

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 12 May 2014 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.45pm.

PART 'A'

1 Election of the Chairman of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Graham Liverton and seconded by Councillor David Addis that Councillor John Hollick be elected Chairman of Sidmouth Town Council for the forthcoming year.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Hollick was duly elected Chairman of Sidmouth Town Council for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Hollick read aloud and signed the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

2 Appointment of the Vice-Chairman of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Ann Liverton and seconded by Councillor Ian Barlow that Councillor Jeff Turner be appointed Vice-Chairman of Sidmouth Town Council for the forthcoming year.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Turner was duly appointed Vice-Chairman of Sidmouth Town Council for the forthcoming year.

Councillor Turner read aloud and signed the Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

3 Prayers

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Philip Bourne.

4 Minutes

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

5 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow	20 Application for concession to operate coffee van on Sidmouth Beach	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Seafront business property owner
Cllr Frances Newth	20 Application for concession to operate coffee van on Sidmouth Beach	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	EDDC Ward Member
Cllr Peter Sullivan	20 Application for concession to operate coffee van on Sidmouth Beach	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	EDDC Ward Member
Cllr Chris Wale	20 Application for concession to operate coffee van on Sidmouth Beach	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Applicant lives nearby

6 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Barlow asked a question regarding the deckchair and beach hut concession and the rubbish bins that are chained to the seafront railings. Cllrs Sullivan and Mrs Newth replied on behalf of the District Council.
- Cllr Mrs Jolly requested a replacement hand drier in the gent's toilet at The Ham and an additional toilet near the Bowling Green. The Town Clerk replied.
- Cllr Addis reported that the Bulverton Farm road was in poor condition and needed pot holes repaired. Cllr Hughes replied on behalf of the County Council.
- Cllr Liverton suggested that all local organisations and interested individuals should lobby and complain to the District Council and the owner of the former SES building about the poor condition of this building.
- Cllr Turner asked about the frequency of grass cutting; he was concerned that the long grass clippings would be left to rot down and block the drainage system. Cllr Hughes replied on behalf of the County Council.

7 Police Report

In the absence of a Police representative; the Town Clerk presented the police report for April 2014 which showed a total of 39 incidents, representing an increase of 8 incidents compared to April 2013.

8 Committee/Working Group Membership

The lists of Committee/Working Party Memberships were approved:

Planning Committee

Tourism & Economy Committee

Emergency Committee

Past Chairmen and Personnel Committee

Traffic Management Group

Parish Paths Partnership

Property and Maintenance Committee

9 Members with Special Responsibilities

Nominations were approved as follows:

Finance (Council)	Councillor J. Dyson
Finance (Tourism)	Councillor S.P. Pollentine
Woolcombe House	Chairman of the Council
Alma Lane Field	Councillors Barlow and Barratt
Footpaths (P3 Chairman)	Councillor J. Dyson
Fire Beacon Nature Reserve	Councillor I.J. McKenzie-Edwards
Trees	Councillor S.P. Pollentine
Flag Raising	Councillor J.W. Hollick
Blackmore Gardens Conservatory	Councillor D. Addis
Play Areas	Councillor S.P. Pollentine
Sidbury Public Conveniences	Councillor J. Hollick
Manstone Public Conveniences	Councillor C. Wale
Seafront Amenity Building	Councillor Ms. D. Manley

Trustee:

The Ham	Councillors Mrs. F.I. Newth & S.P. Pollentine
Fishermen's Sheds & Shop	Councillors Mrs. F.I. Newth & S.P. Pollentine
Manstone & Long Park	
Recreation Fields	Councillors C. Wale & P. Sullivan
Fields at Salcombe Regis	Councillors Barlow and Barratt
Hope Cottage (Museum)	Councillor K. Dent

10 Representatives on Outside Bodies

The list of Town Council representatives on outside bodies was approved.

11 Annual Subscriptions

The following subscriptions were considered and approved for renewal:

Organisation:	Devon Association of Local Councils/NALC	£1,222
	Society of Local Council Clerks	£ 227
	South West Regional Board	£ 299
	Information Commission	£ 35
	International Tree Foundation	£ 25
	Campaign to Protect Rural England	£ 10
	Walkers are Welcome	£ 50

12 Register of Members' Interests and Register of Gifts and Hospitality

Members were reminded to update their registers in respect of Members' Interests and gifts/hospitality.

13 Members' Allowances

Members were reminded to notify the Town Clerk if they were not claiming a Members' Allowance; otherwise back payments would be made for 2014/2015.

14 Council Property

Deeds and Trust documents in the custody of the Town Council were available for Members' inspection and the Town Clerk reported that they were always available in the office on request.

15 Standing Orders

Members were asked to consider the revised Standing Orders; as previously circulated.

RESOLVED: That the revised Standing Orders be noted and agreed.

16 Committee/Working Group Reports

16.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dyson, Chairman of the Planning Committee presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 9 and 23 April 2014.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted.

16.2 Emergency Committee Reports

Councillor Mrs. Liverton, Chairman of the Emergency Committee presented the report of the Emergency Committee meeting held on Monday 31 March 2014.

RESOLVED: That the Emergency Committee report be noted.

17 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

17.1 Finance Report

Councillor Dyson presented the March 2014 Finance Report.

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

17.2 Sidmouth Hopper Bus

Councillor Dyson reported that this year's Hopper Bus service would commence on Thursday 22 May 2014 with the official launch being held on Friday 23 May 2014 at 9.40am.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dyson's Hopper Bus report be noted.

18 Annual Return

The Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. Howard Slack, had visited the Council Offices and undertaken the Audit of the Council's accounts. Attached with the agenda was a copy of Mr Slack's letter and Internal Audit Report; together with a statement of the Reserves Schedule and the final Statement of Accounts which was required to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk. Members were asked to consider the Annual Governance Statement in Section 2 as this would require completion prior to signing. Members asked that the minutes show their thanks to the Council's staff, especially Mrs Hall and Mrs White for the preparation and keeping of the accounts as highlighted by the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement be noted and agreed for signing by the Chairman and Town Clerk.

19 Parishes Together Fund

Jamie Buckley, EDDC's Community Engagement and Funding Officer had written to confirm that the Parishes Together Fund was available for Parish and Town Councils to apply for again this year; it was now open for applications.

East Devon District Council and Devon County Council had worked together again to put the sum of £1.10 per elector into a 'Parishes Together Fund' grants scheme that

could be applied for. The Town Council could qualify for the funding if it worked together and involved the community to try and solve local issues. All applications must be submitted jointly from two or more parishes. The funding could be used for anything from permanent items to events, networks and one-off costs.

Each Town or Parish Council involved could apply for up to £1.10 for every person in their parish that was listed on the Electoral Roll in February 2014. Sidmouth Town Council's own funding allocation would be of a similar level to 2013.

RESOLVED: That Members would forward their ideas to the Town Clerk for further discussion at the July Council meeting.

20 Application for concession to operate coffee van on Sidmouth Beach

The District Council had received an application for a concession to operate a coffee van from the area of Sidmouth beach to the western end of The Esplanade. The Streetscene Manager had been consulted on the proposal and his comments were attached along with a copy of the original proposal. The Town Council was asked for its comments.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council did not support this application for the following reasons:

- The concession would create a precedent of trading on the beach which is not in keeping with a sensitive conservation area and the Sidmouth Regency seafront and should not be encouraged.
- The coffee van could increase litter on the beach with the use of cardboard cups and sandwich/cake wrappings. There was also the potential increased attraction for seagulls and rats with a food outlet on the beach.
- The concession would create unfair competition to other established seafront businesses that were required to pay rent, business rates and other overheads that the coffee van would not incur.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL