

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 8 January 2024

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.30pm.

PART 'A'

90 Minutes

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

91 Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest.

92 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reminded Members of a forthcoming Briefing and Training session on Wednesday 10 January.
- The Chair reminded Members of the forthcoming Council meeting to agree the Budget and Estimates for 2024/25 and to be held on Monday 22 January.
- It was noted that Environment Committee Thermal Imaging surveys were again being carried out to help residents consider the efficiency of their home insulation. 125 homes had been surveyed in the past two winters so far. It was agreed that this should be extended to small businesses in future.
- It was noted that East Devon District Council has liaised with the Town Council regarding mowing regimes and that two distinct models were in the process of being adopted. One for a regular 2 weekly cut in and around housing and urban areas and the other for those areas considered to be allowed to grow 'wilder'. The Town Council had requested that the public be made more aware of the new cutting timetables via a joint press release.
- The Chair provided clarification regarding ownership and management of Trustee land on which a Member of the public had asked a question.

93 Public Open Question Time

- There were no additional questions from the public.

94 Police and Police Advocate Report

Police Constable Tom Driver reported that there had been 35 reported crimes in December 2023, down from 37 in Dec 2022. There had been a slight increase in the number of alcohol related arrests force wide over the Christmas period.

RESOLVED: That the Police report be noted.

95 Working Group Reports

95.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 29 November and 20 December 2023.

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

95.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the minutes of the Tourism and Economy Committee held on Wednesday 13 December 2023.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Tourism and Economy Committee held on held on Wednesday 13 December 2023 be noted.

95.3 Environment Committee

The Chair of Council reminded Members that the next meeting of the Environment Committee was due to be held on Monday 12 February 2024.

95.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

95.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, advised that Councillors Bridle and Dodds would be joining the Working Group. It was noted that Councillors Nelson and Davis would be attending various sessions at the Youth Centre shortly.

96 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

95.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for November 2023.

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

95.2 South West Water Liaison

Councillor Lockyear reported that South West Water would be attending the next meeting of the Council to advise on forthcoming works to infrastructure in the town following recent surveys and analysis of infiltration, surface water runoff and the main holding tank at the Ham.

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

97 Committee/Working Group Membership

Councillor Hughes had notified the Town Clerk of his resignation from the Tourism and Economy Committee.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Hughes removed from the membership of the Tourism and Economy Committee.

98 East Devon District Council – Council Plan – Public Consultation

The Chair of Council reminded Members of the ongoing public consultation being carried out by East Devon District Council on its Council Plan and encouraged all members to respond individually.

It was noted that the Coast and Country Project Team had responded separately on behalf of member Councils.

99 East Devon District Council – Consultation on Cemetery Regulations

The Chair of Council reminded Members of the ongoing public consultation being carried out by East Devon District Council on Cemeteries and encouraged all members to respond individually.

During discussion the possibility of requesting that a Woodland cemetery be provided in Sidmouth was raised and it was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting of the Council’s Environment Committee when it discussed the management of Cemeteries in general.

RESOLVED: that the possibility of East Devon District Council providing a Woodland cemetery in Sidmouth be discussed at a future meeting of the Council’s Environment Committee when it discussed the management of Cemeteries.

100 List of Meeting Dates January 2024 to May 2025

The Chair of Council presented the draft list of meetings for the forthcoming civic year. It was noted that an erroneous date of 17 January 2025 for Planning Working Group would be removed.

RESOLVED: that list of meeting dates for the 2024/25 civic year be agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL