

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,**  
**Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth**  
**on Monday 12 February 2024 at 6.30pm**

Councillors present: Ian Barlow (Chair)  
Stephen Blakeway  
Bernie Davis  
Kelvin Dent  
Mike Goodman  
Chris Lockyear  
John Nicholson  
Rachel Perram  
Kevin Walker  
Philip Weaver

Invited Reps: Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Jan Metcalf (Sid valley Biodiversity Group)  
Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Charles Sinclair (River Sid Project)  
Roger Wolley (Sidmouth in Bloom, Sid Bashers)  
Dave Bramley (CAPS)  
Jeremey Woodward (VGS)  
Katy Frost (FOGG)

Apologies: Councillor Hillary Nelson  
Councillor Edward Willis-Flemming

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.35pm

**PART 'A'**

**46 Minutes**

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 9 October 2023, were agreed, and signed.

**47 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr and Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Members of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Ian Barlow, Chris Lockyear, Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Members of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

Cllr Rachel Perram	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion.	Member of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors
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#### 48 **Matters of Urgency and Report**

None reported.

#### 49 **Natural Environment:**

49.1 Chairman Ian Barlow updated the meeting about the spread of Japanese Knotweed in the Sidmouth Area. The Chairman received a reply to his email to the local MP. The map of knotweed in the area needed updating.

49.2 Jan Metcalf from the Sid Valley Biodiversity group was invited to speak on her report regarding the Westcountry River Trust. She gave a brief overview of the River Sid Partnership project. Members acknowledged and thanked her for the concise report and ongoing hard work.

49.3 Councillor Chris Lockyear gave an update regarding his dialog with South West Water and the works they were doing and planning in the town.

49.4 Jon Ball from the Arboretum gave an update on the 10-year treeconomics report. The Committee praised their ongoing hard work.

**RESOLVED:** That option 3 of the options presented for purchasing data from the upcoming Treeconomics survey be accepted for £6000.

49.5 Ed Dolphin gave an update from the Arboretum on the project to plant 14,000 trees. Members thanked him and the group for his report and were impressed with the progress of over 9000 trees planted in 2 Years.

#### 50 **Built Environment**

50.1 Roy Russell from Sidmouth Cycling Campaign presented his report on raising awareness and safety for cycling in the Sid Valley.

50.2 The Chairman discussed the work the Biodiversity group intends to do and the signage for the 'Beach Garden' in front of the Belmont.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the feasibility of an information board be examined by the Council and if permission was given by East Devon District Council to site such a sign, delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Council and Chair of Environment Committee to purchase a board costing up to a maximum of £1500.

50.3 Jeremy Woodward discussed the VGS led, new Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries report and the relationship with STC and EDDC, including the contribution of volunteers and the issue of insurance cover. A request was given for funding for volunteer Hi-Viz jackets. Thanks was given to the ongoing commitment and work of the VGS group.

**RESOLVED:** A donation of £160 was granted by the Committee for the purchase of Hi-Viz vests.

- 50.4 Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a verbal report on the possibility of a woodland burial plot in the Sid Valley.

Councillor Dent and Walker agreed to set up a Working Group to investigate costings and potential sites and will report back to this committee at a later date.

- 50.5 Katy Frost (FOGG) gave a report on the refurbishment of Glen Goyle. It has won an outstanding award from Britain in Bloom. The Chair and Members gave thanks and appreciation to the FOGG group and everything they have achieved.

- 50.6 Councillor Rachel Perram gave a report on initiating a Tidy up Sidmouth Day/s.

**RESOLVED:** A Working Group with Councillors Perram, Weaver, Davis and Walker has been set up to deliver this.

- 50.7 The Chairman reported on assisting the County Highways with the ongoing issue of Potholes in the Sid Valley.

**RECOMMENDED:** Members to report every pothole and blocked drain to DDC. Chair of the Committee to liaise with the Town Clerk to discuss the possibility of outsourcing and insurance to fill the potholes independently.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/report-a-pothole-form/> Blocked drains reported to [https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map\\_src/sw/](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map_src/sw/)

- 50.8 Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a verbal report on the progress management plan of the Knowle Parkland and Gardens.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Walker had joined the group “Friends of Knowle “as the Council representative and would assist them in liaising with the Council and contractors.

## 51 Engagement

- 51.1 An update on the CAPS project was given by Councillor Lockyear and Dave Bramley stressing the need for more engagement with the Community, forwarding information and educating about climate awareness.

**RECOMMENDED:** Chair to arrange a meeting to discuss how best to increase our social media coverage and get a larger audience for ongoing campaigns.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE