

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 7 September 2015 at 6.30pm

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

Apologies: David Barratt, Simon Pollentine

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.45pm.

PART 'A'

69 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Chairman; Councillor Turner.

70 In the absence of the Vice Chairman at the beginning of the meeting; Members resolved that Councillor Hollick act as Vice Chairman for the meeting.

71 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 10 August 2015 were signed as a true and accurate record.

72 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	73 Report from the Chairman	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Vice Chairman Knowle Residents Assoc.
Cllr John Dyson	87 Lease of Hope Cottage	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Life Member Sid Vale Assoc.
Cllr John Hollick	87 Lease of Hope Cottage	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Life Member Sid Vale Assoc.
Cllr Jeff Turner	87 Lease of Hope Cottage	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Life Member Sid Vale Assoc.

73 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chairman

- The Chairman read a letter received from Richard Cohen, EDDC regarding the District Council's offer to transfer sections of the Knowle parkland to the Town Council. Further negotiations were due to take place.
- The Chairman reported that the District Council would be holding a working together event entitled 'Keeping Well' to which one Member from each town and parish Council would be invited. The event would be held on Friday 9 October from 9.30am to 2.30pm; Members were asked to inform the Town Clerk if they wished to attend on behalf of the Town Council.
- The Chairman reported that an election would be held to fill the vacancy in the Sidmouth Town Council West Ward. Nomination papers must be returned to the District Council by Friday 11 September and if any election is contested the poll would take place on Thursday 8 October 2015.
- The Chairman reported that Sidmouth Town Band had recently achieved 1st prize in their section and 2nd overall in the South West Brass Band Competition held at Exmouth on 5 September.

74 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.

75 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Newth asked whether there were any restrictions for using power assisted cycles on a cycle path. Councillor Hughes reported that there were no such restrictions.
- Councillor Cole asked for the Town Council to be updated on the District Council's response to the refugee crisis in Syria. Councillor Hughes reported that the County Council would be responsible for social services and the District Council for housing. Both Councils were currently waiting for further information from central government.
- Councillor Dyson asked for confirmation that, on completion of building works, Footpath 169 between Holmdale and Mill Street would be reopened with the gates removed and appropriate signage in place. Neighbour residents were concerned that the temporary footpath should not become permanent. Councillor Hughes confirmed that Footpath 169 would be reopened, gates removed and official public right of way signage installed.

76 Police Report

PC Simon Blyth presented the police report for August 2015; reporting that there had been a large number of burglaries from commercial premises in the month. Police had collated CCTV from many shops in the area and were currently reviewing this and CID experts were also involved in the investigation.

77 Committee/Working Group Reports

77.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dyson, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 August 2015.

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

78 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

78.1 Finance Report

Councillor Dyson presented the July 2015 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: That the July 2015 Finance Report be noted and agreed.

79 Parishes Together Fund Suggestion

Councillor Hughes reported that it had been confirmed Sidmouth can now work alone within the Parishes Together Fund by involving Sidbury, Sidford and Salcombe Regis in any funding applications. He asked that Members consider an application for grass and verge cutting throughout the town area. This would be in addition to the visibility splay cutting currently being carried out by the County Council.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council would apply for £5,000 towards grass and verge cutting throughout the Town Council area.

80 Parishes Together Fund Suggestion

Councillor Hughes reported that he had intended to request a ramp to the outside gym at Stowford but it had been confirmed that the gym area can easily be accessed by the footpath. He, therefore, asked the Members consider installing signage to the outside gym.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk would investigate the provision of a sign to the outside gym area, possibly using PT Funding.

81 Prayers at Council Meetings

The Chairman asked Members to consider how prayers would be conducted at future Council meetings.

RESOLVED: That Members would all remain seated in the Chamber during prayers and those who wished to, would endorse the prayer with 'Amen' with others remaining silent.

82 Youth Provision Working Group

The Chairman reported that this working group is currently comprised of Councillors Barlow, Cole, Hughes, Kilsbie, Manley and Turner. He asked that if another Member wished to join the working group to inform the Town Clerk by email though this was not necessary as the number on the existing group was sufficient. The Town Clerk would set a meeting date with Young Devon in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman's report be noted.

83 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The audit of Sidmouth Town Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2015 had been concluded on 24 July 2015 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. A copy of part of Section 3 giving details of other matters not affecting the audit opinion had been attached to the agenda; these items are currently under review by the Town Clerk as agreed with our auditors.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Conclusion of Audit was noted and agreed.

84 East Devon Villages Plan – consultation on proposed criteria for defining built-up area boundaries for villages and small towns

The District Council was reviewing its approach to defining its 'Built-up Area Boundaries' and asked for the Town Council's input. A brief paper that set out what the District Council would like to do and how to get involved was attached to the agenda. Also included was an update paper on the Villages Plan for information. The deadline for comments on the approach set out was Monday 21 September 2015 so that they could be considered before preparation of the next stage of the 'Villages Plan'.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council would accept the criteria set out by the District Council.

85 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

East Devon District Council had given notice that in pursuance of the powers conferred upon it by sections 18A to 18E of the Representation of the People Act 1983 shall undertake a review of all polling districts and all polling places within its area. The consultation period for this review would commence on the Monday 3 August 2015 and end on Friday 25 September 2015.

RESOLVED: That the current Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in the District Council's report be noted and agreed.

86 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'

87 Lease of Hope Cottage

A copy of the current lease was attached to the agenda for Members information. The Town Clerk reported that he had a meeting with the lessee who wished to renew the lease for a further 21 years with only minor amendments and alterations to bring the lease up to date with modern legal language.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Town Council would agree a renewal of the lease for Hope Cottage to the Sid Vale Association for a further 21 years.
2. Clause 2Q would be altered to show that the lessee would pay the full insurance costs in future and this would not be split 50/50 with the Town Council.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL