

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 4 August 2014 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	John Dyson
Sidmouth East	Frances Newth
	Simon Pollentine
Sidmouth West	Ann Liverton
	Graham Liverton
Primley	David Addis
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire
	Ian McKenzie-Edwards
Sidbury	Christine Drew
	John Hollick (Chairman)
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow
	David Barratt
Apologies	Mary Jolly, Peter Sullivan, Jeff Turner, Chris Wale

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm.

PART 'A'

50 Prayers

Prayers were taken by Mr Phil Cousins.

51 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 July 2014 were signed as a true and accurate record.

*In the absence of the Vice Chairman, it was agreed that
Councillor Frances Newth would act as Vice Chairman for the meeting.*

52 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Frances Newth	58 Parishes Together Fund	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Comforts Fund

53 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.

54 Public Open Question Time

- Mr Roy Gorman of Stowford Rise asked if anything could be done about the road safety at Stowford Rise especially with regard to the positioning of the bus stops and pedestrian crossing; these were causing danger to the public and pedestrians as cars often overtook buses on the wrong side of the keep left bollards.

County Councillor Stuart Hughes replied that Devon County Council Safety Audit had been carried out, which had raised no problems with the layout. However, he was also concerned with the safety and legality of the pedestrian crossing at Stowford Rise due to the lack of the correct lighting poles which had not been installed at the time of construction. He believed that the solution may be to upgrade the crossing to a Pelican crossing but this would require another Safety Audit to prove the need and additional funding.

- Cllr Ann Liverton asked why the footpath behind the Stowford flower bed was still closed and when the repairs would be carried out.

County Councillor Stuart Hughes replied that the footway reconstruction work would be carried out in October 2014.

RESOLVED: That the issue be raised directly with Devon County Council Highways emphasising the Town Councils concerns regarding safety of the bus stops and legality of the pedestrian crossing at Stowford Rise.

55 **Police Report**

Sgt Andy Squires presented the police report for July 2014 which showed a total of 31 incidents compared to 65 incidents recorded in July 2013; representing a 52% decrease.

Sgt Squires also reported as follows:

- Sidmouth police officers were attending the Stowford Rise area as much as possible but, to date, had not seen any illegal driving when at the site. Sgt Squires expressed his own opinion that if the bus stops were recessed into the verges then the problem caused by dangerous drivers would disappear.
- Sidmouth police were organising a family event to be held at 2pm on 3 September 2014 for families at Stowford.
- Sgt Squires would arrange for an officer to compile a register of Public Access defibrillators currently available in the Sidmouth area.

The Town Clerk read a letter received from Inspector Simon Weare in response to Sidmouth Town Council's concerns regarding sharing a Neighbourhood Manager with another town.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to Inspector Weare and the Chief Officer Group, asking why their decision and response conflicted with the assurance, previously given, that there would be no reduction to policing numbers in Sidmouth.

56 **Committee/Working Group Reports**

56.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dyson, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 2 and 16 July 2014.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted.

56.2 Property and Maintenance Committee Report

Councillor Addis, Chairman of the Property and Maintenance Committee presented the report of the Property and Maintenance Committee meeting held on Monday 14 July 2014 and asked Members to note that two recommendations arising from that Committee would be dealt with in part B of this meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Property and Maintenance Committee reports be noted.

57 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

57.1 Finance Report

Councillor Dyson presented the June 2014 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: That the June 2014 Finance Report be noted and agreed.

57.2 Clinical Commissioning Group

Councillor Mrs Drew reported that she had attended the Wycliffe Focus Group on behalf of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs Drew's report be noted.

58 Parishes Together Fund

The Town Clerk reported that he had received the following suggestions for the 2014/15 Parishes Together Fund application process:

- Increased spending on verge cutting and weed spraying.
- Senior Moments Gardening Café.
- Increased parking and Interpretation Boards at the old recycling centre.
- Public Defibrillators.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk investigate how best to progress with the four Parishes Together Fund suggestions.

59 Town Council Traffic Management Group

Members were invited to propose items for discussion at the next meeting of the Traffic Management Group to be held at 10.30am on Tuesday 19 August 2014.

RESOLVED: That the following items be included on the agenda for the next Traffic Management Group's meeting:

- Cllr Mrs Liverton – Pedestrian crossing and bus stops at Stowford Rise.
- Cllr Mrs Liverton – Pedestrian crossing on The Esplanade.
- Cllr Dyson – Loading/Unloading in the Town Centre especially near Radway.
- Cllr Barlow – change layout of parking in the High Street, Sidmouth.

60 Return of Decision Making Powers to East Devon District Council – Trees

Further to the July 2012 Council meeting when the possible return of delegated decision making powers with regard to trees was discussed; the Chairman reported that it was now time for this issue to be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council retains the delegated decision making powers on trees.

61 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The audit of Sidmouth Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 has been concluded on 18 June 2014 by Grant Thornton UK LLP.

The External Auditor report stated that: 'On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.'

The Conclusion of Audit Notice had been duly displayed for a period of at least 14 days.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Conclusion of Audit be noted and a vote of thanks be noted to the officers concerned.

62 Rotary Wishing Well

The Rotary Club had written to report that they were contemplating the erection of a Wishing Well in a prominent place in Sidmouth. To negate the requirement for a permanent street collection licence it would need to be located on Council property possibly The Ham, The Triangle or Blackmore Gardens. What they proposed was a purpose built, permanent structure to a design that would blend in with the surroundings and be an attraction in its own right. They had asked for the Town Council's views on the feasibility of this idea and whether such a scheme would find approval.

RESOLVED: That although the Town Council was very supportive of the work carried out by the Rotary Club, it did not support the idea of installing a Wishing Well anywhere in Sidmouth.

63 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'

64 Recommendations from Property and Maintenance Committee

Members were asked to consider the recommendations from the Property and Maintenance Committee held on Monday 14 July 2014.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) An automatic locking system be installed to both ends of the Blackmore Gardens conservatory at a total cost of £837.
- 2) The Jubilee Lights be repaired and updated to the latest safety standards at a total cost of £813 using Woolley Bequest funding.
- 3) A letter of complaint be sent to Blachere Illuminations to claim back the cost of repairing the sub-standard lighting.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL