

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Environment Committee held on Monday 15 February 2021 at 6.30 pm**  
 (Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Town Council met virtually  
 as authorised by the Regulations set out in Clause 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.)

Councillors present: Denise Bickley (Chair)  
 Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)  
 Ian Barlow  
 Marianne Rixson  
 Charissa Evans  
 Emma Murdoch  
 Stuart Hughes

Invited Reps: Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
 Dave Bramley (Vision Group)  
 Ed Dolphin(Sidmouth Arboretum)  
 Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
 Richard Eley, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce  
 Di Fuller (Sid Vale Association)  
 Rachel Perram (Sidmouth Plastic Warriors)  
 Jeremy Woodward(Vision Group of Sidmouth)

Also Present: Kelvin Dent

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm

**PART 'A'**

**58 Minutes**

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020 were confirmed and agreed as a true record.

**59 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
CLlr Denise Bickley	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Extinction Rebellion Member, Surfers Against Sewage SW Representative and Chair of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors and Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
CLlr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
CLlr Kelvin Dent	Item 7.1	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Chair of the Knowle residents Group

**60 Matters of Urgency and Report**

There were no matters of urgency or report.

**61 Exclusion of the Public**

There were no items required to be dealt with under Part B.

**62 Sustainability: Bins – preparation for the season.**

Cllr Bickley opened a discussion around the issues the town had with bins during last summer. The feeling was that the town to come up with ways to clear the amount of rubbish. EDDC had ordered additional bins, a photo of the new bins was shown to the committee which was received positively. A discussion took place around a number of ways to resolve the issue these included, beach marshals, using G4S to patrol the sea front, getting local takeaway companies to be more responsible for their containers, asking EDDC to schedule more frequent bin emptying during times of good weather, and relocating bins to litter blackspots, often a little distant from takeaway restaurants. The committee agreed they would write to EDDC and ask about the issues encountered last year and how they could resolve them.

**63 Sustainability: ‘Get Sidmouth ready for summer’ day – idea.**

A discussion was had and the plastic warriors, the Council contracted team and other groups would arrange a date for a clean-up day/weekend including beach, street, car park clean, , small wins to improve the look of the high street and cleaning signs etc. Denise to write to other volunteer groups, Chamber, shops and businesses, and to media to publicise.

**64 Natural Environment: Management Plan for Knowle**

Cllr Barlow updated the committee about the status of the talks between EDDC and STC regarding the transfer of the Knowle. The future management of the grounds were discussed and the works which were delayed are now progressing well. The Biodiversity Group proposed having a managed garden, a wildlife park and wild meadow operating alongside the other amenities on the site including an enlarged car park and amphitheatre. There was a suggestion that a group be set up called Friends of the Knowle.

**RESOLVED:** that a working group would be set up to look at progressing a management plan to take into account the needs of the public alongside the operation of the amphitheatre, enlarged car park and drainage scheme and residents based around the Biodiversity Group proposals. Volunteers to sit on the group were initially: Cllr Ian Barlow, Cllr Kelvin Dent, Ed Dolphin, and Di Fuller. A Sidmouth in Bloom representative and a Friends of the Byes representative would also be included where necessary.

**65 Natural Environment: Life on the verges update. Free seeds giveaway with information for pollinators.**

Verges at the Bowd were being worked on. The group agreed £500 could be used to provide wild seeds for the community to spread around the area, possibly distributed via Kings Garden Centre. Feedback on the scheme would be fed back to the committee. Cllr Barlow to approach Kings Garden Centre who supported the tree giveaway.

**66 Natural Environment: Biodiversity group update.**

The Biodiversity group gave an update on the bird survey carried out a few weeks ago which was positive, also water samples have been taken from the river Sid and the results will be feed back to the committee.

**67 Natural Environment: Rewilding – Arcot Road bank update.**

Arcot Road bank was exceedingly difficult to work on as there is no safe area for workers unless the road is closed. It was discussed that seed mats could be used if access were possible. This and other alternatives were being looked at by EDDC. The pavement is an EDDC issue, not DCC, as it is an EDDC housing area.

**68 Natural Environment: Tree planting update – Arboretum.**

Tree planning was going well with the garden centre donating trees. Members thanked the garden centre for helping with distribution. Trees have been planted in the area being worked on by the SVA, fruit trees have been planted at the Knapp and Monterey pines to be planted at Stowford. More areas were still needed for planting.

**69 Engagement: Input into the new EDDC local plan: Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report**  
Cllr Lockyear gave a presentation so the Members could consider a response to the consultation documents issued by East Devon District Council in connection with a proposed new Local Plan. (Appendix)

**70 Engagement: Awards for Sustainable Sidmouth**  
This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**71 Low Carbon Town: Traffic ideas update**  
Cllr Lockyear gave a presentation regarding the traffic management plan currently in discussion and be worked on by Devon County Council Highways (Appendix). Discussion was then had where all parties were in support of the changes to the town's road network in phase one of the project. The Chamber of Commerce expressed concern about the proposal to reserve the direction of traffic in High and Fore Streets which had been proposed as part of phase two. Consultations would be ongoing through to the end of March.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

