

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 1 July 2024 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.20pm.

PART 'A'

39 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 3 June 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

40 Declarations of Interest

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

41 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that the slide that had been vandalised in the Long Park Play Area had now been repaired and the play park reopened.
- The Chair was liaising with the Council's operative at The Ham to ensure that suitable locked bollards were in place to ensure security of the area.
- The Chair reported that after recent landslips additional signage had been put in place at Alma Field to ensure residents and visitors safety. Arrangements would be made to move the fence line further back inland.

42 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Loudoun asked the County Councillor whether additional signage could be put in place at the corner of Cotford Road in Sidbury. The County Council contractors had now been replaced the railings that had been damaged by a speeding car and it would be useful for drivers to inform them of the dangerous bend. County Councillor Hughes replied that he would ask the relevant officers to consider Councillor Loudoun's proposal.

43 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that PCSO Sarah Reeve would be holding outreach sessions for residents, these would be held at Sidmouth Library on Wednesdays 3 and 31 July, between the hours of 10am and 2pm.

44 Committee/Working Group Reports

44.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Lockyear presented the report of the Planning Working Group meeting held on Wednesday 5 June 2024.

Councillor Lockyear also read a report prepared by Councillor Perram which gave additional information on some of the planning applications including the removal of a fence erected at Coburg Road; the enlargement of a child minding/nursery business; the McCarthy Stone development of the Knowle and the planned Rockfish restaurant at the Drill Hall.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Planning Working Group report be noted and decisions agreed.
- b) Councillor Lockyear would write to Mitch Tonks, Rockfish to engage with the proposed development at the Drill Hall.
- c) Councillor Lockyear would write to the Leader of the District Council, EDDC Portfolio Holder for Assets and the Acting Director of Place raising the Town Council's concerns over general lack of consultation between the two Councils, especially regarding the provision of public conveniences in Sidmouth.

44.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 June 2024 and asked Members to note that bullet point five of Minute Number 4 would be amended to read:

'A South West Data Hub had been set up which would collect tourism data, tracking mobile phone accessing Apps, alongside credit and debit card payments. This data would be useful to the Town Council and its Tourism & Promotion activities.'

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted and decisions agreed.

44.3 Environment Committee Report

The next Environment Committee would be held on Monday 8 June 2024.

44.4 Council Resources Working Group

There was nothing to report from the Council Resources Working Group.

44.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson confirmed that Manstone Youth Centre would be closing at the end of September 2024. A Press Release had been issued and placed on the Town Council's website to that effect. Other organisations currently using the Youth Centre building had made alternative arrangements with meeting halls in Sidmouth and Young Devon were currently reviewing two alternative premises for their future youth engagement work.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision Working Group report be noted

45 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

45.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for May 2024.

RESOLVED: that the Finance Report for May 2024 be noted and agreed.

46 South West Water Remedial Works Project

Councillor Lockyear reported that Sidmouth had been allocated a new South West Water Engagement Officer, Brogan Wiggins, who would be attending the September Council meeting to meet Members and give a full report.

Councillor Lockyear read a report regarding South West Water's Remedial Works Project and their current activities including; Infiltration Reduction, The Ham Storage Tank and Surface Water Separation. Much of the work is scheduled until the early part of 2025 with anticipation that the ground at The Ham would be stable by August 2025 to enable access for Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Councillor Lockyear would act a coordination between the Town Council and South West Water, Rockfish and Sidmouth Lifeboat, all of whom would be carrying out major building works in The Ham area during the early part of 2025.

RESOLVED: That the South West Water Remedial Works Project report be noted.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL