

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 6 November 2023

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
	Louise Laybury
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow
Apologies:	None

The meeting started at 6.30pm adjourned at 6.35pm for a meeting of the Council as Trustee and recommenced at 6.40pm finishing at 8.40pm.

PART 'A'

70 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2 and 16 October 2023 were signed as a true and accurate record.

71 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received for items on the agenda.

72 Police and Police Advocate Report

PC Tom Driver with PCSO Sarah Reece attended the meeting, answered Members questions and reported that there had been 35 reported crimes in October which was a 36% decrease compared to the previous year.

Councillor Nelson, Police Advocate, advised that the Police Advocate report had been distributed to Members, via email, prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Police and Police Advocate reports be noted.

Meeting adjourned at 6.35pm and recommenced at 6.40pm

73 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that he had written to thank EDDC Streetscene for the quick removal of the large number of pebbles from The Esplanade after the recent storm.
- The Chair would write to thank Ros Davies for her many years' service and assistance working on behalf of the P3 committee.

- Members were invited to attend the Town Council Christmas Dinner on Friday 15 December at The Bedford Hotel. Volunteers supporting work on behalf of Young Peoples Mental Health would also be invited as a thank you from the Town Council. The Chair hoped that as many Members as possible would be able to attend.
- The Remembrance Sunday parade would commence outside the Co-op store at 10.15am on Sunday 12 November 2023; Members were invited to attend.

74 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

75 Public Open Question Time

- Prior to the meeting, Cllrs Nelson and Perram raised the following issue with District Councillors:

It appeared from anecdotal evidence through Sidmouth Gateway and Sidmouth Consolidated Charities that DC properties were being let without carpets, curtains and white goods, with those left by previous tenants disposed of rather than repurposed for new tenants. Whilst it was recognised that EDDC faced many challenges around providing council housing, they were concerned at the potential waste and environmental impact of disposing of household essentials unnecessarily, as well as the impact on tenants, many of whom are on very low incomes, of having to finance these necessities themselves when they move in. Charities often stepped in to help, but this was not always be possible.

It would be very helpful to clarify the situation for those charities who were working with tenants and to see if there were any ways in which the system could be improved to reduce waste and lessen the financial burden on tenants.

A full reply had been received from District Cllr Barlow which would be forwarded to Members for their information.

- Cllr Perram asked whether there had been any consultation or planning application processed for the recent erection of a splash wall at Jacobs Ladder by East Devon District Council.
It was thought that this work had been carried out by East Devon District Council as an emergency measure but both District Cllrs Loudoun and Barlow would enquire to obtain further information.

76 Working Group Reports

76.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 4 and 18 October 2023.

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

76.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, advised that there was nothing new to report with a meeting of the Committee due to be held on Wednesday 13 December.

76.3 Environment Committee

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, presented the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9 October.

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee minutes be noted and decisions agreed.

76.4 Council Resources Working Group

Councillor Lockyear, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group reported that a meeting would be held on Monday 13 November and he would report to the December Council meeting.

76.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, advised that there was nothing to report.

77 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

77.1 Finance Report

a) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for September 2023.

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

b) 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 September 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 September 2023.

77.2 Parish Paths Partnership Committee

Councillor Walker reported that the Sidmouth Walking Festival had cancelled two of their planned walks which would have crossed Connaught Gardens and The Byes. Both were District Council land and they had been informed, at very late notice, that they would be required to complete a complex application form and pay a licence fee to walk across what appeared to be Public Rights of Way. District Councillor Barlow reported that he had contacted the EDDC Events Team and written to the Chair of the District Council's Licence Committee and would forward the responses when received.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Paths Partnership report be noted.

77.3 South West Water Liaison

Councillor Lockyear reported that he and Councillor Nelson had a meeting with South West Water on Thursday 2 November to discuss the plans and timescale of the upgrading project to be carried out in Sidmouth. The project would see £9.8m being spent in Sidmouth before the end of 2024 and £14m by the end of 2025. South West Water were planning to hold a Public Engagement event shortly to present the planned work and Councillors Lockyear and Nelson would meet with the SWW project team on a monthly basis.

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

78 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: 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.

PART 'B'

79 Town Council Ward Vacancies – Co-options

Members were asked to consider applications to fill the vacancies on the Town Council; applicants had been invited to attend and speak for up to 5 minutes to support their application.

RESOLVED: That the following individuals be co-opted to the Town Council wards as indicated:

Cllr Stephen Blakeway – North Ward

Cllr Francetta Bridle – Primley Ward

Cllr Edward Willis Flemming – Salcombe Regis Ward

Cllr Paul Dodds – South Ward

Cllr John Nicholson – South Ward

Cllr Phil Weaver – West Ward

.....
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL