



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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To: All Members of the Town Council
Town Clerk

10 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council (Pre-Budget) Monday 17 October 2022 at 6.30pm

You are hereby summoned to attend the above meeting to be held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth.

It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Holland', written over a horizontal line.

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

PART 'A'

- 1 **Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.
Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.
- 3 **Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**
To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes).
- 4 **Exclusion of the Public**
To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There is one item which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

5 **Annual Reports**

To receive and note the attached reports from supported organisations:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| a) Sidmouth Folk Festival | 3 |
| b) Sidmouth in Bloom | 4 – 5 |
| c) Sidmouth Town Band | 6 |
| d) Admiral Nurse Campaign | 7 |

6 **Ham Community Garden and Riverside Walkway project**

To receive an update from Councillor Cole on the Community Garden and Riverside Walkway projects which have been provisionally allocated funding from various other organisations. A Town Council match funding allocation has been included within the pre-budget and using some of the existing earmarked reserve.

PART 'B'7 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

The Vice-Chair of the Council to move the following:

“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.”

8 **Budgets/Estimates**

To consider the recommendations of the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance prior to the Budget/Estimate meeting in January 2023.

Please see the attached **CONFIDENTIAL** schedule.

8 – 12

A projected copy of the schedule will be shown at the meeting.

*Members **should not** therefore, print any confidential pages.*

2022 Sidmouth Folk Festival

Annual Festival Director's Report to Sidmouth Town Council

2022 was a memorable and milestone year in a number of respects, including it being the 68th Festival.

This year we brought back a virtually full Folk Festival with its circa 700 events over 8+days, which had last run fully in 2019.

In a nutshell, it was a really successful event with a lovely, vibrant atmosphere in the town, as we have all grown to expect and possibly taken for granted during the Folk Festival period. The music was back outdoors in the town and pubs, the Festival dance teams performed in all the central spots and the Festival town locations were buzzing, all contributing to that familiar Festival feeling.

For us, the most unexpected and so rewarding events, were the significant number of people who stopped us in the street or shouted out on their way by; "*Thanks for bringing the Festival back*". We didn't always know whether they were Festival Goers or townspeople, but it didn't matter!

You will very well appreciate that these are uncertain times.

Coming towards the end of the Pandemic, there was clearly going to be uncertainty about how our audience would return and in what numbers. We were pleased to reach about 85% of 2019 numbers, though lower than expected. It is evident generally around the country that audiences are coming back, but slowly, still causing some concerts to be cancelled.

There were some very large audiences at the big-name Ham concerts, with some extra capacity added. The Manor Pavilion Theatre and Kennaway Cellar bar were also nicely busy. The programme was also relatively unaffected by losing a few artists to Covid.

The biggest change this year was in the layout of Blackmore Gardens with the Craft and Music fairs inside the Gardens, giving a very busy environment with extra free entertainment available. There was an initial problem with us appearing to run out of capacity, with queues forming, due to a lower than necessary capacity being applied. This was resolved rapidly but was embarrassing for us and distressing for locals in particular, who are used to access to Blackmore. Developments and changes always encounter problems while bedding in and we will adjust after this.

To say that putting the Festival on this year was challenging, the most difficult by far during my time, would be an understatement for a variety of reasons.

Coming back after 2 years, despite the small 'Celebration' event in 2021 working well, was always going to test us. However, due to circumstances outside our control, with the Events Industry being, and this isn't too strong a description 'in turmoil', created a unique challenge with serious shortages of equipment/infrastructure and transport fuel cost increases causing soaring prices. In addition, we had to introduce a new Production company, who did an amazing and professional job to overcome the above and unexpected residual issues from the changeover.

Despite all of the above, the full 68th Sidmouth Folk Festival ran successfully, was very well received by attendees, according to the feedback analysis, with the town welcoming us back wholeheartedly.

As you know only too well, the support we receive from the Town Council, is central to the festival. Those of us who work to put it on and, I'm sure I speak for the attendees, would like to express our gratitude to you for helping to make this longest running UK Festival happen.

Many Thanks from

John Braithwaite, Festival Director, the Festival Management team, the whole Festival audience and the Town supporters, both businesses and Sidmouth residents

SIDMOUTH IN BLOOM: ANNUAL REPORT TO STC**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

SIB volunteers work Tuesdays and Thursdays, except during May when most days take up the planting of 3D structures and raising plants. Their numbers have increased to 12 and expect to rise again next year. The polytunnel has been an essential part of this to overwinter plants, store recycled pots and compost and planting 3D features.

In general, the planting schemes have stood up well to the recent summer drought. SIB have avoided watering large areas of beds but have used the water butts in the Sensory Garden to keep the fish urns and new river walkway urns watered. There have been few losses but new plants to be purchased will be drought tolerant and insect friendly.

SIB works with all local schools and the numbers of students have increased (around 80 involved), including a beach clean day.

Peter Endersby, a surveyor, was able with RSPB to mount a Fire Beacon on Fire Beacon Hill for the Queen's Jubilee.

The Ham Wave Border has had 2 lots of organic compost (obtained free from Coastal Organics), one in 2021 and then in spring 2022. The Coral Seating Area was dug up after winter in early spring 2022 to raise the soil level. More grit is required here, and a protective chestnut fence is yet to be installed to protect the plants.

The West Ham car park borders were planted anew and towards the end of summer covered with shingle to help avoid weeding and watering. The visual aspect has been also improved. More planting will be done here. EDDC has help with watering this area pre-mulching and topped up our water reserves at the polytunnel.

All our work in EDDC areas is agreed in advance and included in their forward plans.

The Sensory Garden was given a good weed (by hand) and continues to be a tourist attraction. We have met several people from other counties, plus visually impaired people who visit it several times during the year. The drought affected the late summer displays, but the earlier displays have been very attractive. The new raised beds are now starting to grow and improve this area. St John's school built a large bug hotel in the 'Woodland Bed' and we continue to maintain contact with Ben Cruickshank regarding assistance where necessary.

Weeding remains an issue – there is a high-water table and hand weeding is difficult in such a large area. We are trying to continue to improve this site with more seating needed. A real welcome was the recycle bins that arrived and replace the dog bin.

The Radway Seating Area was repaved and planted up in 2021 (with Stuart Hughes' DCC Locality Fund) and has been a well- received, well used area and a noted reduction in litter. SIB will review the planting scheme and increase the colour.

The Triangle maritime creatures were again planted up by volunteers (there are now 5 trained people) and are a particular joy to children. The raised bed's Queen's Jubilee design worked well. However, Alan Fowler retired in August and although instructions were left to water this area 3 times a week, nothing was done. Peter had a bout of ill health, and as we were not informed of this lack of watering in a drought the 3d structures and raised bed suffered. This is a lesson for us: SIB will do the watering themselves.

Blackmore Gardens: SIB does the 2 entrances, the alpine garden, Anne's Garden, the Corridor (along the library/health centre) and the 2 main round display beds. The alpine garden is 2 years old now but coming together with all year interest. Toad in his boat has looked splendid and the first-year display of a tropical border has been well received. This tropical display is to be repeated with improvements next year. All SIB has had a hand in this – plants came from the Chelsea flower show display, other volunteers and our own seeds and saved plants from previous years. EDDC has helped with watering.

The College students planted up the bowling green beds and troughs and we continue to work with the library on the children's planting scheme that is related to known stories.

The rough sleepers were a challenge with them urinating on the brick walls and using our corridor beds as a toilet. They have now been rehoused to the relief of all the gardeners. They were not the best impression for our RHS judges!

Connaught Gardens work continues similar lines to previous years, with SIB work in the sunken gardens and working with schools in the Italian garden.

The Police Garden has been dug over to remove bindweed and bracken. It is to be planted with drought tolerant plants in October and spring, although water is available at the station.

The Fire Station's 3d display was re-composted and planted anew in spring by the volunteers and is looking excellent.

The new baskets on T-Poles have been a success with townspeople. The money put into installing them gives long-term value. Self-finished poles reduce maintenance.

The Open Gardens were held for the first time in spring as well as summer and this brought in some valuable funding for our work. This will be repeated in 2023. The town's floral competitions and informative public meetings were also held, with new memberships taken on. An end of May social event and plant sale at the Sensory Garden also went well and this will be held again in 2023. The use of volunteers and raising/reusing our own plants where possible continues to keep costs down. SIB Informative Newsletters were printed and distributed to the TIC, Friends and supporters.

Recent Publicity: The RHS spent 4 hours with SIB volunteers, interviewing and photographing their work, for an article on Communities for their RHS In Bloom Communities magazine but an article may go into the RHS "Your Garden" magazine also.

SIB has been given an interview by the BBC1 'One Show' regarding climate change and coastal planting.

SIB is hoping that mention will be made of Sidmouth and we are not left on the cutting room floor.

Photos and video of our work were made available.

SIB is continuing its liaison with Royal Parks, London and will be visiting them in November 2022.

Lynette Talbot is an accredited RHS In Bloom judge.

The RHS Results will be announced on the 10th and 13th October 2022.

The Belmont Brend Group sponsored and provided the venue with refreshments for the Town's presentation. The judges' tours included meeting other voluntary groups as part of the town's presentation. SIB hosted lunch afterwards for all involved.

Sidmouth's "Celebration of Success" night is on Thursday 20th October.

Lynette Talbot, Peter Endersby 27 Sept 2022

Sidmouth Town Band, Chairman's Annual Report - October 2022

Firstly, let me thank you for inviting me to once again provide a report of Sidmouth Town Band's activities since the previous report I made. Our activities and report on progress is detailed in the bullet points below.

1 - Unfortunately, towards the end of 2021 we were still faced with the effects of Covid-19 which resulted in our annual Christmas Concerts being cancelled. The band instead played in residential streets (which it used to do many, many years ago) in the weeks leading up to Christmas which was incredibly well received and this will happen again in December 2022.

2 – The Band entered the West of England Brass Band Championships regional competition in April 2022, which was held at Cheltenham racecourse and not Torquay which involved additional costs of transport. The band performed well in the 1st Section coming mid table.

3 – The Brass Academy is now up and running with a good number of attendees led by some former training band members who now play in the senior band.

4 – An instrument audit took place resulting in suitable good quality instruments being made available for members of the Brass Academy from existing ones at the band room. This has resulted in the need to purchase other instruments for the training band and senior band.

5 – With Covid-19 rules relating to visiting schools having been relaxed, representatives will be visiting schools in the area to promote the Academy.

6 – New instruments for the main band are also on order including a new Flugel Horn and Trombone is on order to complement the ones currently being used.

10 – Auxiliary percussion purchased to add to the existing percussion which is essential in the 1st Section. (cow bells, guiro, trap table, siren horn – fun things!)

11 – 2022 saw a very successful summer season in the Connaught Gardens with regular audiences of 300+ each Sunday evening along with a capacity crowd and well supported Last Night of the Proms.

12 – The Band opened the Welcome Concert at Sidmouth Folk Festival and it was great to see it back in the usual format.

13- Improvements to the Band's new home at St Francis Hall have been made including new steps and handrails along with additional signage to continue to provide the band with a permanent home whilst still providing community space for hire.

14 – New jackets are also being purchased for new members.

I thank you for taking your time to read about our activities over the past year. In providing our regular concerts throughout the year to thousands of visitors I hope the band is contributing to the Tourism and Economy of the Town. We certainly know that concerts are well received by the hotels and visitors themselves who often plan their stays and even meals to allow them to listen. It goes without saying that we are very proud to be a part of Sidmouth and thankful for your continued financial support which throughout the years is more than welcomed. We are so fortunate to have a supportive Town Council which helps continues to ensure the future of Sidmouth Town Band.

Graham Pollard, Chairman, Sidmouth Town Band

Sid Valley Admiral Nurse

Report to the Sidmouth Town Council

Introduction

As our population continues to age and the impact of the recent pandemic on families living with dementia becomes more apparent, the need to support those families is ever increasing. Whilst we have responded by increasing our Café activities to include a second afternoon each week specifically targeted at the newly diagnosed, and a weekly coffee morning, the Admiral Nurse remains a key element of the support package.

The Admiral Nurse Service

The Sid Valley Admiral Nurse's role is to help family carers gain the necessary skills to assist with dementia care, promoting positive approaches in living well with dementia and improving the quality of life for everyone involved. She is currently funded by the Sid Valley Memory Café, trained by "Dementia UK" (DUK) and hosted by the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (RD&E).

The past year has been a difficult time for this service as our Admiral Nurse was on "sick leave" between February and July of this year following the death of her father. During her absence we worked with both DUK and the RD&E to provide support services for the families on our nurse's case load. A telephone support service was put in place by DUK, and the Dementia Matron covering Ottery St. Mary provided additional "on the ground" support, but the care provided to our families certainly suffered.

We are currently in discussions with Dementia UK as to how we can minimise the risks of this happening in the future, and this may result in a new delivery structure.

Financing

The current cost of our Admiral Nurse is approximately £50,000 per annum, although this is expected to rise in the near future due to rising salary scales and the impact of inflation. We fund this cost through fundraising, donations predominantly from the local community, and the generous support of the Town Council.

Our total income for the past 12 months was £34,697, of which £22,494 was represented by donations, £7,203 was raised through fundraising activities, and £5,000 was a grant from the Sidmouth Town Council.

Our fundraising activities over the past year got off to a shaky start as new variants of the Covid-19 virus, and associated government guidelines, resulted in our having to delay several events, including Mary King's "Sailing across the Southern Ocean" evening which will now take place on the 25th of November. We did however organise several very successful fundraisers, including Street Collections, Coffee Mornings, A Mama Mia Evening at the Radway Cinema (in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Sidmouth), a quiz evening and a Rock Choir Concert. We have also been most fortunate to have been chosen by Sidmouth Golf Club as their charity of the year.

In addition to our pure fundraising activities we continue to work at raising our profile within the local community. This has included manning stands at Devon County Cricket matches taking place in Sidmouth, the recent Classic Car Show and other local events. In publicising our events and activities we make every effort to recognise the valuable support that your council provides.

Conclusion

As we meet with and talk to those families in the Sid Valley who are living with dementia, the valuable contribution that our Admiral Nurse makes to the local community is very clear, and your support is a major factor in enabling this to happen.

Thank You

Gaynor Clark
Chairman of the Board of Trustees