



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
WOOLCOMBE LANE
SIDMOUTH
DEVON
EX10 9BB

Telephone: 01395 512424
Email: enquiries@sidmouth.gov.uk
Website: www.sidmouth.gov.uk
VAT Reg. No. 142 3103 24

7 January 2022

To: All Members of the Environment Committee
(Cllrs: Ian Barlow, Denise Bickley, Charissa Evans, Chris Lockyear, Emma Murdoch, Marianne Rixson)
Invited Representatives

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of the Environment Working Group Monday 17 January 2022 at 6.30pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting where it is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered and resolution or resolutions passed as the Town Council considers appropriate. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Town Council will meet virtually via the Zoom software platform. Please note the start time of the meeting.

Those members of the public wishing to view the meeting or speak on an agenda item are required to register by emailing 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.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Holland', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

- 1 Apologies (DB)**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 Minutes (PAGES 4-6)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 25 October 2021.
- 3 Declarations of Interest (DB)**
To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

4 Matters of Urgency and Report (DB)

To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes)

5 Exclusion of the Public (DB)

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

6 Environment Committee - operational business (DB/CL)

- Summary of changes being made and why – Discussion
- Review Terms of Reference

Environment Committee Terms of Reference:

- The Committee is formed 'to coordinate and improve the natural and built environment of the Sid Valley'.
- The Committee to meet 4 times a year, reporting minutes to full Council
- Any spending by the Committee shall be authorised by full Council
- Membership to consist of the Chair of Council and 7 other Councillors
- Group Representatives (Non-voting) to be invited to each meeting to include: Sidmouth Arboretum, Sidmouth in Bloom, Sidmouth Plastic Warriors, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, Sid Vale Association, Friends of the Byes and others as required for specific meetings
- The Committee to help with the coordination of the Town Centre Task Force days

7 Questions on Environment Newsletter (DB)

Opportunity to ask questions on the Newsletter.

8 Natural Environment (DB/CL)

Focus area option / Requests for support

A: Youth Centre area upgrade (in partnership with the Youth Resources group) Action required:

B: Market Square improvements (Ideas for Market Square improvements.docx) Action required:

C: Life on the Verge – follow up from last year and how to learn lessons on community engagement and cuttings and clearing grass – basically how to embed and prepare for new season. Action required: come up with a plan.

D: River Sid Fish Pass – Proposed project to allow fish to travel up the River Sid, passing School Weir. Action required: support/endorsement

9 Low Carbon Town (CL)

Focus area option / Requests for support

A: Carbon Footprint Project – document attached
Action required:

B: Infrared Camera Project – document attached
Action required:

10 **Sustainability (DB)**

Focus area option / Requests for support

A: Telephone Boxes (as part of Market Place improvement) – Firm decision needed as to what to do with them, and how to achieve it. (nb there are two that could have different purposes/working sub-groups) Action required:

11 **Engagement (DB)**

Focus area option / Requests for support

A: 'Menu' of all the expertise/knowledge we have as a committee, or wider group within the town (with agreement from participants), that we could send out to local land owners/farmers to engage them in conversation; these 'experts' could perhaps hold a meeting with them, visit the site, offer informal tips and advice help them maximise their biodiversity/environmental benefits and to engage with the wider group? Action required:

12 **Any other business (CL)**

A: Preparation for the annual review at Town Assembly on 11 April

Action required:

B: Resources - what resources do groups need to support their activity that the Environment Committee might be able to help supply. Action required:

13 **Items raised by invited representatives (DB)**

To consider any matters raised by the invited representatives.

A: SPW monthly clean ups now second Sunday of every month 10-12, starting this Sunday (alternating beach and town – this week is hosted by The Balfour and cleaning the Woolbrook area). Action required:

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Working Group held on
Monday 26 October 2021 at 6.30pm

(Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the Committee met virtually)

Councillors present: Denise Bickley (Chair)
Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
Ian Barlow
Marianne Rixson
Rachel Perram
Jeff Turner
Kelvin Dent

Invited Reps: Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Dave Bramley (Sidmouth Science Festival)
Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Lynette Talbot (Sidmouth in Bloom)
Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group of Sidmouth)
Jan Metcalf (Sid Valley Biodiversity Group - rivers group)
Catherine Causley (EDDC Climate Officer)

Apologies Cllr Emma Murdoch.

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.36pm

PART 'A'

1 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12 July 2021 were confirmed and agreed as a true record subject to the following amendments:

- Correction made to the item regarding the Ham to include Sidmouth in Bloom and the Friday group.

2 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Denise Bickley	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Extinction Rebellion, Member of Friends of the Earth, Member of Greenpeace, Chair of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
Cllr Rachel Perram	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Member of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors

3 Matters of Urgency and Report

There were no matters of urgency or report.

4 Exclusion of the Public

There were no items required to be dealt with under Part B.

Natural Environment:

5 Life on the Verge - Current status, including update on the cutting in the Byes.

Councillor Denise Bickley explained how staff shortages and sickness at EDDC' Streetscene, had resulted in a greatly delayed grass cutting in the town and particularly in the Byes which had resulted in an increase in complaints - which had led to confusion with the areas left for more sensitive treatment. Lessons had been learned this year regarding neatening edges and cutting paths through longer areas to maintain a feeling of 'care'.

6 Arboretum and visit from Keith Dacre

Manor Road car park had been visited and it was agreed that it could do with more trees but not at the previously suggested £6k a tree, so the team are looking at how they can provide more trees without losing parking spaces and within budget. The team are also looking at solar lighting, but they need to be added at the appropriate time. The tree walk also went throughout the town visiting the Marketplace and the Ham and Roxborough carparks. On the second day the group further around the valley accompanied by Catherine Causley from EDDC. A strategy to develop greening within the valley is being compiled. It was suggested that more shrub and tree planters were required.

RESOLVED; Lynette Talbot to send shrub and tree planters costings to Cllr Denise Bickley

7 Tree Strategy

Cllr Chris Lockyear suggested that The Council needs a tree strategy. Key elements of the draft strategy are: selection of species to plant, broadening of the canopy cover, interconnectivity to promote wildlife corridors, managed replacement of the existing stock, and integration of the strategy into the Planning process. Discussions have been held with EDDC officers to ensure alignment between the District and Town Councils.

RESOLVED: Cllr Chris Lockyear to draft appendices to the draft strategy prior to submission to the full Council for endorsement.

8 Sidmouth in Bloom

Everyone involved in Sidmouth in Bloom had worked very hard all year which had paid off with winning a Gold award at the Chelsea Flower Show which was the top award overall and also winning the Seargent Trophy clearly acknowledging all the hard work that went into the displays by everyone. It was hopeful that the competition would be back to normal next year.

9 + 10 Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

The group was looking at 2 areas the first being a wildflowers survey. At the moment there were 396 species found within the Sidmouth Area. The second area was rivers and water quality, Jan Metcalf was part of the team of 9 volunteers monitoring water quality across 14 areas and working with the west country rivers trust. They are measuring ; Phosphates and dissolved and suspended solids. It was reported that our rivers are full of clean water species.

RESOLVED; that the Biodiversity group send a direct request to the Environment Working Group for equipment to the amount of £600.

RESOLVED; that a coordinated plan with EDDC, DCC, STC, SidBashers (SiB) to remove Knotweed in the area be created.

11 3P Parish Path Partnership Group

Councillor Jeff Turner gave a very informative overview of what P3 did, explaining that they work with Devon County maintaining over 100k of paths and bridle ways in the Sidmouth Area. P3 survey the areas then discuss with Devon County regarding materials for mending or replacing paths, signs, steps and styles. They received around £3000 per year to carry out the work and there were 10 members of the team, some paid and some volunteers, working ¾hrs per week.

Low Carbon Town

12 COP26 Event.

An event was held in the Parish church with about 20 stalls and it was felt it could have been better attended but had been useful for networking. The evening was very interesting with talks about e-bikes, heat pumps etc.

13 Progress at EDDC/DCC in regard to carbon/climate emergency

Catherine Causley, EDDC Climate Officer, gave the group an update explaining how EDDC/DCC are in the middle of running training for employees and elected members on understanding what they can do to support climate change and also the positives of using local people and companies. They are looking to use social media events to spread the message.

Carbon Reduction Plan

Dave Bramley reported that the data available to map Sidmouth’s carbon usage was insufficiently detailed to produce a useful map for action.

RESOLVED: Dave Bramley, Cllr Ian Barlow and Cllr Chris Lockyear to meet to discuss ways to promote individual carbon reduction activity.

Sustainability

14 VGS Awards

The awards for the first Sustainable Sidmouth Champions Awards 2021 had been very successful and the group were looking at carrying on next year with similar awards and extra schemes. The Chair thanked everyone for all their hard work.

Engagement

15 Warden Scheme for Sidmouth

Discussion was held and it was agreed that what was needed was a list on the council website giving information of who to contact if anyone had a local environment issue.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bickley to continue compiling a list and highlighting vacant areas.

16 Budget

Chris Lockyear gave an overview of the groups budget situation with only £465 spent out of the £10,000 allocation given to the group from Sidmouth Town Council. If anyone needed money to do something to help the environment, benefiting the whole town, they could put in a request to the group. If this money was not used this year, it will be held in an earmarked reserve for use at a later date. The proposed budget for 2022/23 had been reduced to £4000.

.....
CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE