

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

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

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

PART 'A'

130 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 4 March 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

131 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow	Sidmouth Festival of Flags	Discloseable Prejudicial	Did not take part in discussion or voting	Director Sidmouth School of Art

132 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that there would be an Informal meeting held on Monday 29 April 2024 where Members would be able to discuss and plan priorities for the forthcoming year.
- Cllr Perram had reported the poor condition of the Costa Coffee building which is a Listed Building. Cllr Barlow would raise this issue with EDDC's Conservation Officer but thought that letters should also be written from the Town Council and Chamber of Commerce to strengthen the concerns raised.

- The Chair reported that, meetings had been held with District Cllr Geoff Jung, Ed Dolphin and the Town Clerk intended to attempt to simplify the mowing regimes carried out by the District Council and to issue a joint press release designed to give residents more relevant information regarding grass cutting in their areas. As the Town Council managed areas already had previously agreed strict management regimes, it was noted that further questions or concerns regarding areas not managed by the Town Council should be made directly to the District Council.

Members accepted that many areas were not under the jurisdiction of the Town Council but that the issue of grass cutting could be added to a future meeting of the Environment Committee so that Members could consider any comments made to the District Council.

133 Public Open Question Time

- There were no questions from the public.
- Cllr Perram raised the issue regarding the disgusting state of the public conveniences in the town which were not being cleaned properly. This had been reported to the relevant EDDC officers, but no response had been received. It was suggested that EDDC's Environmental Health department could be asked to take samples and test to see if the lack of cleanliness was now a public health issue. Letters would be written to the EDDC Leader Paul Arnott and Chief Executives to report this issue.

134 South West Water

Charlie Ford, of South West Water attended the meeting to give an update of the Sid Valley major improvement works project:

- SWW had been on site, with Glanville, for delivery of the infiltration reduction. This had been slightly hindered by high rainfall, but the overall programme schedule had been maintained.
- The detailed design and forecast construction programme for the tank element of the project had been collated, with internal approval forecast for July 2024. This would maintain the mobilisation commencement date of September 2024 and construction completion of March 2025, to be followed by reinstatement of the grassed surface anticipated to be available for the 2025 Folk Festival in July/August 2025.
- A Sidmouth Sewer Improvements website had been launched with the programme and general updates; this can be accessed at: www.southwestwater.co.uk/sidmouth-sewer-improvements and would be linked to the Town Council's website for easy access for Members and residents.
- The Chair of Council requested that access to the South West Coastal Path, Alma Bridge and the pathway alongside The Ham be maintained throughout the construction and reinstatement phases of the project.

- Members understood that the 2024 Carnival Fun Fair and 2025 Sea Fest would need to be relocated elsewhere and both organisations should be informed.

RESOLVED: That Charlie Ford be thanked for attending the meeting and the South West Water report be noted.

135 Police and Police Advocate Report

Councillor Nelson, Police Advocate, reported that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9 April so there would be more to report at the next Council meeting.

136 Working Group Reports

136.1 Planning Working Group Reports

a) Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 28 February and 13 March 2024.

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

b) Councillor Dent reported that he had received a quote from Chris Broughton, who had worked on the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan, for a Housing Needs Survey report. This was in the sum of £5,850 and Cllr Dent requested Member's agreement for the Planning Working Group to proceed with this project.

RESOLVED: that a sum of £5,850 be allocated from the SVNP Community Actions EMR for a Housing Needs Survey report.

136.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

a) Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

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

b) Members were asked to receive and confirm the adoption of the Sustainable Tourism Roadmap as a working document.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Sustainable Tourism Roadmap be adopted as a working document.
2. Cllr Hilary Nelson and Louise Cole be formally thanked for their extensive work on the overall IRF CMC project and the creation of the document.

136.3 Environment Committee

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 22 April 2024.

136.4 Council Resources Working Group

Councillor Lockyear, Chair of the Council Resources Working Group, reported that a meeting would be arranged in the following weeks.

136.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that the feasibility study into replacement of the current Youth Centre Building would be circulated shortly.

137 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

137.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for February 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for February 2024 be noted.

137.4 Beach Management Scheme (BMS)

Councillor Lockyear reported that work was ongoing and meetings had been held with KIER and Atkins who were working on a design with construction anticipated for commencement in 2026/27.

RESOLVED: That the report on the BMS be noted.

138 Vacancy – Sidford Ward

Members formally noted the resignation of Louise Laybury from the Sidford Ward of the Council.

A successful election petition had been received by the Returning Officer who had set a polling date, but no candidates had put themselves forward.

139 Sidmouth Festival of Flags – A Celebration of Sidmouth project

Members were asked to consider an email received from Lousie Cole, Director Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub, who had requested permission to use the catenary wires running through the town centre for a flag display in the summer. The creative community project focused on building new creative skills and confidence, placemaking through community cooperation with the shared aims of community cohesion, sense of civic pride and belonging.

The Town Clerk had liaised with the Council's lighting contractors who had confirmed that the catenary wires were stress tested each year and could be used for this purpose if Members gave permission.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted to Sidmouth Coastal Community Hub to use the catenary wires running through the town centre for a flag display in the summer.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL