

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held on Monday 7 December 2020 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	Stuart Hughes
	Dawn Manley
	Jenny Ware
Sidmouth South	Denise Bickley
	Kelvin Dent
	Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Deirdre Hounsom
	Jeff Turner
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire
	Marianne Rixson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair)
Apologies:	Charissa Evans, Emma Murdoch, John Loudoun

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.10pm.

PART 'A'

181 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2 November 2020 were signed as a true and accurate record.

182 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	191 Knowle Amphitheatre	Personal	Remained at the meeting during discussion but did not vote	Neighbour and Chair of Knowle Residents Assoc

183 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

184 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Dent reported that the grid installed in Station Road was still very noisy when driven over. County Cllr Hughes replied that some remedial work had already been carried out and sound measurements would be taken both in the road and in residents houses, which may lead to mitigation measures such as screening planting in the area.
- Cllr Turner commented that the layby near the Bowd had started to look very untidy and full of rubbish and asked whether it could be cleared and closed off. County Cllr Hughes reported that he would ask an officer to check the area.

- Cllr Dent if rumours the contractors had left the site at the Knowle Amphitheatre were true and whether the pathway could be reinstated. County Cllr Hughes reported that the scheme required that the soil removed should be set aside for reuse in the area. Unfortunately, the soil was currently too wet; DCC were employing a soil specialist and would be carrying out the necessary work so that the contractors could continue work in the New Year.

185 Police Report

Neighbourhood Team Leader, Sergeant Roy Hutter, introduced the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager for Sidmouth, PC Rob Clatworthy who presented the November 2020 Police Report which showed that the crime rate had reduced by 11.6%, from 43 to 38, in comparison with the same period last year.

186 Committee/Working Group Reports

186.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4 and 18 November 2020 and gave an annual update reporting that 44 tree applications had been considered and 182 planning applications throughout the year of which 95% had been agreed by the District Council.

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

186.2 Tourism & Economy TaFF Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Economy TaFF gave a summary update of the work carried by the Tourism & Economy TaFF out throughout the year. A full report would be made to the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting to be held on Monday 14 December.

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

186.3 Council Resources Review Working Group Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group reported that another meeting would be held this week, although there was nothing yet that the working group could report to Council.

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

186.4 Live Sidmouth Website Working Group

The Town Clerk reported that some initial staff training had been carried out and it was anticipated that the new website would go live very soon.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Website Working Group report be noted.

186.5 Youth Provision Working Group Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group gave a summary update of the work carried by the Youth Provision Working Group out throughout the year. Although some other services had been affected by Covid, particular support for young individuals with mental health issues had been continuing. The new Skatepark would be opening ahead of schedule from Friday 11 December. A small working group would be considering what opportunities and challenges there were to refurbish/rebuild the youth centre building.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision Working Group report be noted.

186.6 Environment Committee

Councillor Bickley, Chair of the Environment Committee gave a summary update of the work carried out by the Environment Committee throughout the year. The committee had been working closely with other organisations in the valley, such as the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group, Sidmouth Arboretum, Sid Vale Association, the Vision Group and had been looking into the installation of electric car charging points and had seeded the area opposite the Bowd with Yellow Rattle seed.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Committee report be noted

187 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

187.1 Finance Report

a) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for October 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for October 2020 be noted and agreed.

b) In accordance with sections 1.12(4), 1.13(5) and 9.4 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations Members had been asked to note and approve that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance and the Town Clerk had cancelled an invoice to Emily's Chocolate shop in the sum of £150.00 raised for an advertisement in the Town Council's 2020 Town Map. Since issue of the agenda, it was learned that Emily's Chocolate Shop was still trading online and would, therefore, be able to clear their debt with the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That it be noted that the invoice to Emily's Chocolate Shop would not be cancelled and a cheque had been received.

c) Members were asked to note the receipt of completion of review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) from the Town Council's auditor; PKF Littlejohn. The statutory Conclusion of Audit Notice had been duly advertised on the Town Council's notice board and website.

RESOLVED: That the receipt of completion of review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) be noted.

188 COVID 19: Social Distancing TTRO – Extension

The current COVID-19 Temporary Traffic Order in the town, to aid social distancing, would run until 31 December 2020. Members were asked to consider a further extension to the order, with associated signage and resources, until the end of March 2021; considering that the COVID pandemic was still active and the Government encouraged the continuation of such schemes.

A further extension could be made while Devon County Council Highways and the Town Council continued to work together on possible formal future schemes for the town. An initial allocation was made available (up to £10,000) for the first two Traffic Orders, associated signage and staffing resources required (Devon County Council paid half of the first scheme). Members were asked to consider a further extension which because of the earlier DCC contribution and lower costs of extension schemes would only need an additional £1,500 to be made available from General Reserves.

County Cllr Hughes reported that the permanent scheme would be fully funded by Devon County Council; but that scheme would go to public consultation first.

He also reported that both temporary and permanent schemes should include all of Church Street and Chapel Street to enable The Dairy Shop to have an outside seating area.

RESOLVED: That an additional £1,500 be made available from General Reserves to extend the current Covid 19 TTRO until the end of March 2021 with the addition of the end of the Chapel Street area closest to Church Street.

189 Manstone Skatepark – Lighting Scheme

The new Manstone Skatepark, being constructed by Maverick Industries Ltd, was nearing completion and it was intended to fit this with suitable timed lighting to enable its use throughout the winter months. A quote from Maverick's partner company Highlights Ltd, who would facilitate planning permission and construct the lighting on behalf of the Council, had been received together with the connection charge from Western Power Distribution.

The total costs of obtaining planning permission, plans, supply, build and new power connection was £29,125. It was hoped that a Sport England grant would be available, but this was still closed at present to local authorities with only Sports Clubs directly affected by COVID being allowed to apply; other grants were being investigated by Maverick. It was suggested that as this was a significant infrastructure investment and to ensure the maximum usage of the new facility, Members consider taking this finance from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) reserve which was currently £78,833; if other grants became available, the balance taken from CIL would be reduced accordingly.

RESOLVED: That £29,125 be allocated from the Community Infrastructure Levy for Highlights Ltd to obtain planning permission, plans, supply, build and new power connection for lighting for the Skatepark.

190 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That 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.

PART 'B'

191 Knowle Amphitheatre – Proposed future management

Members were asked to consider the proposal regarding future management of the Knowle Amphitheatre.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The Resources Committee would create a Knowle Amphitheatre Management Plan including benchmarks and thresholds to enable use of the area for the benefit of both residents and visitors ensuring that it met the various principles and standards of the Tourism & Economy and Environment Committees.
- b) The Environment Committee would consider the creation of a Management Plan for the remainder of the Knowle grounds utilizing the expertise of other groups such as Sidmouth Arboretum and the Council's grounds contractor.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL