

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at Sidmouth Methodist Church Hall
on Monday 8 August 2022 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.30pm.

PART 'A'

49 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4 July 2022 were signed as a true and accurate record.

50 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Louise Cole	51 Matters of Urgency Report from the Chair	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion	Director Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub CIC

51 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair thanked Sidmouth in Bloom for their hard work prior to the judging visits for South West in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions.
- The Chair thanked Sidmouth Folk Week organisers for a successful return of the festival and for an enjoyable Civic Night concert.
- Cllr Cole reported that Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub CIC had been gifted a full-size pottery kiln which had to be removed from its current storage by the end of the summer. The Chair asked Members to approve the temporary storage of the kiln in The Ham Utility Building, until such time as a more suitable location could be found or a formal request be made and considered at a future Trustee meeting. The kiln must not be used during the temporary storage period. This was agreed.
- The Chair raised concerns over the recently reported reduction in bus services across the Sid Valley and invited Cllr Loudoun to report on the impact on the villages of Sidford and Sidbury. The last bus to Sidbury leaves at 7.20pm each evening which impacts most severely on workers in the hospitality and care sectors, as well as the tourism industry where visitors on holiday now have a much-reduced public transport service.

Sidbury residents were left feeling very isolated by the loss of this vital public service, which was made worse by the road to Sidbury being too dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians to use, especially at night.

Whilst it was recognised that the bus service was run by a private company and the Town Council's ability to achieve change was limited, it was agreed that a small working group be formed with Cllrs Lockyear, Nelson, Loudoun and Hughes to consider and work on a list of suggested Town Council actions:

- i. write to and meet with the DCC Portfolio Holder
- ii. write to and meet with the Stagecoach South West Manager
- iii. write to and meet with Simon Jupp MP
- iv. write to the Traffic Commissioner
- v. respond to the offer to meet with the Ottery St Mary Mayor to discuss a joint approach
- vi. extend this joint approach to include other towns that had been affected by the bus service reduction, such as, Honiton, Seaton, Axminster, Lyme Regis and Cullompton.
- vii. identify short, medium and long term options for regular integrated local bus services to ensure connectivity of rural towns and villages.
- viii. communicate with residents on this issue via website, social media, local newspapers, etc.

52 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Loudoun asked for an update on the Sidford to Sidbury cycle path. County Cllr Hughes reported that there were currently no DCC funding sources available for this project, but DCC were working with Simon Jupp MP to bid for funding from the Government Active Travel Fund. A planning application was being drawn up and land purchase negotiations were continuing.

53 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Dent had advised that there was nothing to report.

54 Working Group Reports

54.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Turner, Vice Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 6 and 20 July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Working Group reports be noted.

54.2 Environment Working Group

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Working Group, presented the minutes of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 11 July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Working Group Report be noted.

55 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

55.1 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 June 2022.

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 June 2022.

b) Councillor Turner presented the Finance Report for June 2022.

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

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL