

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**on Monday 19 April 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.)

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 Jeff Turner
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Sidford	Marianne Rixson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair)
Apologies:	Emma Murdoch, PC Rob Clatworthy

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.00pm

Also present were the Town Clerk and a representative from the local press.

## **PART 'A'**

### **1 Welcome from the Chair of the Council**

The Chair, Councillor Ian Barlow, welcomed the attendees; all electors of Sidmouth Town Council wards had been invited to attend the meeting, and he thanked all Councillors and staff for all their hard work throughout a very difficult year.

### **2 Minutes of the Town Assembly held on Monday 15 April 2019**

The Minutes of the Town Assembly meeting held on Monday 15 April 2019, which had been circulated with the agenda, were received as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### **3 Reports**

Members of the public were encouraged to make comments and ask questions at the end of each of the following reports.

#### **3.1 Sidmouth Police**

In the absence of a police representative, the Town Clerk presented the Police report as follows:

“Firstly, and unfortunately, the Year-end crime figures (to end of March 2021) are embargoed for external release until after ONS publication of Crime Figures on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021. For this reason, I am unable to publicise the yearly statistics, but I will at the next Town Council Meeting. It is anticipated that Crime, overall has reduced throughout the Sector.

I would like to take this opportunity however to share with the Assembly some of the hard work and results which have been achieved by the Sidmouth Neighbourhood Policing Team. We have:

- Made 'Improving Police Visibility' a local priority within the local community.
- Conducted Speeding Operations to improve Road Safety alongside Special Constables
- Volunteered to change our shift pattern to accommodate working in key times as the lockdown restrictions ease.
- Developed a focus and instigated an improved Pro-active Policing approach to target drug suppliers and consumers within the community.
- Developed information and intelligence from the Community to execute Misuse of Drugs Act Warrants on addresses within the community, with positive results.
- Generating an awareness of Theft from Motor Vehicle crimes which can occur within Rural Beauty Spot Car Parks, by use of Social Media, and purpose produced signs installed.
- Conducted countless hours of Patrol, using marked and unmarked vehicles and foot patrols.
- Generated hundreds of Safeguarding reports, in order to help protect vulnerable members of the community and provide access to key services for those in need.
- Both worked and planned to work (following the easing of restrictions) with key community members and organisations.
- Special Constables have supported East Devon incredibly effectively this year. They have committed over 4000 hours of volunteering to serve East Devon as a whole, over 1500 hours of this which was to support Neighbourhood Policing.

I look forward to providing the annual statistics at the next meeting. Thank you to the Sidmouth Town Council for my warm welcome and continued support throughout my working within the community since November. I am looking forward to continuing building my community relations within Sidmouth and the surrounding areas throughout the next 12 months."

### **3.2 Member with Special Responsibility for Finance**

Councillor Chris Lockyear, Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, presented a Finance Report showing an analysis of the 2020/2021 expenditure in comparison to the Council's budget for 2021/2022.

### **3.3 Chair of Tourism & Economy**

Councillor Louise Cole gave a full report regarding the work carried out by the Town Council's Tourism & Economy Committee whose role was to support, advocate, encourage and facilitate Tourism Promotion.

### **3.4 Chair of Planning**

Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a report regarding the work carried out by the seven members of Town Council's Planning Committee during the past year.

### **3.5 Chair of Environment**

Councillor Denise Bickley gave a report regarding the work carried out by the Town Council's Environment Committee which engaged with many other local groups and organisations who were also interested in supporting the local environment and biodiversity.

## **4 General Issues and questions**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to make comments and ask questions to Members of the Council concerning any issues within the Sid Valley area. No comments were made, or questions were asked of Members.

**5 Grant Presentations**

Representatives from the following organisations gave a presentation regarding how they intended to use their grant/budget allocations made from this year's Town Council budget:

- Citizen's Advice East Devon – Tim Bridger
- Norman Lockyer Observatory Society – Dave Alexander
- Chit Rocks Beach Access Project – Dave Rafferty

The Chair thanked those present for attending Sidmouth Town Council's Town Assembly giving special thanks to those who had given presentations.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL