

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 3 June 2024 at 6.30pm

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

Apologies: Paul Dodds, John Nicholson, Kevin Walker

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.30pm.

PART 'A'

24 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 13 May 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

25 Declarations of Interest

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

26 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that both SeaFest and the Jazz & Blues Festivals had been successful events. Members agreed that he should write to congratulate and thank the organisers.
- A D-Day 80th Anniversary event would be held on the esplanade from 8pm on Thursday 6 June and all Members were encouraged to attend.
- The District Council would be installing beach matting during July and this would facilitate beach access for wheel chairs and buggies, but due to the shingle bank this would not enable access down to the water edge.
- Cllr Perram had begun investigating whether it would be feasible for the Town Council to make a disabled buggy available to members of the public. With Members in principle agreement, Cllr Perram would continue investigations including a review of access, cost, operating responsibilities and insurance implications.

27 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

28 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Brown enquired about the frequency of parking attendants in Sidmouth. Cllr Hughes replied that Civil Enforcement Officers were regularly present in the town though they had to cover many other areas and exact times could not be given.
- Cllr Brown mentioned that a section of double yellow lines was missing from Manor Road following the recent surface dressing work. Cllr Hughes advised that the lines would be repainted on surface dressed areas after a set period.
- Cllr Willis Fleming reported that he had written to County Cllr Hughes raising concerns that the pedestrian crossing lights outside the Conservative Club stayed red for too long. Cllr Hughes answered that he was looking into this.
- Cllr Weaver reported that the disabled toilet at the Market Square had been closed due to vandalism for a long time.
- Cllr Davis reported that she had seen a homeless person camping in The Byes. It was advised that this had been reported to the Police.

29 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that she and Cllr Brown were intending to reintroduce the regular meetings with the Community Policing Team and other linked organisations. Members were asked to inform her of any areas of concern or issues that can be reported to the Neighbourhood Team.

30 Committee/Working Group Reports

30.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 8 and 22 May 2024.

Cllr Dent reported that the EDDC Local Plan consultation was due to finish on Thursday 27 June and that the Town Council had been requested to run a residents information/liaison event to raise awareness of the plan and consultation, unfortunately there would be no support from EDDC officers, but information materials would be supplied. He had, therefore, provisionally booked the Leigh Browne Room for Monday 24 June from 2pm to 5pm.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Planning Working Group reports be noted and decisions agreed.
- b) The booking of the Leigh Browne room be confirmed for Monday 24 June from 2pm to 5pm.
- c) EDDC be requested to supply officers' support as it was their consultation process.
- d) EDDC be requested to reimburse the Town Council for the cost of room hire.

30.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12 June 2024.

30.3 Environment Committee Report

There was nothing to report from the Environment Committee.

30.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

30.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson reported that a new contract had been agreed with Young Devon running Apr24 to Mar25 which had given a 6.3% increase to fees. Liaison with Sidmouth College was ongoing and a meeting with the Student Council was anticipated.

31 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

31.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for April 2024.

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

31.2 Sidmouth in Bloom

Councillor Nelson reported that the Sidmouth in Bloom committee needed additional members and asked Members to consider if they know of anyone who may be interested in becoming involved.

32 Sidmouth Fair Trade Town

Sidmouth first achieved Fairtrade Town status in 2016 when Sidmouth Town Council passed a motion of support as part of the original, successful bid. The Steering Group had written to say that they valued the Town Council's ongoing support for Fairtrade, which was vital in the endeavours to retain Fairtrade Town status. Fairtrade Town Steering Group Members attended the meeting to explain more about Fairtrade Towns and answer questions from Members.

At the May Annual Council meeting it had been confirmed that Cllr Nicholson would become the Town Council's representative on the Fairtrade Town Steering Group.

RESOLVED: that in addition to Cllr Nicholson, Cllr Blakeway would also sit on the Fairtrade Steering Group on behalf of the Town Council.

33 Annual Return – Internal Audit Report 2023/24

The Council's Internal Auditor, Mr. Martin Cordy, had undertaken the audit of the Council's accounts.

Attached with the agenda was a copy of Mr Cordy's letter and the Internal Audit Report for Members consideration.

RESOLVED: 1) that the Internal Auditor's Report be noted and agreed.

2) that thanks to the Town Council finance team be recorded.

34 Annual Return – Governance Statement 2023/24

Members were asked to consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement, which required approval by Council prior to signing by the Chair and Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and agreed for signing by the Chair and Town Clerk.

35 Annual Return – Accounting Statements 2023/24

Members were asked to consider and approve the Accounting Statement which had been duly certified and signed by the Town Clerk/RFO.

Following approval by Council, the Accounting Statement would be signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED: that the Statement of Accounts be noted and agreed for signing by the Chair.

36 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of its contents.

PART 'B'

37 Sidmouth Watersports Hub Conditional Grant Allocation

At the April Council meeting it was resolved that Sidmouth Watersports Hub be invited to submit an amended grant application form which would also address Members questions regarding the length of lease on the property and the remaining funding required to complete the project.

Members were asked to consider the grant application information.

RESOLVED: that the £1,600 grant allocation made to Sidmouth Watersports Hub in 2023/24 be held as an EMR conditional grant towards the installation of disabled access to the upper floor of the Port Royal building. This will become available when Sidmouth Watersports Hub has obtained match funding from other sources for the remainder of the project.

38 Youth Provision Working Group

Members were asked to consider the confidential reports issued with the agenda and the recommendation from the Youth Provision Working Group.

RESOLVED: that:

- a) Sidmouth Town Council would continue to support Youth Services in the Sid Valley, but that a full review of commissioned services would be undertaken in 2024/25 with a view to redesigning existing provision so that it better reflects the needs, voice and aspirations of young people as reflected in the Design West report dated May 2023; any redesign to be supported by a five-year action plan.
- b) Sidmouth Town Council would close the Manstone Youth Centre building from September 2024 and provide youth services from an identified alternative location.

.....
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL