

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 4 November 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 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 Edward Willis Fleming

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

The Chair informed Members that former long serving Councillor and Chair of the Council, Jeff Turner, had passed away recently. Members observed a two-minute silence as a mark of respect and in recognition of his service to Sidmouth and the Town Council.

PART 'A'

77 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Mondays 7 and 14 October 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

78 Declarations of Interest

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

79 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that a Remembrance Day parade followed by a short service would be held on Sunday 10 November, if Members wished to join, they should meet at the Co-op at 10.15am.
- The Chair reported that East Devon District Council (EDDC) asked for the Town Council's comments on the proposed introduction of charges for parking at the Blackmore Gardens car park. This would bring this car park into line with other similar EDDC car parks such as at the Manor Pavilion car park.
RESOLVED: That the Town Council supported the introduction of Pay and Display parking and charges for the Blackmore Gardens car park.

80 Public Open Question Time

- Mr Ben Upchurch of Partridge Hill Farm raised concerns over the report that the County Council were removing temporary road signs from verges which advertised local community events.

County Councillor Stuart Hughes replied that some of the signs on County Council verges were becoming too large and caused potential distraction to road users. However, people could erect signs on private land. The County Council had also identified a few areas which could be used for road signage and Councillor Hughes would be happy to meet with Mr Upchurch to discuss options.

- Cllr Walker asked whether the Rock Fish lease was Leasehold or Freehold as had been advertised. District Councillor Barlow replied that it was a 125-year Leasehold, as previously reported and answered.
- Cllr Perram raised concerns over the poor provision of temporary toilets whilst the Rock Fish construction was underway. District Councillor Barlow reported that an additional unit giving disabled access and baby changing facilities would also be installed shortly.

81 South West Water Remedial Works Project

Charlie Ford gave an update to Members on the SWW Remedial Works Project.

Due to a delay in the Environment Agency permit procedure permissions, the tank installation work planned for The Ham had been re-scheduled to commence in September 2025.

South West Water would instead bring forward work on Surface Water Separation and Infiltration Phases 2 and 3, concentrating on The Ham East and West car parks. The legislative deadline for all work delivery remained as 2028.

County Councillor Hughes reported that the County Council were commencing shortly with their planned 2nd Phase of flood alleviation work for Sidmouth and asked that there should be more coordination with South West Water on this project.

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

82 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that the Annual Crime Statistics had been released and the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority was the 6th lowest out of the 42 authorities.

Devon & Cornwall Police had introduced improved crime reporting systems which had led to increased crime numbers and the fall from 3rd lowest position held in 2023. The Police and Crime Commissioner was consulting with the Police Advocates to consider which areas of concern to target in the forthcoming year.

83 Committee/Working Group Reports

83.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesday 9 and 23 October 2024.

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

83.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

There was nothing to report from the Tourism & Economy Committee.

83.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the minutes of the recent meeting would be reported to the December Council meeting.

83.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

83.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that demolition works at the former Youth Centre had commenced.

84 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

84.1 Finance Report

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

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for September 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 September 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 September 2024.

84.2 Sidmouth in Bloom

Councillor Nelson reported the semi-retirement of Lynette Talbot and Peter Endersby from the Sidmouth in Bloom committee and asked that the Town Council formally acknowledge thanks for all their hard work on behalf of the town.

At the recent South West in Bloom awards ceremony Sidmouth had again been awarded Gold and had won its category, receiving the Sergeant Trophy.

RESOLVED: That the Sidmouth in Bloom report be noted and congratulations and thanks be sent to the Sidmouth in Bloom committee.

84.3 Youth Provision and Sidmouth College

Councillor Davis reported that the Year 11 Heads of House students had held a disco event for the younger year groups and were donating the £100 profit towards the one-to-one mental health mentoring service.

The Town Council had donated £750 towards the Pride of Sidmouth College awards and the 3 awards had been given to projects to improve the 6th Form facilities, the Cricket Team and support for students with dyslexia.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision and Sidmouth College report be noted.

84.4 Parish Paths Partnership

Councillor Walker suggested P3 reports could be given to the Environment Committee rather than full Council in future. Councillor Barlow welcomed the receipt of written reports from the P3 Committee at future Environment Committee meetings.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Parish Paths Partnership report be noted.
- 2) that future written reports from the Council's P3 Committee be submitted to the Environment Committee.

85 Meeting Dates List

Members received the list of meeting dates for the Civic year 2025/26.

RESOLVED: That the list of meeting dates for the Civic year 2025/26 be noted and agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL