

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 2 September 2024 at 6.30pm

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.00pm.

PART 'A'

55 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 5 August 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

56 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Stuart Hughes	61.1 Planning report 14 August 2024 Cycle Route	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	County Councillor & Cabinet Member for Highway Management

57 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that both the Folk Festival and Regatta had been successful events. Members agreed that he should write to congratulate and thank the organisers.
- The Chair reported that he had now spoken to Rock Fish as part of his aim to aid communication between South West Water, Sidmouth Lifeboat and Rock Fish who were all planning major works in The Ham area.
- The Chair reported that a limited number of DALC 'Being a Good Councillor' courses would be run on Monday 7 October from 6pm to 7pm. As this training coincided with the October Council meeting the Council meeting would be delayed until 7.30pm to enable Members to attend both the training and Council meeting.

58 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Walker commented on the District Council's consultation being carried out on PSPO Dog Control Orders and asked whether there were any Enforcement Officers to ensure adherence to the PSPOs. District Cllrs Barlow and Goodman responded that there were Enforcement Officers who regularly patrolled The Byes and Esplanade in Sidmouth. They preferred to focus on education rather than enforcement and believed that better results were achieved as a result.
- Cllr Loudoun asked what the County Council's approach was to the woodcarver who had parked and set up a stall in the layby near to The Bowd. County Cllr Hughes replied that there were a number of individuals leaving vehicles in that layby including the woodcarver, car sales and a pizza delivery trailer. He had requested that a time limit be introduced, including no overnight parking which should solve the problem in the future.

59 South West Water Remedial Works Project

Charlie Ford and Kathy Merchant, representatives for South West Water gave an update to Members regarding the ongoing Remedial Works Project and installation of a new tank at The Ham. Members and residents could see the latest position on the project by visiting the South West Water website:

www.southwestwater.co.uk/about-us/what-we-do/improving-your-service/projects-and-investment/sidmouth-sewer-improvements

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

60 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that it was anticipated that a meeting would be held in late September/early October. Police were currently running a campaign to encourage the public to report problems to the correct body and stop the misuse of the emergency call system. The number 999 should be used for emergencies only and the public were encouraged to use the online reporting system where issues would be directed towards the appropriate agency.

61 Committee/Working Group Reports

61.1 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 31 July and 14 August 2024.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the Planning Working Group reports be noted.
- 2) the Planning Working Group's decisions and observations from the reports above, be agreed.

b) Councillor Dent reported that a special meeting of the Planning Working Group would be held on Thursday 5 September so that Members could review the Local Plan report prior to its consideration at the District Council on Wednesday 11 September. This together with absences, meant that the 11 September Sidmouth Town Council Planning Working Group meeting would be cancelled and the next meeting would be 25 September.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Working Group meeting date changes be noted and agreed.

61.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 18 September 2024.

61.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 21 October 2024.

61.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

61.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that arrangements had been made to move the Young Devon Youth Provision sessions to alternative facilities; Friday young group to the Guide HQ building and Wednesday seniors and Tuesday skills sessions both to the YMCA building. Both facilities reflected more accurately the aspirations of the young people who had responded to the consultation process.

Other users would also be moving to alternative premises by the beginning of October and a special meeting had been arranged for them to discuss their future, to be held on Thursday 19 September at 10am.

The next meeting of the Youth Provision Working Group would be held on Tuesday 10 September at 10am.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision Working Group report be noted.

62 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

62.1 Finance Report

a) Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for July 2024.

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

b) Members were asked to consider and approve the draft Investment Strategy document presented by the Member and Deputy Member for Finance and the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: That the Investment Strategy document be agreed and adopted by the Town Council.

63 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Members were asked to note the receipt of completion of review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) from the Town Council's auditor PKF Littlejohn. The statutory Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31 March 2024 had been duly advertised on the Town Council's website.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the receipt of completion of review of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) from the Town Council's auditor PKF Littlejohn be noted.
- 2) the Council staff be thanked for their work towards a successful audit.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL