

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,**  
**on Monday 3 July 2023 at 6.30pm**

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Bernie Davis Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent Chris Lockyear (Chair) Rachel Perram
Sidmouth East	Lorraine Brown
Primley	Kevin Walker Hilary Nelson (Vice Chair)
Sidford	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow
District Councillor	Sophie Richards
Apologies:	Louise Laybury, John Loudoun

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.54pm

## **PART 'A'**

### **34 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 June 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.

### **35 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Mike Goodman	42 – Woolley Bequest	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion but did not vote	Member of Rotary Club of Sidmouth which was an organisation contributing to Sidmouth Regatta

### **36 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**

- a) The Chair informed Members of the unexpected death of Chris Wale, a former Councillor between 1998 and 2015 who had died recently at the age of 57. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.
- b) Members noted that the Sidmouth Folk Festival Civic Night would be held on Wednesday 9 August which was a concert by Lindisfarne. Tickets could be booked for Councillors and spouses through the Council offices and there would be a drinks reception ahead of the concert for all Councillors at 7pm.
- c) Sidmouth Girl Guide Rangers section had sent a thank you card to the Council to express their delight at having the old barn at Woolcombe house as a meeting space.

### **37 Public Open Question Time**

- a) Councillor Davis asked District Councillors if the long grass in Salters Meadow could be cut. She said that the area used to be a community meeting and amenity space but that it could not be used anymore due to high grass, litter and detritus in the grass. Councillor Walker also added his concern at the lack of maintenance to many EDDC maintained pathways especially around the northern end of the Byes making safe walking and cycling on the designated routes very difficult. District Councillors present said that they would take the matter up with the District Council Streetscene team. Councillor Goodman suggested that the idea for 'rewilding' areas had been done for the right reasons but that it now required a review ahead of the 2024 growing season and would be examined by the EDDC Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of Council agreed to write a letter to the District Council to express concern.
- b) Councillor Perram expressed her concern to District Councillors, that the EDDC toilets in the town were extremely dirty and not well maintained. She reported that as well as poor cleanliness all toilets, including the Town Council Arches had a lack of soap. All Members expressed their concerns as the Town Council was partly funding EDDC to keep these toilets open and maintained. District Councillors agreed to take the matter up with EDDC Streetscene and the Chair of Council agreed to write a letter to the District Council on the issue.

### **38 Police Advocate Report**

Councillor Nelson reported on a recent meeting that she, Councillor Lockyear and the Town Clerk had attended with Superintendent Hart and Inspector Gray. Various operational level issues had been discussed along with the poor performance of the 101 system. The Police had confirmed that they were improving the 101 system though it would take time and in the meantime, had improved the online crime reporting system. It was also noted that the Police would be attending more Council meetings in the future.

**RESOLVED:** That the Police Advocate report be noted.

### **39 Working Group Reports**

#### 39.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the report of the Planning Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 14 June 2023.

**RESOLVED:** that the Planning Working Group minutes be noted and decisions agreed subject to Minute 496 having an addition to the split decision to show that the Council supported the Kitchen Extension.

#### 39.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7 June 2023.

**RESOLVED:** that the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted and decisions agreed.

#### 39.3 Environment Committee

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that there was a meeting the following week and agenda would follow shortly.

**RESOLVED:** that the Environment Committee report be noted.

39.4 Council Resources Working Group

Councillor Lockyear, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group did not have any update to give.

39.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that Sidmouth College were involved in progressing some of the recommendations from the recent Young Persons Study report including the formation of a Youth Forum.

**RESOLVED:** that the Youth Provision Working Group report be noted.

**40 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities**

40.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for May 2023.

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Report for May 2023 be noted.

40.2 Other Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

Councillor Dent, the Council's representative at Sidmouth Museum announced that the museum had been awarded the Curry Fund Award of Excellence for its Triassic reptile exhibition. The Certificate of Excellence acknowledged the geological project that, in the Curry fund committee's view, represented best the aims and objectives of the Geologist's Association and the late Professor Dennis Curry. It was awarded for the best geo-education exhibit.

**41 Results of Recent By-Elections**

Members noted the results of nominations for the By Elections for 22 June:

- a) East Ward: Lorraine Brown was elected to the Town Council.
- b) West Ward: Due to no nominations being received and further to discussion with the Returning Officer, it was confirmed that this vacancy would be filled via co-option with the other vacancies in the Autumn, unless an election petition was received.
- c) Members were asked to consider the appointment of Councillor Brown to the Tourism & Economy Committee.

**RESOLVED:** That:

- 1) Members noted the results of the By Elections for 22 June.
- 2) Councillor Brown be appointed to the Tourism & Economy Committee.

**42 Woolley Bequest**

Members were asked to consider the use of Woolley Bequest funds to help support organisations who were organising events as part of Sidmouth Regatta 2023. Members debated whether they should use Woolley Bequest funding to go towards prizes for the various events.

**RESOLVED:** That £1,000 of Woolley Bequest funding be allocated to the Regatta Working Group to use to support community events being held as part Sidmouth Regatta.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL