

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Working Group held on
Monday 25 April 2022 at 6.30pm
(The Environment Working Group met virtually)

Councillors present: Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
Ian Barlow
Charissa Evans
Marianne Rixson
Deidre Hounsom

Invited Reps: Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group of Sidmouth)
Jan Metcalf (Sid Valley Biodiversity Group - rivers group)
Richard Eley

Apologies Cllr Denise Bickley (Chair), Cllr Rachel Perram, Dave Bramley
(Sidmouth Science Festival),

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.15pm

PART 'A'

1 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022 were confirmed and agreed as a true record. Also, an update was given on each resolution from these minutes.

2 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Charissa Evans	Item 7	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Works at the Primary School
Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

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.

5 Environment Working Group - operational business

An update was given on the actions from the previous meeting. The grant which was applied for regarding cleaning the marketplace was unsuccessful so the work would be done using the local cleaning team and volunteers. The River Sid Fish Pass paper had been considered by full Council and support agreed. Also, the working group was happy to receive and consider any funding requests to use its budget.

6 Questions on Environment Newsletter

The group agreed that the newsletter was working well and was very good, and were happy with the way it was progressing. Anyone who would like to have an input into the next edition should contact denisebickley@hotmail.com. If anyone had any sustainability items for the May edition, they should let Catherine Causley ccausley@eastdevon.gov.uk know so she could add it to what EDDC were doing.

7 Natural Environment

STC Tree Strategy – The working group considered the paper with a view to recommend its adoption by the Council.

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that Council be recommended to adopt the draft STC Tree Strategy
- 2) Chris Lockyear to look at the document becoming part of the NHP and will also investigate whether EDDC can share a list of all TPOs, maybe in map form.

Funding for Sidmouth Primary School Environment Project (£350)

Sidmouth Primary School were looking to re-develop the school pond which had fallen into disrepair and were also looking to make a seating area.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

Water monitoring project funding request (up to £1000)

Jan Metcalf had requested up to £1000 to monitor the water around the river Sid and the sea front all year round as it was only carried out during the bathing months.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

Sidmouth Biodiversity group funding £680

The group had asked for funding to help make them more visible throughout the area allowing them to produce display material, leaflets and ad hoc information making them more consistent with the messages they wish to send out.

RESOLVED: That the funding application be approved.

- **Update on discussions with South West Water and Environment Agency**
Chris Lockyear explained that a meeting had taken place with South West Water and Simon Jupp MP where use of the Combined Sewage Outfalls (CSO) was discussed. Minutes have been written and shared with South West Water but although they confirmed they were substantially correct, they were not happy for them to be published. The Town Council is awaiting a response from South West Water to a number of questions. A meeting is now planned with the Environment Agency (EA) and Simon Jupp MP, to discuss permitting, compliance and future planning with regard to the CSOs and the sewage treatment system in general.
- **Tree planting**
The arboretum had planted about 40 trees in the area and were looking at other areas to do this. Richard Eley had suggested that Sidmouth plant 70 trees for the Queens jubilee and was happy to carry this out but needed to understand where they should go.
RESOLVED: Jon Ball will collate a list of suggested areas for the next meeting and would appreciate any suggestions being sent to him.

8 Low Carbon Town Infrared Camera Project

Sidmouth Town Council had purchased an infrared camera and had carried out 90 infrared surveys by 9 volunteers for residents of the Sid Valley. The group would be looking for more local residents to become involved and will offer the service again towards the end of the year.

9 Sustainability

Focus area option / Requests for support – The group were asked if they could think about any ideas for future sustainability projects that the group could focus on. These would be discussed at the next meeting.

10 Engagement

Carbon Footprint project

Dave Bramley was heading up the initiative to encourage residents to look at their personal carbon footprint and how they could reduce their carbon emissions. There is an open day planned on 7 May at All Saints Church Sidmouth, where residents could learn and understand how to work out their footprint and how to reduce it.

11 Items raised by invited representatives

Sidmouth Plastic Warriors - Requested for the group to support the Greenpeace 'Big Plastic Count' 16-22 May they can sign up by going to thebigplasticcount.com (DB).

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP