

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Tourism and Economy Committee**  
**held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,**  
**on Monday 9 December 2019 at 6.30 pm**

Councillors present: Ian Barlow  
David Barratt  
Louise Cole  
Deirdre Hounsom  
Louise Thompson

Apologies: Denise Bickley, Charissa Evans, Stuart Hughes, Chris Lockyear, John Rayson  
Marianne Rixson

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.45pm

**PART 'A'**

**23 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Monday 9 September 2019 were signed as a true and accurate record.

**24 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Louise Cole	27 Licensing – Street Trading	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Sidmouth Sea Fest Committee Member

**25 Information Centre Manager's Report & Financial Report**

Jeff Bailey, Information Centre Manager, presented the Information Centre's report and the Finance Report for the period to October 2019 in respect of the Sidmouth Information Centre. Members also noted the use and operation of Sidmouth Information Centre would form part of the next phase of the Tourism & Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Forum work.

**RESOLVED:** That the Sidmouth Information Centre Reports be noted.

**26 Regulating & Monitoring of Online Accommodation Providers and Safe and Legal Campaign**

Alistair Handyside, Chair of the South West Tourism Alliance and Professional Association of Self-Caterers gave a report on the regulating and monitoring of online accommodation providers and the Safe and Legal Campaign. Members noted that large numbers of accommodation providers in the United Kingdom, including some in Sidmouth, were unregulated and would not conform to basic safety requirements for Hotels and guests houses such as smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Members agreed that a simple registration and public accreditation scheme could work well if introduced across the East Devon District.

**RESOLVED:** That Mr Handyside be thanked for an interesting and informative report.

**27 Licensing – Street Trading**

Members were asked to consider the additional information received from Steve Saunders, Licensing Manager East Devon District Council.

**RESOLVED:** That Street Trading would be discussed further within the Sidmouth Festivals group who will report to a future Council meeting for final recommendation to the District Council.

**28 Sidmouth Festivals**

Councillor Hounsom updated Members on the two recent meetings held with festival organisers which had been initiated and supported by the Town Council. It was reported that the group meetings would be chaired by Peter Murphy in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the Sidmouth Festivals report be noted.

**29 Tourism & Promotion Strategy Task and Finish Forum (TaFF)**

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Promotion Strategy TaFF presented the report of the work carried out by the group so far and asked Members to confirm the inclusion of £50,000 into the 2020/2021 Town Council budget to commence work identified in the report.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the TaFF report be noted and agreed.
- 2) the sum of £50,000 for Tourism & Promotion be included in the 2020/2021 Town Council budget for ratification at the January 2020 Council budget setting meeting.
- 3) delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of Tourism & Economy Committee to utilise the revised budget and undertake the tender process and appoint contractors/consultants as required.
- 4) The Tender documents for the marketing & promotion delivery be prepared ready for issue after 20 January Budget meeting.

**30 Matters Raised by Invited Representatives**

The following matters were raised by the Chamber of Commerce representatives:

- The Late-Night Shopping evening held on Friday 6 December had been very successful.
- Members were invited to attend the Chamber of Commerce breakfast to be held on Wednesday 11 December; this month's speaker and subject would be Julie Tanner, Mental Health and Wellbeing of Young People in Sidmouth.
- Members were reminded that there would be two VE Day commemorative events in 2020: Friday 8 May 'Sing and Swing' and Sunday 10 May Market Place Street Party.
- The winter reduction of car parking prices by the District Council was having an adverse effect on trade as the £2 all-day charge commences at 8am the car parks are therefore full of workers parking all day and shoppers and visitors to the town are unable to park.

**RESOLVED:** That a letter be sent to the District Council regarding the issue of winter car parking charges.

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CHAIR OF THE TOURISM & ECONOMY COMMITTEE