



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

21 October 2021

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 25 October 2021 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. This is as authorised by the Regulations set out in Clause 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020. 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.

The Chair of the Council has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

	<u>Page/s or names</u>
1 Apologies To receive any apologies for absence.	DB
2 Minutes	4 - 7

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 12 July 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 **Natural Environment**
- 6.1 Update from the Arboretum on including the visit from Keith Dacre
- 6.2 Tree Strategy (Chris) – major item** CL
(Motion – to recommend adoption of the tree strategy to Full Council)
- 6.3 Sidmouth In Bloom – update on Chelsea Flower Show (Lynette) LT
- 6.4 Sid Valley Biodiversity Group – update (max 5 minutes - Ed) and ED
- 6.5 Sid Valley Biodiversity Group - Water sampling (max 5 minutes – Jan) J
- 6.5 Jeff Turner invited as representative of 3P Path group – to give an update JT
- 7 **Low Carbon Town**
- 7.1 COP26 Event on Saturday 16th October (Part of Science Festival) DB/CC
- 7.2 Progress at EDDC/DCC in regard to carbon/climate emergency.
- 8 **Sustainability**
- 8.1 VGS Awards – update and visions for next year (max 5 minutes Denise/Jeremy) DB/J
- Engagement**
- 9 9.1 Warden Scheme – introduction Denise, then debate DB
(Motion – to recommend adoption of the warden scheme by Full Council)
Proposition for the Environment Committee – Denise Bickley, October 2021 DB
Warden Scheme Sidmouth
Outline:
We have an environment committee official warden scheme, where we have a few people who sign up to be the main point of contact for a small team of volunteers, and who receive training and accreditations as necessary (paid for by us) as follows:
Wardens:
- Trees (this obviously already exists, Ed is one)
 - Hedges
 - River (this may also exist)

- Drain
- Litter/report issues with waste collections (me/other SPW)
- Dog Bins
- Weeding
- Biodiversity (SVBG)
- Footpaths (3ps already doing this)
- Signposts (legibility, cleanliness, accuracy, redundancy)
- Any other areas deemed worthwhile having a warden for

Aims:

- To co-ordinate our efforts and so feature these people on our website, have them as a point of contact for anyone who wishes to get involved etc.
- If anybody wants to report something they can contact those people directly, and those people will know which council to refer on to or how best to answer the questions. These wardens will not replace councillors or have 'responsibility' for these areas but would be able to forge a good working relationship with officers and be able to suggest improvements from first hand experience.
- Town Council could fund equipment needed, for example the river warden can come to us and say they need testing kits etc.

How to get this going?

- Establish how the current warden schemes work and who is doing what job
- Are there obvious choices for some of the areas?
- Advertise widely to encourage volunteers to be senior wardens or assistants
- Keep a database of contact emails to easily send out information of days where volunteers are needed on specific projects
- Other council examples - <https://whitwickpc.org.uk/community-information/volunteering/>
- Leicester Environmental Volunteer | Leicester City Council Volunteering
- Volunteering | Less Waste
- Green volunteers (rochdale.gov.uk)

9.2 Next edition of Environment Newsletter – submissions request

DB

Any other business

- 10 10.1 Sidmouth Plastic Warriors' idea regarding branded reusable coffee cups and reusable acrylic glasses – to brief idea, discuss merits and issues and next steps. PDF of CUSP proposal (should this just go to Plastic Working group that I need to resurrect)

DB

10.2 Budget

CL

11 Items raised by invited representatives

To consider any matters raised by the invited representatives.