

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 13 February 2023 at 6.30pm

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

Invited Reps: Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf
Charles Sinclair

Apologies: Cllr Denise Bickley, Cllr Richard Thurlow, Cllr Hillary Nelson, Cllr Clarissa Evens
Cllr Emma Murdoch, Cllr Rachel Perram, Dave Bramley (Sidmouth Science
Festival), Jeremy Woodward (Vision Group of Sidmouth), Catherine Causley
Cllr Louise Cole and Richard Eley (Chamber of Commerce)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.00pm

PART 'A'

22 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 31
October 2022 were confirmed and agreed as a true record subject to the following
amendments:

23 Declarations of Interest

| Name | Item Number | Type | Action Taken | Details |
|------------------------|-------------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Cllr Chris Lockyear | Part B | Personal | Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting | Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group |

4 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

25 Natural Environment:

25.1 Charles Sinclair gave an overview of the River Sid partnership project (summery
attached at the end of the minutes) the project had 2 objectives; the first being that
they want to engage with the public to enhance the habitat and the biodiversity
along the river Sid. The second objective was to set up a project to encourage river
fly monitoring and to carry out electronic fish monitoring.

RECOMMENDED: Council to agree a representative to sit on the River Sid partnership project

RESOLVED: that the Chair thank Rupert Keeley for his donation to the project and would send a letter.

25.2 Cllr Chris Lockyear gave an update regarding his dialog with South West Water, there was a meeting arranged for 24th Feb 23 which he would be attending. Cllr Lockyear gave an overview of South West Water's short and long term actions and time scales and would look to get them to prioritise Sidmouth going forward at the meeting. Jan Metcalf updated the group on the E coli testing.

25.3 Ed Dolphin gave an update to the Working Group on the project to plant 14,000 trees. This was going well and they had planted 4220 trees/whips to date. Also the group have already got land for 1500 whips for the following year.

26 Built Environment

26.1 Sign cleaning – Due to Cllr Richard Thurlow being unable to attend the meeting, the Chair gave a brief update and confirmed they were awaiting quotes for the cleaning of the signs.

26.2 Cllr Chris Lockyear gave an update on the inferred camara survey saying, they were looking to get more residents involved over the next few weeks. The group would look to arrange a meeting with all the members of the group to decide where to go from here.

26.3 Phone boxes – Due to Cllr Louise Cole being unable to attend the meeting, the chair gave a brief update. As part of the community hub 2 year project they had £99,000 to complete 7 projects of which the phone boxes were one, so were looking to complete this action between March and June 23.

27 Sustainability

27.1 Knowle car park - Due to Cllr Richard Thurlow being unable to attend the meeting the Chair gave a brief update. The Council was still waiting for DCC's contractors to complete the snagging list, so the handover had not been completed. The group were still waiting for quotes to put electric charging points in, but nothing could be done until the handover is completed.

27.2 CAPS project were looking at getting residents more engaged in their personal carbon footprint so have had 2 volunteers from Exeter university to assist with the project. Also they have sent a survey out via many groups within the town to get a better understanding of how residents were thinking about their carbon footprint.

28 Engagement

28.1 Making Sidmouth Sustainable – Due to Cllr Denise Bickley not being able to attend the meeting, no update was given.

28.2 Update on the IRF project – Due to Cllr Louise Cole not being able to attend the meeting, no update was given.

29 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'

30 Grant applications

RECOMMENDED: that grant applications be allocated as agreed by the elected Members at the meeting, to Sid Valley Biodiversity group, Sidmouth Arboretum group and Vision group for Sidmouth.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE



River Sid Project
proposal.pdf