carrying out a review of Polling Places and had asked for comments from the Town Council regarding venues used for polling stations.

RESOLVED: That the East Devon Polling Place Review 2018 be noted.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL