

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Methodist Church Hall, Sidmouth,
on Monday 5 February 2018 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.50pm.

PART 'A'

118 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Brian Hadfield.

119 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Mondays 8 and 22 January 2018 were signed as a true and accurate record.

120 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Louise Cole	126 Port Royal Scoping Study Reference Group	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub CIC Director
Cllr Simon Pollentine	126 Port Royal Scoping Study Reference Group	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Port Royal Club Member
Cllr Paul Wright	126 Port Royal Scoping Study Reference Group	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Running Club Member

121 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.

122 Public Open Question Time

- District Cllr Cathy Gardner commented that the District Council should consider how best to choose criteria for a developer for the Drill Hall site.
- District Cllr Marianne Rixson asked if the 'Plastic Warriors' could encourage local businesses to reduce their use of plastic by running a competition/award and the Town Council should work with the Chamber of Commerce and put this on the Town Council website.
- Michael Temple asked, as the District Council had ignored its own Local Plan for the number of dwellings planned for at The Knowle, whether the number of dwellings at Port Royal would be increased correspondingly from 30 to 70.
- Jeremy Woodward reported that the Vision Group for Sidmouth would be holding a Plastic Free Day meeting on Thursday 22 February 2018.
- Oliver Salter, representing the Sailing Club, commented that the users of the Port Royal Club needed some security to know what the District Council intended to do with their building, especially as the current lease only had approx. 10 years to run.

123 Police Report

PC Steve Lee presented the police report for January 2018 which showed a total of 30 crimes recorded compared to 37 recorded in January 2017.

124 Committee/Working Group Reports

124.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Barlow, Chairman of the Planning Committee, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesdays 10 and 24 January 2018.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee report be noted.

124.2 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.

125 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

125.1 Finance Report

Councillor Wright presented the December 2017 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: That the December 2017 Finance Report be noted and agreed.

126 Port Royal Scoping Study Reference Group

Councillor Turner, Chairman of the former Port Royal Scoping Study Reference Group, presented the report and recommendations from the Town Clerk and the consultant's report from Heynes Planning Ltd and Groupwest. The purpose of the report was to provide an update to members on the outcome of the Scoping Exercise that was undertaken in 2017 in relation to the Port Royal Site. It described the activities that were taken as part of the Scoping Exercise including the research of relevant issues undertaken by the external advisors; the public consultation exercise; the findings of their work and their recommendations for the next steps. The report made recommendations to Members and noted the position of the District Council.

During the discussion, Members made the following comments/observations:

- It was in the Town Council's interest for the Port Royal Club to flourish, therefore the Town Council, District Council and Port Royal Club should work together to improve the facilities and agree an extension to the lease period to ensure security for the future.
- The District Council should be encouraged to undertake refurbishment/maintenance of the public conveniences, Port Royal Club building and Lifeboat Station to help enhance the whole area.
- Any potential developer should be encouraged to take into consideration Sidmouth's historical links to the sea, its position on the Jurassic Coast and its maritime heritage when considering plans for the Drill Hall area.
- The marketing brief for the Drill Hall should be wide and flexible enough to enable a mixed-use development which would be preferable, the design should be aspirational in order to support future economic viability within Sidmouth whilst encouraging possible heritage, community and cultural benefits.
- There should be a financial contribution from the site development towards the beach management programme.
- It was welcomed that the Town Council would continue to work closely with the District Council through the core group of councillors who had been part of the Scoping Study Reference Group.

RESOLVED:

1. That Members noted the detailed research undertaken in the Scoping Exercise that had provided a comprehensive and thorough analysis, including financial viability assessment, of the complex issues related to future development within the Study Area.
2. That Members noted the analysis in the report and in particular the following elements:
 - a. The existing covenant impacting upon parts of the potential development site
 - b. The risk of flood especially related to land outside of the area allocated within the Local Plan
 - c. The lack of financial viability of development if on-site or off-sited affordable homes were included
3. That members noted the report and recommendations of the 7 February 2018 Cabinet of East Devon District Council which if adopted, would result in not seeking a mixed development for the overall site and would seek the marketing of the Drill Hall only.
4. That the Town Council focuses on improvements to and a general raising of standards to the Fishermen's shed and Fish Shop area.
5. That the District Council be encouraged to undertake refurbishment of the public conveniences, Port Royal Club building and Lifeboat Station to enhance the whole area.
6. That the Marketing of the Drill Hall should not commence until 1 March 2018 to enable the draft of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan to be issued.

127 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'

128 Sidmouth Hopper Bus

Members were asked to consider a report regarding this year's Hopper Bus service

RESOLVED: That:

1. Councillor Dent be thanked for preparing such a comprehensive report.
2. Members supported a Hopper Bus Service for 2018; the preference being that this should be a free service run by a local company. It was accepted that a fare may have to be introduced.
3. A full review would be carried out at the end of the 2018 service to include input from the bus company, sponsors, Chamber of Commerce and Sidmouth businesses.
4. The final service decision for 2018 to be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with Councillors Kelvin Dent, John Dyson and the Chairman Ian McKenzie-Edwards.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL