



# SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

## ANNUAL TOWN ASSEMBLY

*will be held virtually via the Zoom platform\* on*

**Monday 19 April 2021 at 6.30 pm**

*Sidmouth Town Council offers a very warm welcome to all residents in the Sid Valley area to attend this virtual Annual Town Assembly meeting where reports of the Town Council's work will be received, with the opportunity for residents to raise any general concerns/issues and ask questions regarding the work of the Town Council.*

- 1. To receive apologies for absence**
- 2. Welcoming address from the Chair of the Council—Councillor Ian Barlow**
- 3. To receive Minutes of the Annual Town Assembly Monday 15 April 2019**
- 4. To receive reports from:**
  - Sidmouth Police
  - Member with Special Responsibility for Finance—Cllr Chris Lockyear
  - Chair of Tourism and Economy—Councillor Louise Cole
  - Chair of Planning—Councillor Kelvin Dent
  - Chair of Environment—Councillor Denise Bickley
- 5. General issues and questions relating to the work of the Town Council (Questions notified prior to the meeting will be given priority)**
- 6. Representatives from organisations will give a short presentation regarding how they will use their grant allocation 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

Members of the public wishing to attend the meeting and/or speak on an agenda item are invited to register by emailing [towncouncil@sidmouth.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@sidmouth.gov.uk) at least 24 hours before the start time of the meeting, after which virtual meeting details will be sent out to speakers/attendees.

*\*This is as authorised by the Regulations set out in Clause 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.*

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**held at the Scout Centre, Salcombe Regis Recreation Ground**  
**on Monday 15 April 2019 at 7.00 pm**

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	John Dyson
	Paul Wright
Sidmouth East	Marc Kilsbie
	Frances Newth
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
	Sheila Kerridge
	John Rayson
Sidmouth Primley	Simon Pollentine
	Jeff Turner
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire
	Ian McKenzie-Edwards (Chair)
Sidbury	John Hollick
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Vice-Chair)
	David Barratt
Apologies:	Dawn Manley

The meeting started at 7.00pm and finished at 9.05pm

Also present were the Town Clerk, Sgt Andy Squires and a representative from the local press.

## **PART 'A'**

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

The Chair, Councillor McKenzie-Edwards, welcomed the public; all electors of Sidmouth Town Council wards had been invited to attend the meeting. Councillor McKenzie-Edwards also thanked those Councillors, who were not standing for re-election, for all their hard work carried on behalf of the town over many years.

### **2 Minutes of the Town Assembly held on Monday 9 April 2018**

The Minutes of the Town Assembly meeting held on Monday 9 April 2018, which had been circulated, 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**

Sgt Andy Squires presented the annual Police report. The recorded crime rate for the Sidmouth, Sidford, Sidbury and Salcombe Regis area had increased from 568 in the year 2017-2018 to 595 in the year 2018-2019. Sgt Squires also reported on many of the projects that his team had been working on the year, including:

- Noticeboards in rural car parks to reduce theft from parked vehicles
- Youth work, especially connected to the spate of vandalism in Connaught Gardens
- School visits by PCSOs to educate on drugs awareness and responsible actions
- Crime Road Show had been taken around the rural East Devon towns
- Have Your Say Surgery – held on Wednesday mornings in the Waitrose Café
- Operation Mascot- car stop checks for VOSA and red diesel
- Police support for events such as Folk Festival, carnival, fun fairs and Red Arrows
- Road Safety Campaign including the Fire Safety Unit

Q: John Loudoun asked about the progress of the Sidbury Speed Watch Group. Sgt Squires replied that D&C Police had put speed watch projects on hold and the scheme was currently under review.

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

Councillor Paul Wright, Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, presented the Finance Report showing details of the Council's budget for 2019/2020; copies of which had been distributed to members of the public.

Q: District Councillor Cathy Gardner enquired about Town Council grant applications and how much was held in reserves and why. Councillor Wright answered that he would email Councillor Gardner to explain how the reserves were allocated to already agreed upon projects.

Q: Norma Self commented that she had been advised that the Hopper Bus should not be considered public transport as it was not possible to use free bus passes on the Hopper Bus.

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

Councillor Simon Pollentine gave a report regarding the work carried out by the Town Council's Tourism & Economy committee which included members of the Chamber of Commerce. Councillor Pollentine thanked the Woolcombe House and Sidmouth Information Centre staff who create and issue the Town Guide, Directory and new shopping map, maintain the website and Facebook pages and sell tickets for coach trips, theatre shows and many other events. The Information Centre receives over 1,000 visitors per annum; of the 18,000 printed guides over 12,000 had already been issued.

### **3.4 Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Deirdre Housom, Chair of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, gave a report regarding the timetable and work carried out so far in creating a Neighbourhood Plan for the Sid Valley and took the opportunity to thank the Members of the Steering Group, John Slater, Creating Excellence and East Devon District Council planning officer for the hard work and support over the last few years. The plan was being examined by an independent examiner with a view to holding a referendum later in the year. Councillor Cole thanked Deirdre Housom for all her hard work carried out as Chair of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

## **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.

Q: Derek Carter asked about the current position regarding the East Devon AONB partnership at Fire Beacon. The Town Clerk replied that the nature reserve management was currently under review with a consultation process being carried out by Toby Taylor, RSPB. The result of a grant application to Natural England was also awaited.

**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:

- Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival
- Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub (Seafest 2019)
- Friends of the Byes

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