

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

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.20pm.

PART 'A'

119 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 February 2022 were signed as a true and accurate record.

120 Declarations of Interest

| Name | Item Number | Type | Action Taken | Details |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------|--|------------------------------------|
| Cllr Stuart Hughes | 123 Sid Valley HELP | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Has donated from DCC Locality fund |
| Cllr Louise Cole | 123 Sid Valley HELP | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Working with Sid Valley HELP |
| Cllr Deirdre Hounsom | 123 Sid Valley HELP | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Sid Valley HELP trustee |

121 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that a Ukrainian flag had been raised at the Three-Cornered Plot and asked Members to sit for a minute's silence as a mark of respect and to contemplate those caught up in the war and humanitarian crisis.
- Cllr Loudoun reported that Sidbury Village Hall had been opened for donations towards the Ukrainian appeal and that the Sid Valley had donated very generously.

- The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council had received a total £8,214 so far from the Welcome Back Fund. This funding had purchased and installed concrete planters, benches, bins and 2 marquees which would be made available for community events.
- The Town Clerk reported that the Rayson Bequests would be slightly lower than originally reported as stock valuations had been lower than expected. The final figure was likely to be approx 75%.

122 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Turner reported that he had emailed all the Sidmouth EDDC Members raising his concerns regarding the increases to East Devon District Council's car parking charges and asked when had District Members known about the last minute change, to increase the number of car parks being affected and why had it not been reported to the Town Council's Tourism & Economy Working Group. Councillor Loudoun responded on behalf of the District Council, stating that the review had needed to respond to an evolving situation and that charges had not been increased for 12 years.
- Councillor Cole raised a question regarding obtaining clarification on additional information that was needed to be supplied to the District Council to support the Town Council's application from the Innovation and Resilience Fund prior to the deadline of 1 April 2022. Councillor Loudoun replied that he would follow this up with District Council officers.
- Councillor Cole asked what preparations were being made by the District and County Councils to rehouse refugees from Ukraine. Councillor Hughes reported that he would be attending a Devon County Council briefing on Wednesday and would update Members by email.

123 Sid Valley HELP

Di Fuller gave a presentation of the valuable work carried out by Sid Valley HELP whose objective was supporting access to locally delivered health and care provision. She asked Members whether they knew of anyone who might have the skills and be willing to join the Sid Valley HELP management team.

RESOLVED: That Di Fuller be thanked for her presentation.

124 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Dent reported that he had not received any contact from the police since the last meeting and asked Members to inform him of any concerns that they wished to be raised by the Police Advocate.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

125 Working Group Reports

125.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 2 and 16 February 2022.

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

125.2 Environment Working Group Report

Councillor Lockyear reported that 90 houses had so far been scanned with the Town Council's infrared camera.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Working Group Report be noted.

125.3 Council Resources Review Working Group

Councillor Barlow reported that:

- The Knowle would not be transferred to the Town Council until a number of Health & Safety issues raised by both the Town and District Councils, had been resolved by the County Council; this was likely to be later in the year.
- Detailed plans were currently being drawn up for the proposed steps up to the cricket ground from the Seafront Amenity Building.
- Discussions were being held with South West Water regarding the Town Council's request to install a side entrance/glass doors to the Ham Utility Building.

RESOLVED: That the Council Resources Review Working Group report be noted.

125.4 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Cole reported that the contract renewal negotiations with Young Devon were ongoing.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision Working Group report be noted.

126 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

126.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for January 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for January 2022 be noted.

127 Queen's Platinum Jubilee

- a) Platinum Jubilee Beacon: The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council working in partnership with Sidmouth in Bloom, had plans for a beacon to be lit at Fire Beacon which would be visible from the town. A gas fired beacon had been supplied free of charge from the Institute of Chartered Surveyors.
- b) Platinum Jubilee Beacon: 'Searchlight Beacon' The Chair and Town Clerk reported on possible plans for a display using the John Rayson Bequest as previously agreed in principle by Council. Members had asked the Town Clerk to investigate the possibility of an alternative to fireworks to help mark the Platinum Jubilee. The suggestion was that units which would be used as four 'searchlights' to scan the sky and esplanade with varying movements and colours. It was predicted that these could create a unique 'Beacon' and way of marking the unique Platinum Jubilee using Rayson Bequest funding. Costs for 2 evenings (Thurs 2 and Fri 3 June) would total £9,800; reducing to one evening would be just over £9,000.

- c) Commemorative Gift for Sid Valley Primary School children – Cllrs Perram and Evans reported on the results of the consultation with Primary school children and their parents regarding a suitable jubilee gift. Samples of a variety of bone china mugs and designs were circulated for Members to consider. Around 728 mugs would be needed and these could be personalised to show Sidmouth Town Council’s crest or Visit Sidmouth logo; although original artwork would incur an additional charge.
- d) Commemoration Oak Tree – Cllr Lockyear reported that Sidmouth Arboretum considered that the best place for the Jubilee Oak tree would be Long Park.
- e) Commemorative Flagpole at Bowd – Members were asked to consider the erection of a new flagpole at the Bowd Sidmouth entrance. It would be a similar size to that at Greendale Farm Shop and would cost in the region of £1,000.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) Platinum Jubilee Beacon: Members agreed that a gas fired beacon be lit at fire Beacon as part of the nationwide beacon lighting.
- b) Platinum Jubilee Beacon: ‘Searchlight Beacon’ This item was deferred for further discussion by the Tourism and Economy Working Group; it was agreed that photographs of the same lighting units proposed to mark the Jubilee, would be circulated to and considered by the Tourism and Economy Working Group for a recommendation.
- c) Commemorative Gift for Sid Valley Primary School children – Cornish manufactured and printed mugs would be ordered for all the Primary school children at a net of VAT cost of up to £4,000 being allocated from the John Rayson Party/Celebration Bequest fund. The mug design was to be decided by Cllrs Perram and Evans.
- d) Commemoration Oak Tree – the Jubilee Oak would be planted at Long Park.
- e) Commemorative Flagpole at Bowd –a new flagpole would be erected at the Bowd Sidmouth entrance at a cost of up to £1,000.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL