

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 22 April 2024 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Stephen Blakeway
Bernie Davis
Kelvin Dent
Paul Dodds
Mike Goodman
Chris Lockyear
Hillary Nelson
John Nicholson
Kevin Walker
Philip Weaver

Invited Reps:

Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Charles Sinclair (River Sid Project)
Lynette Talbot (Sidmouth in Bloom)
Roger Woolley (Sidmouth in Bloom, Sid Bashers)
Dave Bramley (CAPS)
Jeremey Woodward (SVA)

Apologies: Councillor Edward Willis-Flemming
Councillor Rachel Perram

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.50pm

PART 'A'

52 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 12 February 2024, were agreed, and signed.

53 Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr Kelvin Dent				Resident of Knowle Drive adjacent to Knowle Gardens
Cllr Chris Lockyear, Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

54 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

55 Natural Environment:

- 55.1 Charles Sinclair from River Sid Partnership gave a verbal update regarding their ongoing work on the River Sid project and the funding from South West Water. He gave thanks to the Town Council for the consultation and thanks were given by the Committee for their ongoing dedication and hard work. A meeting will be held at Kennaway House on 10 May for further discussion.
- 55.2 Ed Dolphin gave an update on the 'Shingle Beach Nature Area'. Unwanted plants had been cleared, making way for new planting.
RESOLVED: The Chair informed the Committee that the information sign was in the final stages of production, costing £1k. Permission has been granted by East Devon District Council (EDDC) for its placement.
- 55.3 Jon Ball from the Arboretum gave an update on the 10-year treeconomics report. The survey will start in June, running through to September.
- 55.4 Councillor Kevin Walker gave a report from the new Friends of the Knowle Group and their activities.
RECOMMENDED:
1) that Councillor Walker officially joins the Council's Knowle Park and Gardens Working Group.
2) that a donation of £250 to cover the initial one off set up costs of group be made.
- 55.5 Councillor Chris Lockyear gave an update regarding his dialog with South West Water and the works they were progressing in Sidmouth. 10 Million pounds would be invested by South West Water into Sidmouth over the next few years.
- 55.6 Jeremy Woodward gave thanks to the Environment Committee on behalf of the Cherish Sidmouth Cemeteries Group and the Sid Vale Association for the purchase of Hi Viz jackets for the volunteers. Thanks was given by the Committee to the ongoing commitment and work of the VGS group.

56 Built Environment

56.1 The Chair reported on assisting the County Highways with the ongoing issue of Potholes and drainage in the Sid Valley.

RESOLVED:

1) that all residents should be encouraged to report any blocked drains or potholes to Devon County Council (DCC).

2) that Councillor Paul Dodds would set up a Working Group to monitor and assist DCC via the Road Wardens Programme. Volunteers to be sent on a Road Wardens training day provided by Stuart Hughes and DCC.

56.2 Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a brief update on the idea of Woodland Burial Plots in the Sid Valley. Councillor Dent and Walker were working to investigate costings and potential sites. Diana East gave an update on a plot of land on Redwood Road for sale.

56.3 Potential Tidy up Sidmouth Day/s.

RESOLVED: That a Working Group be set up with Councillors Perram, Weaver, Davis and Walker meet to discuss collaborating with Sidmouth Plastic Warriors, Sidmouth in Bloom and all other groups at the meeting to ensure a good turnout at the event and make a visible difference to the town .

57 Engagement

57.1 An update on the Caps project was given by Dave Bramley who suggested it become a signpost for the Environment Group. More engagement was needed with the Community, forwarding information and educating about climate awareness. A request for £400 to fund educating talks was given. Lynette Talbot from Sidmouth in Bloom suggested to set up a speakers list on the council website for anyone who wants one.

RECOMMENDED: that £200 for talks to help inform residents on renewables and sustainability, following up with sponsorship for the remaining amount be agreed.

57.2 Councillor Bernie Davis presented a concise report on the Plant Based Treaty Campaign group and how parts of their 'Treaty' could be incorporated into the Council's Environment Policy. The Chair of Council had previously agreed for the item to be included on the Environment Committee Agenda as it had been raised by a member of the public at the Annual Town Assembly meeting held on 4 March 2024.

RESOLVED: that a working group with Councillors Davis, Lockyear, Blakeway and Nicholson be set up to review the Environment Policy.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE