

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,**  
**on Monday 4 December 2023**

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Ward           | Councillors Present:   |
| Sidmouth North | Stephen Blakeway<br>Bernie Davis   |
| Sidmouth South | Kelvin Dent<br>Paul Dodds<br>Chris Lockyear (Chair)<br>John Nicholson<br>Rachel Perram |
| Sidmouth East  | Lorraine Brown   |
| Sidmouth West  | Phil Weaver  |
| Primley        | Francetta Bridle<br>Hilary Nelson (Vice Chair)<br>Kevin Walker                         |
| Sidbury        | John Loudoun   |
| Sidford        | Mike Goodman<br>Louise Laybury   |
| Salcombe Regis | Ian Barlow   |
| Apologies:     | Stuart Hughes, Edward Willis Fleming   |

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.10pm.

**PART 'A'**

**80 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6 November 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.

**81 Declarations of Interest**

| Name               | Item Number  | Type     | Action Taken   | Details  |
|--------------------|--|----------|--|--|
| Cllr Kelvin Dent   | 84 Proposed Pay and Display, The Esplanade and Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club Member |
| Cllr Mike Goodman  | 84 Proposed Pay and Display, The Esplanade and Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club Member |
| Cllr Rachel Perram | 84 Proposed Pay and Display, The Esplanade and Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club Member |
| Cllr Paul Dodds    | 84 Proposed Pay and Display, The Esplanade and Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth | Personal | Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting | Sidmouth Cricket, Tennis and Croquet Club Member |

**82 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**

- The Chair reported that he had written to Boots Plc raising concerns about the advertised closure of the Boots Chemist in Woolbrook Road and had received a reply which confirmed that the closure would go ahead as planned.
- The Chair reported that the transfer of Knowle Parkland to the Town Council would take place on Friday 8 December 2023.
- The Chair gave new Members an update on correspondence received from an East Ward resident and explaining that he would be replying on behalf of the Town Council.

*The following two items were brought forward during the meeting to enable a member of the public to speak and raise issues on the items before Members discussion.*

**83 Walking and Cycling Route Linking Sidbury to Sidford – Public Consultation**

Devon County Council had launched a public consultation for a walking and cycling route linking Sidbury to Sidford. The public consultation had been launched prior to the submission of a planning application. Any subsequent planning application would be publicised by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council). Any comments provided by the Town Council would not prejudice the ability to make representations to the LPA on a related planning application.

The proposed development was described as:

“A new off-road shared use cycle/walkway, that will run parallel to the western side of the A375 between the southern boundary of Hillside to the northern boundary of Sidford with associated engineering works.”

**RESOLVED:** That Sidmouth Town Council supports the proposed Walking and Cycling Route Linking Sidbury to Sidford.

**84 Proposed Pay and Display, The Esplanade and Fortfield Terrace, Sidmouth**

Further to the Chair’s report to Members at the October Council meeting, Chris Rook, Devon County Council’s Traffic Management Team Manager had written to advise that a plan had been issued ahead of a consultation exercise.

**RESOLVED:** That:

1. The Esplanade, Sidmouth – Members agreed there should be limited time parking of up to 1 hour but with no charge made. This would achieve a turnover of visitor/residents parking but avoid the visual intrusion of the necessary parking machines in the important conservation area along the Esplanade.
2. Fortfield Terrace – That the proposal for 30-minute free parking for non-permit holders and a £1 charge for up to one hour be supported.

**85 Public Open Question Time**

- Cllr Walker asked District Cllr Barlow to give an update on the issue raised at the November Council meeting regarding the District Council demanding a licence for walks commencing using District Council owned land. District Cllr Barlow reported that he had been in correspondence with the EDDC Events Team and Licencing Committee but had not yet received an explanation as to why the problem had occurred; he would continue to pursue this matter with other District Council Members.
- Cllr Perram raised concerns to District Councillors and the County Council about the lack of clearing fallen leaves and cleaning of pavements and gullies which was leading to blocked drains and flooded roads.

**86 Police and Police Advocate Report**

Councillor Nelson, Police Advocate, reported that there had been a very successful Police district wide operation to remove dangerous weapons from the streets leading to the removal of 172 illegal blades, although not many of these were taken in Sidmouth.

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

**87 Working Group Reports**

87.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 1 and 15 November 2023.

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

87.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 13 December.

87.3 Environment Committee

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in February 2024.

87.4 Council Resources Working Group

Councillor Lockyear, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group, advised that there was nothing to report.

87.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, updated new Members on the ownership of the Youth Centre and Youth Provision commissioned by the Town Council. A feasibility study had been undertaken which would report at the end of March 2024 and in the interim temporary facilities were being sought to house the Youth Club during any period of redevelopment.

Cllr Nelson also asked new Members to consider joining the Youth Provision Working Group.

**88 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities**

**88.1 Finance Report**

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for October 2023 and reported that a meeting would be held with one of the Town Council's main contractors to discuss their charging structure.

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

**88.2 South West Water Liaison**

Councillor Lockyear reported that South West Water were holding a Public Engagement event to present the planned work, to be held on Wednesday 6 December at Kennaway House and Members were encouraged to attend.

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

**89 Committee/Working Group Membership**

a) Members were asked to consider and approve a list of nominations for Committee/Working Group appointments for the remainder of the civic year:

**RESOLVED:** That the following appointments to Committee/Working Groups be agreed:

Planning Working Group – Cllrs Nicholson

Tourism & Economy Committee – Cllrs Bridle, Dodds, Weaver and Willis Fleming

Environment Committee – Cllrs Blakeway, Nicholson and Weaver

b) Members were asked to consider and approve the appointment of Cllr Nicholson as a Deputy Member with Special Responsibility for Finance for the remainder of the civic year.

**RESOLVED:** That the proposed appointment of Cllr Nicholson as a Deputy Member with Special Responsibility for Finance for the remainder of the civic year, be agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL