

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 10 June 2019 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Charissa Evans Stuart Hughes Jenny Ware
Sidmouth South	Denise Bickley Kelvin Dent John Rayson Paul Wright (Vice-Chair)
Sidmouth East	Louise Thompson
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Deirdre Hounsom Emma Murdoch
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire Marianne Rixson
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair) David Barratt
Apologies:	Chris Lockyear, Dawn Manley, Jeff Turner

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.40pm

PART 'A'

24 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Handel Bennett.

25 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 20 May 2019 were signed as a true and accurate record; with the amendment of minute number 15 which to read:

15 Standing Orders

Members noted and confirmed the current Sidmouth Town Council's Standing Orders. Standing Orders and other Council documentation would be updated to become gender neutral in future iterations.

26 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	Devon County Council Flood Attenuation at Knowle Parkland	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Knowle residents Association Member
Cllr Denise Bickley	Environment Committee	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Surfers Against Sewage and Sidmouth Plastic Warriors Member

Cllr Louise Cole	Sidmouth Proposals for Devon County Council's HATOC 2019/20	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Devon County Council Employee
Cllr Louise Cole	Devon County Council Flood Attenuation at Knowle Parkland	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Devon County Council Employee

27 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chairman

- The Chair reported that all Members were invited to take part in a Grumble Walk on Wednesday 19 June 2019 at 10am. Any issues in Town Council wards could be emailed to the Town Clerk if Members were unable to attend.

28 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.

29 Police Report

Sgt Andy Squires presented the May police report which showed 48 crimes in May 2019 in comparison to 49 in 2018, a decrease of 2%.

Sgt Squires also reported the rolling 12 months figures which showed 588 for the period 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2018 compared to 586 for the same period in 2019.

30 Committee/Working Group Reports

30.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Committee, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 22 and Friday 24 May 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted.

30.2 Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Councillor Hounsom gave a report of the work being carried out by the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Committee. It was noted that the draft plan had been approved by the Planning Inspector subject to agreed amendments made and would go forward for referendum shortly.

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

31 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

31.1 Finance Report

Councillor Wright presented the Finance Report for April 2019.

RESOLVED: that the Finance Report for April 2019 be noted and agreed.

32 Prayers at Council Meetings

Members were asked to consider whether to continue holding prayers at the beginning of Council meetings. The Local Government (Religious Observances) Act 2015 allows for all councils to have the right to hold prayers at the start of their meetings and states that council meetings "may include time for prayers or other religious observance, or observance connected with a religious or philosophical belief". Members debated that that in order to be reflective of modern society and not discriminate either Members or the public from any, all or no religion, prayers should not be part of a Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That prayers would no longer be held as part of the Council agenda.

33 Environment Agency Draft Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England

Kate Pearson, Flood Resilience Advisor from the Environment Agency had written to invite Members to comment on a draft strategy, which set out a vision for “a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100.” It had three ambitions:

- Climate resilient places;
- Today’s growth and infrastructure to be resilient in tomorrow’s climate;
- A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.

Members were advised that the consultation would run until 4 July and documents could be viewed and responded to online at:

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>

RESOLVED: That Councillors Hughes, Loudoun and Rixson be delegated to consider the consultation documents and formulate a Council response to be reported to and ratified by the full Council at the July Council meeting.

34 Sidmouth Proposals for Devon County Council’s HATOC 2019/20

As part of the 2019/20 Highways and Traffic Orders Committee (HATOC) Annual Waiting Restriction Review, the following proposed sites in Sidmouth had been agreed by the Local Member to be considered and put forward for formal consultation.

1. The Esplanade – No Loading At Any Time & Buses Only Bay, to prevent blue badge holders parking outside The Marine pub and provide a place for buses to park outside the Kingswood hotel.
2. Ashley Crescent – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent obstructive parking opposite the driveways.
3. Seafield Road – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent obstructive parking opposite the driveway (replacing the current access protection marking).
4. The Grove – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent vehicles parking on both sides of the carriageway.
5. Pathwhorlands – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent obstructive parking to maintain access and visibility.
6. Malden Road – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent obstructive parking around the junction opposite the nursing home.
7. Primley Mead – No Waiting At Any Time, to prevent obstructive parking along set lengths of this road.

Plans of the sites for consideration were attached to the agenda and Members were asked if they had any comments on the above proposals at this stage prior to formal consultation.

RESOLVED: That Members raised the following concerns regarding the Sidmouth Proposals for Devon County Council’s HATOC 2019/20:

- The Esplanade – the buses only bay should restrict waiting time to a maximum of 20 minutes only; to allow for passenger drop off and pick up but prevent parking of buses and coaches on The Esplanade.

- Ashley Crescent – no waiting at any time should also be placed on the opposite side of the road as it was thought that cars may be parked along the wall between the driveways in what was already a busy roadway particularly at School drop off and pick up times.

35 Sidmouth Town Council Gas and Electricity Supply

Councillor Paul Wright, Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, proposed that the Town Council's gas and electricity should be supplied solely from green energy sources. Although this change could be carried out without Members authority, as it was likely to be more expensive, Councillor Wright asked that all Members consider and approve this proposal.

RESOLVED: That, on renewal, Sidmouth Town Council would move their gas and electricity suppliers to those that use only green energy sources.

36 Environment Committee

Members were asked to consider the setting up of an Environment Committee. Following a meeting of the Council held in April 2019 to discuss the Neighbourhood plan and Community Actions, Members requested the formation of an Environment Committee the business of which could include dealing with many of the environment-based issues arising.

The suggested Terms of Reference of the committee to include:

- The Committee formed "to coordinate and improve the natural and built environment of the Sid Valley".
- The Committee to meet no more than 4 times a year, reporting minutes to full Council.
- Any spending by the Committee shall be authorised by full Council.
- Membership to consist of the Chair/Vice Chair, 5 other Councillors
- Non-voting group representatives to be invited to each meeting to include: Sidmouth Arboretum, Sidmouth in Bloom, Sidmouth Plastic Warriors, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, Sid Vale Association and others as required.
- The Committee to help with the co-ordination of the Town Centre Task Force days.

RESOLVED: That an Environment Committee consisting of the Chair/Vice-Chair along with Councillors Bickley, Evans, Hughes, Lockyear, Murdoch, Rayson and Rixson be set up using the points in the agenda item as a basis for terms of reference.

37 Pre-Budget Meeting date

Members were asked to note that the Pre-Budget Council meeting for October would be held on Monday 21 October (previously 14 October).

RESOLVED: That the Pre-Budget Council meeting would be held on Monday 21 October 2019.

38 Exclusion of the Public and Press

The Vice-Chair of the Council to move the following:

"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'

39 Devon County Council Flood Attenuation at Knowle Parkland

John Galt, Devon County Council's Project Engineer and Katherine Mercer, Jacob's consultant attended the meeting to give a presentation and display draft drawings for the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme for Knowle Parkland.

RESOLVED: That John Galt and Katherine Mercer be thanked for their presentation and be asked to return to report to the Town Council if there were substantial alterations to the proposed scheme following further investigatory works.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL