

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 3 February 2025
on the rising of the Trustee Meeting

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

The meeting started at 6.55pm and finished at 8.20pm.

PART 'A'

105 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Mondays 6 and 20 January 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

106 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at this meeting.

107 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that there had been a positive response from the District Council regarding the Town Council's concerns over the lack of toilet provision in Sidmouth, particularly during the summer season. A meeting had been arranged between the Town Clerk and District Council officers.

108 Public Open Question Time

- Shan Merritt, Sidmouth resident asked if the Town Council had any plans to celebrate the 80th VE Day and VJ Day Commemorations during 2025.

The Chair replied that there were ongoing discussions between the Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, Royal British Legion and Church in order to organise coordinated events.

- Cllr Dodds asked County Cllr Hughes for an update on the 6 areas that had been identified by Members as requiring road improvements. County Cllr Hughes gave a detailed verbal report and presented Cllr Dodds with written information regarding the County Council's Road Improvement plans.
- Cllr Loudoun reported an issue that had been raised to him regarding the footpath at Sidbury running from the Millenium Green along to Sidbury Mill; the path had become very boggy with mud and difficult to use.

Cllr Walker reported that the P3 Committee had experienced many difficulties including abuse from neighbouring residents, many of whom were dumping garden rubbish onto the path. The previous owner of the mill had refused access to the path to enable refurbishment and there had been difficulties obtaining road planings and getting local contractors to take on the work.

County Cllr Hughes reported that the PROW Team were very supportive of local P3 initiatives and would, as usual, assist in any way possible if a request was made to them. It was understood that the current owner of the mill was happy to enable access to the path. Occasionally road planings were not available, these were entirely dependant on what work had been carried out locally and the suitability of the materials available.

Cllr Barlow offered assistance with finding a local contractor to assist with the refurbishment work required.

109 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that a meeting had been held with the Police Team and other Police Advocates.

Members were advised that rather than reporting issues via the Police Advocate it was preferable that the formal online system to report crimes and anti-social behaviour should be used where the incident would be logged and followed up by the Neighbourhood Community Police Team.

The issue of anti-social behaviour at the Manstone site had been raised with senior officers who had worked up a plan to alleviate this problem.

It was anticipated that CCTV would be installed in the Long Park and Manstone areas as part of the forthcoming project.

RESOLVED: That the Police Advocate report be noted.

110 Committee/Working Group Reports

110.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8 January 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee report be noted and agreed.

110.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

There was nothing to report from the Tourism & Economy Committee

110.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow presented the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 13 January 2025.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Environment Committee report be noted and agreed.
- 2) the Council fully support and endorse the River Sid Catchment Group Plan
- 3) the Council endorses the concept of a Civic Food Forest
- 4) that up to £200 be allocated from the Environment Committee budget for the purchase and production of an ECO HUB banner.

110.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair reported that there would be a meeting of the Council Resources Working Group, to be held on Thursday 6 February 2025.

110.5 Youth Provision Working Group

a) Members were asked to consider the allocation of up to £5,000 from the 2025/6 Youth Provision budget for 'Give It a Go' grants. A report outlining the project had been distributed for Members information.

RESOLVED: That £5,000 from the 2025/26 Youth Provision budget be allocated to the provision of 'Give It a Go' grants.

b) Members were asked to consider the recommendation from the Youth Provision Working Group that it becomes the Youth Provision Committee and that it have spending powers to allocate from within the Youth Provision budget.

A draft terms of reference for the Committee had been attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the Youth Provision Working Group becomes the Youth Provision Committee with immediate effect.
- 2) Membership would consist of the current Working Group and this to be amended/confirmed, as necessary, at the Town Council's Annual Meeting.
- 3) The Committee to have spending powers to allocate from within the Youth Provision budget.

111 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

111.1 Finance Report

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

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

b) In accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations Members were asked to note that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance has verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of December 2024.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with section 2.2 of the Town Council's Financial Regulations, Members noted that the Member with Special Responsibility for Finance had verified the bank reconciliations, for all accounts, as at the end of December 2024.

111.2 CAPS Eco Hub

Cllr Davis presented a report printed in the Sidmouth Herald following the successful inaugural meeting of the CAPS Eco Hub held at Sidmouth Library on 25 January.

Notes were also distributed informing Members of the forthcoming Eco Hub film to be shown at the Radway Cinema on Sunday 2 March, entitled 'Six Inches of Soil'.

RESOLVED: That the CAPS Eco Hub report be noted.

112 Draft Revised Risk Assessment/Risk Register

Members were asked to consider the initial draft Revised Risk Assessment/Risk Register document as attached to the agenda email. Members suggested a small number of additions to be made to the document which would be considered by the Council for adoption at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the draft Revised Risk Assessment/Risk Register document continue to be worked on including additions made by Members and brought before Council at a future meeting for adoption.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL