

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held on Monday 1 March 2021 at 6.30pm

(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.)

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Charissa Evans
	Stuart Hughes
	Dawn Manley
	Jenny Ware
Sidmouth South	Denise Bickley
	Kelvin Dent
	Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Emma Murdoch
	Jeff Turner
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire
	Marianne Rixson
Sidbury	John Loudoun (<i>left after Minute 222</i>)
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair)
Apologies:	Deirdre Housom

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.25pm.

PART 'A'

217 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1 February 2021 were signed as a true and accurate record.

218 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

219 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Dent and Bickley reported that they were working to try and get the benches reinstated in the Peacock Garden at Blackmore Gardens.
- Councillor Brokenshire asked why the Town Council was not consulted about holding of weddings and receptions in Connaught Gardens, which I read in an article in the Sidmouth Herald (on public land) and what is the view of the District and Town Councillors?

Councillor Barlow said that he had spoken to an EDDC representative who had apologised and advised that the area was only licenced for up to six weddings per annum and that the Town Council would be consulted on each occasion when an application was received.

220 Police Report

PC Rob Clatworthy presented the February 2021 Police Report.

RESOLVED: That the Police report be noted.

221 Committee/Working Group Reports

221.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3 and 17 February 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted and agreed.

221.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported that the Tourism Advisory Group had continued to work on the forthcoming refurbishment and reopening of the TIC. A digital guide and a printed map had been produced and would be issued when lockdown was lifted.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted.

221.3 Council Resources Review Working Group Report

Councillor Turner reported that he had initial discussions with the cricket club with regard to the installation of steps from the Esplanade up to the cricket grounds via The Arches area.

RESOLVED: That the Council Resources Working Group report be noted.

221.4 Environment Committee

Councillor Bickley reported that the weekend of 27/28 March had been allocated as a 'Get Sidmouth Ready for Summer' event which would include a beach clean.

The Environment Committee was planning a 'Seeds Give Away' in conjunction with Kings Garden Centre who were donating 2,000 packets of native wildflower seeds for planting in Sidmouth.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Committee report be noted.

222 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

222.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for January 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for January 2021 be noted and agreed.

222.2 Beach Management Plan Report

Councillor Lockyear gave a full presentation to Members following the recent meeting of the Beach Management Plan Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Beach Management Plan report be noted.

223 East Devon New Local Plan

Members were asked to consider the reports from Council's Environment and Planning Committees and approve them as the corporate response of the Town Council to the Local Planning Authority on the current Local Plan consultation.

Councillor Dent reported that John Slater, the Town Council's Neighbourhood Plan consultant, had advised that where a Neighbourhood Plan had been adopted the Local Planning Authority are expected to use it as a base for Local Plan updates.

RESOLVED: That the reports from Council's Environment and Planning Committees be approved as the corporate response of the Town Council to the Local Planning Authority on the current Local Plan consultation; with amendments and additions, as follows:

(The page numbers correspond with the report which went to the Council, agenda item 10).

Page 29, section 3, 4th paragraph

Add: Again, it is essential that any new development must include at least 50% affordable housing in accordance with the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan.

Page 29, section 3, 6th paragraph.

Reword: There is a noticeable number of second homes in Sidmouth. We strongly suggest that an analysis be carried out and that this is a topic which should be addressed in the new Local Plan.

Page 30, section 5, 2nd paragraph

Add: Whilst this may not be a matter for the Local Plan, the Council would like Charity Shops to be looked at, particularly with regard to business rates, in the interest of levelling the playing field with other traders.

Page 31 section 9

Add new paragraph: We support the provision of affordable bus services.

Notes

Delete and reword:

1. When the consultation documents were considered by Sidmouth Town Council on 1 March, Members and Officers were extremely critical of the District Council's consultation exercise. The timescale was absurdly tight and the nature of the consultation, in terms of a multi-choice questionnaire and question boxes, was not conducive to a meaningful engagement with the public and completely inappropriate for a democratic response from town and parish councils. The approach therefore adopted by Sidmouth Town Council is to respond as best we can within the deadline by generally supporting the proposed objectives and citing policies we would wish to see included in the new Local Plan.
2. Our response is largely drawn from the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan which was recently approved following extensive consultation. Where a Neighbourhood Plan, such as ours, is in existence, the Local Planning Authority has a duty to have regard to it in preparing a new Local Plan.
3. We will, of course, continue to engage in the process of preparing the new Local Plan, including any focus groups and webinars, and will send further submissions at the appropriate time. We would particularly request that Sidmouth Town Council be consulted on any proposed land allocations in order that we can have an opportunity to respond.
4. A link follows to the documents associated with the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan and Community Actions:

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL