

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**held on Monday 19 April 2021**  
**on the rising of the Annual Town Assembly**

(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 East	Steven Kendall-Torry
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Deirdre Hounsom Emma Murdoch Jeff Turner
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Sidford	Marianne Rixson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair)
Apologies:	Emma Murdoch

The meeting started at 8.00pm and finished at 8.55pm.

## **PART 'A'**

### **224 Minutes**

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

### **225 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

### **226 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**

- The Chair invited Nick Christo, EDDC to give an update regarding the potential reopening of the EDDC public conveniences throughout the town. Long Park had been reassessed for Covid Safety requirements and would be able to be reopened subject to additional funding for cleansing being made available from the Town Council. However, those at Port Royal on The Ham was not deemed to be suitable for reopening following a recent Health & Safety reassessment for Covid Safety as Social Distancing was not possible.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the Town Clerk be given delegated authority in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Council and Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, to agree an appropriate cost for the reopening of Long Park Toilets.

2) a meeting be held between Nick Christo of EDDC, the Town Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee to investigate a solution to the issue of reopening the EDDC public conveniences at The Ham as soon as possible.

**227 Public Open Question Time**

- Richard Eley raised the Chamber of Commerce and Sid Vale Association's concerns regarding the possible closure of Connaught Gardens for wedding ceremonies and receptions.

**228 Committee/Working Group Reports**

228.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Committee, presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on 3, 17 and 31 March 2021. Cllr Dent reported that at the latest meeting it was recommended that the two telephone boxes in the Market Square should be adopted by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) the Planning Committee reports be noted.
- 2) the adoption of the two telephone boxes in the Market Square by the Town Council be agreed.

228.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Monday 8 March 2021.

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

228.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Bickley, Chair of the Environment Committee, presented the report of Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 15 February 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That the Environment Committee report be noted.

**229 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities**

229.1 Finance Report

a) In accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations Members were asked to note that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance has verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of March 2021.

**RESOLVED:** That in accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members noted that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance had verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of March 2021.

b) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for February 2021.

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

**230 Committee Meetings**

The Chair of Council moved the following resolution which was unanimously agreed:

**RESOLVED:** That in the event of Environment, Planning and Tourism and Economy Committee meetings not being able to be held remotely against a desire for social distancing, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the relevant Committee, be given delegated authority to act in accordance with the wishes and decisions of a Working Group of that Committee, pertaining to Section

101 1(a) of the Local Government Act 1972. This resolution of Council was to be read in addition to Section 4 (Committees and Sub Committees) of the Council's Standing Orders.

**231 Connaught Gardens – Wedding Ceremony**

Members were asked to consider an email received from Angela Gordon Lennox, Events Officer, East Devon District Council, regarding holding wedding ceremonies at Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth.

EDDC had a booking for a wedding ceremony at Connaught Gardens on Saturday 14 August 2021. Only the bandstand gardens would be closed and for a limited time period (approx. 3-5pm) for the ceremony only for circa 80 people (the reception was being held elsewhere) and there would be no marquee. EDDC intended this ceremony to act as a trial. Nick Christo and Angela Gordon Lennox attended the meeting to answer any questions raised by Members.

**RECOMMENDED:** That East Devon District Council be advised that the Town Council supported a wedding ceremony for up to 80 people be held at Connaught Gardens on Saturday 14 August 2021 from 3pm to 5pm, to act as a trial for this type of event.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL