



# SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

WOOLCOMBE HOUSE  
WOOLCOMBE LANE  
SIDMOUTH  
DEVON  
EX10 9BB

Telephone: 01395 512424

Email: [towncouncil@sidmouth.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@sidmouth.gov.uk)

Website: [www.sidmouth.gov.uk](http://www.sidmouth.gov.uk)

VAT Reg. No. 142 3103 24

To: All Members of the Town Council  
Town Clerk

11 October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council (Pre-Budget) Monday 18 October 2021 at 6.30pm

You are hereby summoned to attend the above meeting to be held at the **Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Sidmouth.**

It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

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

### **PART 'A'**

1 **Apologies**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

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 disclosable pecuniary interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

3 **Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**

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).

4 **Exclusion of the Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There is one item which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

## 5 **Annual Reports**

To receive and note the attached reports from supported organisations:

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| a) Sidmouth Folk Festival | 3 |
| b) Sidmouth in Bloom      | 4 |
| c) Sidmouth Town Band     | 5 |

## **PART 'B'**

## 6 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Vice-Chair of the Council to move the following:

“that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.”

## 7 **Budgets/Estimates**

To consider the recommendations of the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance prior to the Budget/Estimate meeting in January 2022. Please see the attached **CONFIDENTIAL** schedule. 6 – 10

*A projected copy of the schedule will be shown at the meeting. Members will not therefore, need to print the confidential pages.*

## **The Sidmouth Folk Festival Report 2021 to Sidmouth Town Council**

### **1. Setting the Scene**

Both 2020 and '21 have been extraordinary years for the town's largest and longest running Festival, now in its 67<sup>th</sup> year.

Without dwelling unduly on the early stages of the pandemic, 2020 was characterised firstly by the work involved in the cancellation of the 2020 event, which had been launched in December 2019. Following on, for the rest of the year, by fund raising mainly via our hugely successful Crowdfunder and 2 successful applications to the Government's Culture Recovery fund.

In between, to coincide with the Festival dates, we ran a ground breaking Online Live Festival. This attracted over 10,000 viewers and workshop participants, receiving acclaim for its Production values and smooth running, at a time when others were struggling with this new technology. Thanks are due to the Town Council for hosting the online studio in the back garden!

### **2. 2021 -- A Smaller Outdoor Event**

3,000 Festival customers responded to our 2021 Festival survey seeking to find out what they were looking for and what would make them feel more comfortable to attend. The result was a more informal setting at the Ham with less programmed activity, a blend of open-air concerts and family entertainment in Blackmore Gardens, the Festival centre for this year, plus an Online Festival for those who stayed away. We also undertook to provide a Covid safe event.

Covid restrictions and the delayed Roadmap Step 4 until July 19<sup>th</sup> took us down to the wire, with the 1<sup>st</sup> event 12 days later.

The result surpassed even our highest expectations with

- Sell out headline concerts every night
- The Gardens often at capacity during the daytimes
- Free morning and afternoon concerts, brilliantly supported by a "Suggested Donation" scheme to help people give appropriately (a suggested £5/person donation for a 4.5 hour pm show with 6 top acts).
- Top class Street Theatre/Walkabout acts were used effectively to bring crowds to the Ham as well as in town and on the Esplanade
- The enormously supportive leadership at St John's school gave us a Festival base and necessary camping facilities.
- Most importantly, we were literally inundated by attendees thanking us for running the Festival, building goodwill for '22 onwards

### **3. Summary:**

At a time when other Festivals were being cancelled at the last moment all around us, we ran a successful event in every respect, despite some indifferent daytime weather.

Evenings in Blackmore were magical with sunsets streaming down the valley onto the stage. There was no local Covid surge due to our Protocol standing up to the challenges

We learned a lot from an event which was different in every respect and thus particularly challenging. We will retain some aspects of 2021 for future events.

Whilst the 2021 Festival was only possible due to major fund raising and Govt. support, it needs to be strongly emphasised that, without the steady support of Sidmouth Town Council carrying us through both '20 and '21, we would not have been able to keep the organization together to be able to mount the fund-raising projects. The overall result is that we have emerged in a strong financial position, with a plan to bring the Festival back towards its full scope and position in 2022.

Thanks to STC for making this all possible.

## ***Sidmouth in Bloom – Annual Report to STC – 2021***

During the 2020 national wide pandemic lockdown SIB managed to provide park and town displays using our home facilities and polytunnel with volunteers working in a secure pod complying with government guidelines. Awards were given to Bloom Groups in the South West who continued during the pandemic, but National judging was deferred to 2021. Funding from Sidmouth Open Gardens and Town Events were nil and business, and friends' sponsorships were very limited. Using our carry over and contingency and risk reserves we were able to finish our financial year with a reasonably positive carry over to 2021.

This past year, 2021, with the gradual reductions of restrictions we have been able to continue our town and parks displays and planting activities and extend our work to include collaboration on the Ham Coral Seating Area and Wave Border refurbishment. The plastic fencing replacing the old wood posts proved insubstantial to continue to support our troughs around the car parks which required replacement with new large self-watering hanging baskets. These have proved successful with many favourable comments. SIB liaised with EDDC to identify the positioning and specification of the new posts. The 80m seating along the Blackmore footpath bordering the Coberg sports is much used by residents and visitors. Following removal by EDDC on H&S grounds there was no EDDC plans for replacement. This is an area which SIB is striving to improve near our display of the heritage Peacock bed. SIB liaised with EDDC engineers and repaired the brick walls and piers and replaced the seating with hollow structural plastic boards similar to those used to repair the bridges over the river Sid. Following Stuart Hughes DCC locality sponsoring we have been able to refurbish the Radway corner seating area with newly designed paving and planting.

South West in Bloom judged the town as normal in July and we entered into the RHS National Britain in Bloom judging event which this year was an online submission. Awards are to be announced in October.

The RHS South West invited us to participate in their display stand at Chelsea Flower Show and we were able to present two 3D Displays of our Elmer the Elephant with the theme 'Diversity and Protection', with the collaboration of Royal Parks who allowed us to plant them up in their Hyde Park nurseries with assisted by three apprentices who were taught by Lynette the art of 3-D work. TV presenters highlighted this display at Chelsea which resulted in the elephants being one of the most popular visitor features. We were able to distribute 2,000 handouts promoting Sidmouth and SIB. The stand received Gold and 'Best in the Grand Pavilion'.

Funding this year has been difficult with no income from town events and limited sponsorships and friends' memberships, particularly with the need to invest money on the seating and new hanging baskets. We are not yet at the end of our financial year but are forecasting a very limited carry over to 2022. STC has appointed councillors to investigate alternate funding opportunities (including SIB's Open Gardens, garden tours, plant sales and coffee mornings) apart from and crowd funding.

We were able to mount a town gardening competition and look forward to having a 'Celebration of Success' event in October when the town and RHS awards can be presented.

Lynette Talbot and Peter Endersby  
Sidmouth In Bloom 28 September 2021

**Sidmouth Town Band, Chairman's report September 2021**

Firstly, let me thank you for allowing me to provide a report of Sidmouth Town Band's activities over the last eighteen months detailed in the bullet points below.

Like many of you, I am sure that we would have never envisaged the effects of COVID 19 and that they would have remained so prevalent and caused so much disruption to all our lives, both socially and professionally and had such an impact on our daily routines.

1. The Band entered the West of England regional competition March 2020 and performed well. The last time band played together before the pandemic. Promoted to First Section.
2. Obvious disappointment but understanding all round at Government announcement relating to lockdown; no rehearsals, or performances for the foreseeable future as with the entire entertainment industry.
3. Band Committee continued with meetings on Zoom, copy of all minutes being sent to band members to keep them up to date.
4. Lockdown enabled us to push forward with refurbishment of St Francis Hall.
5. New folding removable wall, air conditioning, suspended ceiling, enhanced lighting installed and general painting and decorating.
6. Ash trees adjacent to Woolbrook Road quickly removed to prevent injury to passers-by following survey—ASH die back.
7. Virtual practice sessions held, and various virtual performances recorded and shared online and within the community and Friends of the Band.
8. Friends of the Band who were older or lonely called regularly by 'paired up' band Members' to help through lock down.
9. Committee continued to plan through lockdown to be fully prepared when restrictions lifted.
10. Rehearsals recommenced October 2020
11. No indoor Christmas concerts, so band played traditional streetside Christmas Carols in residential areas and streets in the weeks leading up to Christmas. It proved so popular that it will be repeated again in 2021.
12. Rehearsals suspended again, in line with new regulations, January 2021
13. Rehearsals recommenced May 2021
14. New Band room completed; attendance and members numbers growing —plans being made for Brass Academy to ensure music education and the future of the band.
15. First Connaught Gardens concert; much later than usual with only 5 concerts able to be performed for the 2021 summer season – from end of July 2021 to September. Next Concert now 16 October at the Manor Pavilion.

I would like to thank you for once again allowing me to provide a report to you.

The Band is proud to be an integral part of Sidmouth. Your continued financial support not only over the last 18 months but throughout the years, is so important and we are so fortunate to have a supportive Town Council which in turn continues to ensure the future of Sidmouth Town Band.

*Graham Pollard, Chairman, Sidmouth Town Band*