

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at Sidbury Village Hall
on Monday 5 July 2021 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes Dawn Manley Jenny Ware
Sidmouth South	Denise Bickley Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair of the Council) Hilary Nelson Rachel Perram
Sidmouth East	Steven Kendall-Torry
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Deirdre Hounsom
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire Marianne Rixson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair of the Council) Richard Thurlow
Apologies:	Kelvin Dent, Charissa Evans, John Loudoun, Emma Murdoch, Jeff Turner

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.05pm

PART 'A'

36 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 June 2021 were signed as a true and accurate record.

37 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Hilary Nelson Public Open Question Time	Personal Interest	Remained in the meeting during discussion.	Acquainted with the applicants.
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38 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

There were no matters of urgency or items of report from the Chair of the Council.

39 Public Open Question Time

- In his absence, The Town Clerk read a question from Cllr Turner asking District Councillors if the recent cutting of the Byes grass in the public useable space areas would be continued more regularly now that Streetscene staff numbers were back to more acceptable levels.
Cllr Denise Bickley reported that the delays in cutting the lawn areas had indeed been as a result of severe staff shortages within Streetscene which still had 25 vacancies. She stressed that the intention to keep some areas as uncut would continue in line with encouraging biodiversity but that the parkland lawn areas would continue to be cut to allow enjoyment by all.

- Cllr Hilary Nelson asked District Councillors why the Sidmouth International School had been denied discretionary business rate relief for the year after it had received rate relief in the previous year.
Cllr Bickley read a reply from the Council Tax section of the District Council which stated that there were other grant schemes available to help the school and that it had received substantial benefits from these so far. District Councillors agreed however, to pursue the issue further.

40 Police Report

In the absence of PC Rob Clatworthy, the Town Clerk presented the June 2021 police report and commented that the monthly newsletter would be sent to all Members and available on the Council's website shortly.

41 Committee/Working Group Reports

41.1 Planning Working Group Reports

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Planning Working Group, Councillor Barlow presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 9 and 23 June 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Working Group reports be noted.

41.2 Tourism & Economy Working Group Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Working Group, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Working Group meeting held on Monday 14 June 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Tourism & Economy Working Group report be noted.

41.3 Environment Working Group Report

a) Councillor Bickley, Chair of the Environment Working Group, reported that the next meeting of the group was on Monday 12 July.

b) Members noted that Councillor Hughes wished to be removed from the Environment Working Group.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Environment Working Group report be noted.

2) That Cllr Hughes be removed from the Membership of the Working Group.

41.4 Resources Working Group Report

a) Councillor Barlow reported on the work of the Resources Working group and highlighted the opening of the Arches (East) Unit as a sandwich takeaway and café. Members were advised that planning permission for change of use was pending but the operator had opened on a temporary permission as advised by the Planning Authority.

b) Members were asked if the Resources Working Group could begin to work on a document inviting expressions of interest from potential users of the former South West Water building at the Ham. These could be commercial and/or community based companies or groups.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Resources Working Group report be noted.

2) That expressions of interest be invited from commercial and/or community groups for future uses of the former South West Water building at the Ham

42 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

42.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the May 2021 Finance Report.

RESOLVED: that the May Finance Report be noted and agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL