

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 14 September 2015 at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: - Simon Pollentine (Chairman)
 Frances Newth (Vice-Chairman)
 David Barratt
 Louise Cole
 John Dyson
 John Hollick
 Stuart Hughes
 Dawn Manley
 John Rayson
 Paul Wright

Apologies: Ian Barlow, Ian McKenzie-Edwards

The meeting started at 6:30pm and finished at 7.55pm

PART 'A'

15 Minutes

The Minutes of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Monday 14 September 2015 were signed as a true and accurate record.

16 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Simon Pollentine	Regular and/or Christmas Market	Discloseable pecuniary	Left the Chamber for discussion and vote	Potential competing Business Owner
Cllr John Rayson	Regular and/or Christmas Market	Personal	Remained in Chamber	Business Owner

17 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: That the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Committee, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B. The two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce were invited to remain in the Chamber for the first Part B item.

18 Information Centre Manager's Report

Jeff Bailey, Sidmouth Information Centre Manager presented his report.

RESOLVED: That the Information Manager's report be noted.

19 Sidmouth Information Centre Finance Report

Councillor Pollentine presented the Finance Report for the period to July 2015 in respect of the Sidmouth Information Centre

RESOLVED: That the Sidmouth Information Centre's Finance Report be noted and agreed.

20 Town Guide Distribution Figures

The Chairman reported the latest Guide distribution figures which showed that nearly 16,000 2015 guides had been sent out and there had been over 140,000 website hits to www.visitsidmouth.gov.uk

RESOLVED: That the Town Guide distribution figures be noted.

21 Regular and/or Christmas Market

Councillor Rayson proposed the introduction of either a regular pannier market or a Christmas market to Sidmouth.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The licencing aspect would be considered in detail by full Council as part of the District Council's consultation on a revised licencing policy.
2. An outline brief be worked on with a view to holding a Christmas Market in 2016; this would be in conjunction with a potential external event management operator who would give a presentation to a future Tourism & Economy Committee meeting.

22 Red Arrows

At the Council meeting held on 13 April 2015 it was resolved that Sidmouth Town Council would underwrite the cost of the 2015 Red Arrows visit from the Woolley Bequest up to a maximum of £15,000. This commitment was with the intention of obtaining funding from three sources; one third each from SVA Keith Owen Fund, town businesses and Sidmouth Town Council and any collections made on the night would be retained towards the cost of future year's visits.

In the absence of Councillor Barlow, the Chairman reported that although the invoice had not yet been received it had been indicated that no charge would be made for the visit and only insurance and subsistence costs for the team may be made. Donations from businesses were over £6,000, collections on the night were approximately £6,000 with a further £1,000 coming from the crowd funding on the visitsidmouth Facebook page. The sum raised in 2015 would be sufficient to book the Red Arrows for 2016 with the intention of making this an annual event to coincide with the Sidmouth Regatta.

RESOLVED: That thanks be recorded to Councillor Barlow and all his 'team' for all the hard work undertaken to bring the Red Arrows back to Sidmouth.

23 Red Arrows Social Media Pilot

Members were asked to consider the recent crowd funding initiative and Facebook page which helped to promote the Red Arrows.

RESOLVED: That the pilot Facebook page be further developed to promote Sidmouth with regular updates detailing events being held in the town.

24 Matters Raised By Invited Representatives

Mr Richard Eley reported the Chamber of Commerce's position on a number of issues including the following:

- The Chamber of Commerce had two forthcoming events; the Classic Car Show on Saturday 19 September and Late Night Shopping on Friday 4 December.
- The Chamber of Commerce were pleased to see the level of opposition from members of the public to the District Council's proposal to increase the charges for the existing beach huts and install ten beach huts along the Millennium walkway.
- The new arrangements for the Mill Street and Holmdale car parks were still not working; there were currently 35 spaces in Mill Street and 12 in Holmdale that remain unused and closed to the public. The Chamber of Commerce asked whether the Town Council would write to the District Council on this matter.
- A number of Tonga flags had been ordered and would be raised on businesses throughout the town to celebrate the Rugby World Cup and Tonga's match to be played in Exeter.

- The Chamber of Commerce were pleased to see the progress of the TaFF scoping the introduction of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Sid Valley and were please to take part in the process. It was suggested that as part of this process consideration could be given to the old boat park area of The Ham possibly creating a QE2 garden and a few residents' parking spaces.
- Mr Eley reminded Members that there was a large fund of finance available from the Coastal Communities Fund; perhaps consideration could be given to accessing finance for the Port Royal are of the town.
- It had been reported to the Chamber of Commerce that there were a large number of weeds throughout the town.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Economy Committee would write to the District Council requesting that the Mill Street and Holmdale car parks be opened to members of the public.

PART 'B'

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

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.

25 Town Guide Income and Expenditure

Councillor Pollentine presented the Income and Expenditure Report for the period to July 2015 in respect of the Town Guide.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The Town Guide Income and Expenditure Report be noted and agreed.
2. Consideration be given to creating a 'Pre-Guide' flyer to be handed out to hotel visitors throughout December in order to encourage them to request a guide the following year.

.....
CHAIRMAN OF THE TOURISM & ECONOMY COMMITTEE