

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at Sidmouth Methodist Church Hall
on Monday 7 February 2022 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.40pm.

PART 'A'

107 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Mondays 10 and 24 January 2022 were signed as a true and accurate record; with the removal of Cllr Bickley from the list of attendees at the 10 January meeting.

108 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received for items on this agenda.

109 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that the Town Clerk had received a letter from the Chair of East Devon District Council notifying him that East Devon District Council were gifting an Oak tree to the Town Council, as one of 70 that were being distributed to East Devon Parish and Town Councils to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Chair of Council asked Members to suggest suitable sites and advise the Town Clerk accordingly.
The decision on the final placement would be delegated for agreement to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Sidmouth Arboretum.

- It had been suggested that to help commemorate the Queen's Jubilee, the Council considers giving a suitable commemoration gift to all the primary school aged children attending schools within the Town Council's area. It was agreed that up to £3,500 could be allocated from the John Rayson Bequest for this project.

RESOLVED: Councillors Perram and Evans would work on the ideas for the project and report to Council at the March meeting.

110 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

111 Public Open Question Time

- A Member of the public commented that the noticeboard in the Market Square did not have copies of the Council's minutes. The Town Clerk reported that currently full Council and Trustee agendas were placed on the noticeboard and minutes were available on the Town Council's website and for those with no access to the internet, this was accessible at the library.
- Councillor Cole asked District Council Members to obtain an update with regard to the progress of applications to the Innovation Resilience Fund as the delay was making a significant impact on forward planning for the Tourism promotion projects. It was agreed that a letter would be sent on the matter to the Chief Executive of the District Council.
- Councillor Thurlow asked the Chair of Council when the Town Council would return to the Council Chamber at Woolcombe House. The Chair of Council answered that the Methodist Hall had been booked until the Annual Meeting for full Council meetings and suggested that Members review the use of the hall at their April meeting. The Chair of Council also asked for the reopening of the Council's Offices at Woolcombe House in April for staff and the public.

112 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Dent reported that one of the priorities in the current Police plan was Drugs Crime. The Police and Crime Commissioner had provided short-term funding for projects which aimed to raise awareness of the risks of drug use or divert young people away from becoming involved. This had been communicated to Young Devon at the Town Council's Sidmouth Youth Centre. A drugs themed seminar for Councillor Advocates had also been arranged on Tuesday 22 March between 12noon and 4pm in Bodmin. Councillor Dent was unable to attend and asked for a substitute to take his place.

RESOLVED: That the Police Advocate report be noted.

113 Working Group Reports

113.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 5 and 19 January 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Working Group reports be agreed and noted.

113.2 Environment Working Group

Councillor Bickley, Chair of the Environment Working Group, presented the report of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 17 January 2022.

RESOLVED: 1) that the Environment Working Group report be agreed and noted.
2) that the Council support the River Sid Fish Pass Project

114 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

114.1 Finance Report

a) In accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations Members were asked to note that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance has verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of December 2021.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members noted that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance had verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of December 2021.

b) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for December 2021.

115 Meeting Dates Jan 2022 to May 2023

Members noted the draft list of meeting dates for January 2022 to May 2023.

116 Connaught Gardens - Event Consultation

East Devon District Council requested a consultation response from the Town Council following the receipt of an application from Eleanor Carr, of Unique Boutique Events, to hold Sidmouth Eats Boutique in Connaught Gardens, Sidmouth.

The dates were: Friday 13 May, Friday 10 June, Friday 8 July, Friday 12 August and Friday 9 September 2022. The event would start at 16:00, and finish by 21:30, set up would commence from 13:30 depending on the time of sunset and the weather conditions.

The Chair reported that initial consultation responses to EDDC from the Chamber of Commerce and Streetscene both indicated that they thought Connaught Gardens was not a suitable position and preferred the use of Blackmore Gardens or Kennaway House lawn.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council considered that Connaught Gardens was not a suitable or appropriate position for an Eats Boutique food event by reason of its position out of town and it being a showcase garden which in high season would be busy with visitors wishing to enjoy the peace and quiet of the gardens. It advised that sites in the centre of town such as Blackmore Gardens would be far more appropriate. The District Council's Streetscene service should ensure that no litter was left behind after the event wherever it is held and that single use containers should be discouraged.

117 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: 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.

PART 'B'

118 South West Water overflows and monitoring

Councillor Lockyear presented his report of the meeting held between South West Water, Sidmouth Town Council and Simon Jupp MP.

RESOLVED: that:

1. the South West Water attendees be asked to review and agree the Notes of the Meeting between South West Water, Sidmouth Town Council and Simon Jupp MP held on Monday 24 January 2022.
2. a meeting be arranged with the Environment Agency, Sidmouth Town Council and Simon Jupp MP to present the data collated by the Town Council and discuss the SWW performance at Sidmouth. The Environment Agency was the organisation responsible for enforcing South West Water's permit requirements.
3. a verbal report be given to Members of the Biodiversity Group who had volunteered to be trained by SWW to regularly test the water quality in the River Sid.
4. the Council request an early date for receipt of the information SWW had committed to report back to the Town Council:
 - i) the introduction of potential changes to pumping regime to maximise the amount of sewage pumped to Sidford Sewage Treatment Works at the times of high rainfall.
 - ii) Screen cleaning frequency.
5. following the meeting with the Environment Agency a report would be presented to Council so that Members could discuss further action including the reporting of this issue to Ofwat.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL