

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

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

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 6.55pm.

PART 'A'

86 Minutes

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

87 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	90.3 Environment Committee Report	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Neighbour to The Knowle

88 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Walker reported that at the EDDC Cabinet meeting, held on the 27 November, the Glen Goyle footpath had not been allocated the proposed £30,000 and this had been deferred to explore the possibility of working with local stakeholders. He asked why this discussion had not taken place prior to the Cabinet meeting.

District Councillor Barlow replied that when it became apparent at the meeting that the Glen Goyle proposal would not meet the criteria for funding and would be rejected outright, he had suggested the involvement of local groups in the hope that the work could be able to be carried out with volunteers and local funding.

89 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that she and Di Byrne had held a meeting with the Neighbourhood Team who had reported that much of their time was currently being taken up by neighbourhood disputes. It was noted that antisocial behaviour had not increased following the closure of the Manstone Youth Centre.

CCTV had also been discussed with 4-5 well positioned sites being identified which would give good coverage of the town; Di Byrne would continue with this project to report to a future Council meeting.

The Devon & Cornwall Police Commissioner's report had set the policing priorities for the forthcoming period, these would include Antisocial Behaviour, Drugs and Alcohol, Serious Violence including that on roads and Theft.

Cllr Hughes suggested that if the Sidmouth Police Station were to close then it might be possible to move into the Fire Station building where there was space; this would bring all the Blue Light services together.

RESOLVED: That the Police Advocate report be noted.

90 Committee/Working Group Reports

90.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 6 and 20 November 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Working Group reports be noted and decisions agreed.

90.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson reported that the next meeting of the Tourism & Economy Committee would be held on Wednesday 11 December 2024.

At the Devon Tourism Awards held in Plymouth on 21 November the Sidmouth Information Centre had received the Gold Award as Visitor Information Service of the Year 2024/25. Tim Shardlow and Joy Carlyle attended the ceremony to accept the Dartington Crystal trophy which had been sponsored by South West Visitor Economy Hub.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Tourism and Economy Committee report be noted.
2. thanks and congratulations be noted to the TIC staff for their achievements and hard work.

90.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, presented the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 21 October 2024.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Environment Committee report be noted and agreed; subject to a minor change to Minute No 70.5 (b) which should read 'To adopt Knowle Park and Gardens Management Plan recommended by the Working Group.'
2. the final version of the Environment Policy be presented to a future meeting of the Council with a recommendation for adoption.

90.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

90.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that demolition works of the former Youth Centre had been completed on time and on budget. The Harris fencing would be retained around the site for the time being to enable the National Grid Distribution Unit to be made fully secure and safe.

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

91 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

91.1 Finance Report

In the absence of the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Nicholson presented the Finance Report for October 2024.

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

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL