

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 4 September 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)
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Sidford	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow

Apologies: Louise Laybury

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.50pm.

PART 'A'

49 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 August 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.

50 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow	56 Christmas Light Trail Funding Request	Discloseable Prejudicial	Did not take part in discussion or voting	Sidmouth School of Art Director

51 Public Open Question Time

- Kelly Tytherington commented that the on-street parking in the Primley area had been very busy and raised concerns that emergency vehicles would not have been able to access the area had they been called to attend. The Town Clerk reported that he would inform the District Council's Safety Advisory Team and the Folk Festival organisers of the issue raised.

52 Police and Police Advocate Report

PC Kelly Tytherington and PC Tom Driver attended the meeting and reported that:

- PC Adam Spears had moved to the Seaton team, but PC Tom Driver was now permanently part of the Sidmouth Neighbourhood Team. A new PCSO would be joining the Sidmouth Team on Monday 11 September.
- There had been a high influx of reports of neighbour disputes which were very time consuming and difficult to resolve; many were due to housing conflicts and mental health issues.
- Due to the high number of traffic accidents and speeding incidents over the last few years, the A3052 had now been designated as a High Harm Route.
- It was suggested that members of the public use the police website to report issues to the team, this was more efficient than using the 101 telephone system.

RESOLVED: That the Police report be noted.

53 Working Group Reports

53.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the report of the Planning Working Group meeting held on Wednesdays 9 and 23 August 2023 and reported that there would be a minor change to the report of the 23 August to change the description of one of the planning applications.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Working Group minutes be noted and decisions agreed.

53.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported a letter received from the Chamber of Commerce raising concerns about the number of high street businesses on the market which was due to a very poor summer season and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis. Both Devon and Cornwall Tourist Boards had reported a 20% reduction in visitor numbers for the 2023 season.

Councillor Nelson reported that the Regatta weekend had been very successful and that visitors to the Air Show had responded very positively to the food and drink sellers on The Ham. She thanked Councillors Perram and Barlow, who with Duncan Woods and Graham Symington had worked very hard to make the whole event so successful.

RESOLVED: that the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted.

53.3 Environment Committee

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 9 October and he would be happy to receive suggestions for agenda items.

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee report be noted.

53.4 Council Resources Working Group

Councillor Lockyear, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group reported that the next meeting would be held in September, date to be advised.

53.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that the next working group meeting would be held on 12 September and the next stakeholder meeting on 20 September.

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

54 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

54.1 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 2023.

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 2023.

b) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for July 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for July 2023 be noted.

54.2 South West Water Liaison

Councillor Lockyear reported that he had received a request from SWW to supply a quote from the Town Council that stresses the importance of the additional expenditure planned for updating the sewage/waste water system throughout the Sid Valley. This would be used to support the internal SWW business case for the project. He had prepared a draft and had also requested a meeting with the Project Manager and a detailed plan of the scheduled work to be carried out.

Councillor Davis reported that there would be Safer Seas and Rivers Service QR codes displayed on the seafront which would give information of the condition of the sea water to swimmers.

RESOLVED: That the South West Water Liaison report be noted.

55 Town Council Ward Vacancies - Co-option Procedure

Members were asked to consider the timetable and procedure to fill the current vacancies on the Town Council which had been drawn up in line with guidance from the National Association of Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That the Co-option Procedure process, timetable and application form be adopted, with a minor change to the time allowed for applicants to speak, to be increased from 3 to 5 minutes. This would be followed by questions from Members.

Councillor Barlow left the meeting prior to the next item.

56 Christmas Light Trail Funding Request

Members were asked to consider using the Woolley Bequest fund to support a new community event for the town:

The Sidmouth Winter Lights Festival: An inspiration of light sculptures, projections and lanterns based at the Sensory Garden and Riverside Walkway.

RESOLVED: That:

1. £2,500 be allocated from the Woolley Bequest to Sidmouth School of Art's Sidmouth Winter Lights Festival.
2. The applicant be reminded that an application to use The Ham, for relevant parts of the festival to include all dates, times, planned activities, would need to be made and considered by the Council acting as Trustee.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL