



SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
WOOLCOMBE LANE
SIDMOUTH
DEVON
EX10 9BB

Telephone: 01395 512424
Email: enquiries@sidmouth.gov.uk
Website: www.sidmouth.gov.uk
VAT Reg. No. 142 3103 24

5 February 2023

To: All Members of the Environment Committee:
Councillors: Ian Barlow, Bernie Davis, Mike Goodman, Chris Lockyear, Rachel Perram, Kevin Walker

Invited Representatives

For Information:
Other Members of the Council
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 12 February at 6.30pm

You are called upon 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.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at this meeting. The Chair of the Committee has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher E Holland
Town Clerk

A G E N D A

- | | | <u>Page/s</u> |
|---|--|---------------|
| | <u>PART 'A'</u> | |
| 1 | Apologies
To receive any apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | Minutes
To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 10 October 2023. | 3 - 5 |

3 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 prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

4 Matters of Urgency and Report

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)

5 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.

6 Natural Environment

6.1 To receive an update from biodiversity group and River Sid partnership on their work in the valley. Please see attached report 1a.

6.2 To receive an update on water quality and liaison with South West Water from Councillor Chris Lockyear.

6.3 Decision to be made on the 10-year treeconomics report to present to full Council. Please see attached report 1b.

6.4 Sidmouth Arboretum 14,000 trees update. Please see attached report 1c.

7 Built Environment

7.1 To welcome the Sidmouth Cycling Campaign who will present how they want to raise awareness of opportunities for encouraging cycling in the Sid Valley. Specifically, the Sidford to Sidbury Cycle Path – supporting Devon County Council with their plans to create an off-road route. Please see report 2a by Roy Russell.

7.2 "Beach garden" in front of Belmont.
Decision needed re cost of signage - Councillor Ian Barlow. Please see attached report 2b.

7.3 Report from Jeremy Woodward on the VGS led management of the new Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries Group and Glen Goyle update - Jeremy Woodward VGS. (Report 2c)

7.4 Verbal report from Councillor Kelvin Dent on the possibility of a woodland burial plot.

7.5 Tidy up Sidmouth Day - Councillor Rachel Perram. Please see attached report 2d.

7.6 Potholes; Can Sidmouth Town Council assist County Highways to do better for our Town? - Councillor Ian Barlow.

7.7 Knowle Parkland and Gardens. On 15th February 2021 a small working group was established to progress a management plan. A map was prepared showing the various zones. Copy 2e attached. Councillor Kelvin Dent.

8 **Engagement**

8.1 Caps project – Update from Councillor Chris Lockyear. (Report 3a).
CAPS newsletter update: Mailchimp has been set up to easily engage with the Community, forwarding information and educating about climate awareness. Thoughts on how to gain new subscribers.

9 To confirm date of the next Environment Meeting as 22 April 24.

Forthcoming Council and Working Group meetings:

14 February Planning Working Group
28 February Planning Working Group
04 March Council & Town Assembly

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 09 October 2023 at 6.30pm

Councillors present: Ian Barlow (Chair)
 Bernie Davis
 Chris Lockyear
 Hillary Nelson
 Rachel Perram
 Kevin Walker

Invited Reps:
 Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
 Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
 Jan Metcalf (Sid valley Biodiversity Group)
 Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)
 Charles Sinclair (River Sid Project)
 Roger Wolley (Sidmouth in Bloom, Sid Bashers)
 Dave Bramley (CAPS)

Apologies:

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm

PART 'A'

39 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 24 April 2023 and Monday July 10, 2023, were agreed, and signed.

40 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow and Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Member of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Chris Lockyear, Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group
Cllr Rachel Perram	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion.	Member of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors

41 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

42 Natural Environment:

42.1 Jan Metcalf from the Sid Valley Biodiversity group and Charles Sinclair was invited to speak regarding the Westcountry River Trust. They gave an overview of the River Sid Partnership project (*A summary is attached as separate document with the minutes.*). Plans for the immediate future included improving river habitat. They were most concerned about Woolbrook, due to urban and rural pollution. Members acknowledged and thanked them for the concise report.

42.2 Councillor Chris Lockyear gave an update regarding his dialog with South West Water. A project manager had been appointed and a meeting was expected to be scheduled.

42.3 Councillor Kevin Walker and Rodger Wolley updated the Committee on the spread of Japanese Knotweed in the Sidmouth Area. It was pointed out that Japanese Knotweed was not something that the Town Council had the power to treat or act on as it was a landowner responsibility to liaise with the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: to request that a letter be written to the MP, Head of County Council and District Council to request that communications/information be sent to landowners on their responsibilities to tackle Japanese Knotweed. Actions be taken by them and others to ensure that Japanese knotweed is removed and does not spread further in the river Sid.

42.4 Ed Dolphin gave an update to the Working Group on the project to plant 14,000 trees. Members thanked him for his report and were pleased with the progress.

42.5 Jon Ball spoke on treeconomics. A new Tree Survey of numbers and value of trees was required. Training, equipment costs and purchase of data would cost approximately £4K. Further information would be presented regarding the cost of evaluating the data at a future meeting when negotiations with Treeconomics have been conducted.

RECOMMENDED: that £4,000 be made available from the Environment Committee budget for the purposes of training, equipment costs and purchase of data.

43 Built Environment

43.1 Councillor Ian Barlow gave a brief update on sign cleaning and confirmed that work had been started and was being completed with no charge.

43.2 Councillor Barlow suggested a letter was written to the EDDC to increase their grass cutting/grounds maintenance budget requirement and make a co-ordinated plan. Ed Dolphin had made a suggested timetable for managing green spaces for nature with the EDDC. The Chair of the Town Council was trying to arrange a meeting with the Portfolio Holder at EDDC to discuss the issue.

43.3 Councillor Perram spoke on the funding request for the estimated £400 budget for an additional, larger, Toy Library.

RECOMMENDED: that £400 be made available from the Environment Committee budget for the purchase of a larger beach Toy Library.

44.3 Councillor Ian Barlow gave a brief update on the Sidmouth Telephone box displays. The next installations should be ready for the end of October. The displays had been well received by the public and were an asset to the Town.

RESOLVED: that a letter of thanks be submitted to the Director of the Art School.

45 **Engagement**

45.1 An update on the Caps project was given by Councillor Lockyear and Dave Bramley. Research from Pelle has shown a lot of Sidmouth residents are already aware of reducing their carbon footprint. Mailchimp had been set up to easily engage with the Community, forwarding information and educating about climate awareness.

.....
CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

