

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 5 August 2024 at 6.30pm

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

Apologies: Lorraine Brown, Stuart Hughes, John Loudoun, Kevin Walker

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.50pm.

PART 'A'

47 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1 July 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

48 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	52.1 Planning Working Group – Knowle Redevelopment	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Lives in neighbouring property
Cllr Mike Goodman	52.1 Planning Working Group – Knowle Redevelopment	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Lives in neighbouring property

49 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that the Projects and Services Support Officer had commenced her contract and was initially focussing on three projects; demolition of the Manstone Youth Centre building; Knowle Parkland and car park; the road crossing at The Arches.

50 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Perram commented that there were fewer stalls on the Esplanade during Folk Week, presumably due to the increased charges for traders from outside East Devon. Cllr Barlow replied that he would enquire from the District Council whether this policy was deemed to be a success.
- Cllr Perram reported that she had noticed that there appeared to be an inconsistent policy across the various outlets selling reusable cups during the Folk Festival.

- Cllr Perram reported that during a Sidmouth Plastic Warriors litter pick session they had picked up 2,565 cigarette butts in 50 minutes, the largest proportion of these from District Council car parks. Cllr Lockyear would include this information in his next article for the Sidmouth Herald and explain the danger to the environment that cigarette butts created.

51 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Nelson reported that unfortunately a meeting had not been held in July due to Covid. The Neighbourhood Team were currently working on tackling the increase of violence/abuse of women and girls. They had also introduced a testing program for illegal vapes as many were now being doctored with a dangerous substance that was causing many health problems.

Cllr Lockyear reported that he, with Cllr Nelson and the Town Clerk, would be meeting with the new MP Richard Foord shortly and would raise the issue of the lack of women's refuges in East Devon with him.

52 Committee/Working Group Reports

52.1 Planning Working Group Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Working Group, presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesdays 19 June, 3 and 17 July 2024.

Councillor Perram read out a briefing note regarding the forthcoming hearing to be held in November relating to the appeal by McCarthy Stone against the refusal of planning permission for the redevelopment of the Knowle.

It was proposed that someone local with professional knowledge of Sidmouth should prepare a statement on behalf of the Town Council; Councillor Edward Willis Fleming had offered to undertake this work free of charge and represent the Council at the hearing.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Planning Working Group report be noted and decisions agreed.
- b) Councillor Willis Fleming to prepare a statement on behalf of the Town Council with regard to representing the Council in respect of the redevelopment of the Knowle.

52.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported that:

- The summer video campaign had been distributed via social media; this was featuring low-cost Family Fun free activities.
- Preparations for Sidmouth Regatta were well underway; there would be many activities held on Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 August.
- The Festival of Flags, celebrating the many voluntary organisations in Sidmouth, was displayed across the High Street and had received positive feedback.
- The beach matting, part funded by the Town Council, had been put in place and would help those with pushchairs, buggies and wheelchairs to access the beach more easily.

- The Sidmouth in Bloom judging had taken place in July and the results were awaited shortly.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted.

52.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, presented the report from the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 8 June 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Committee report be noted and decisions agreed.

52.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

52.5 Youth Provision Working Group

a) Councillor Nelson recommended that Sidmouth Town Council offer funding of £750 towards the Pride of Sidmouth College awards; to be paid from the Youth Provision budget.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council give funding towards the Pride of Sidmouth College awards in the sum of £750; to be paid from the Youth Provision budget.

b) Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, presented a report regarding WHAT Group funding.

RESOLVED: That the remainder of the £10,000 budget currently allocated to a Wellbeing Practitioner, be reallocated towards the provision of a Mental Health Youth Worker to work one day per week in Sidmouth. This would be reviewed at the end of the financial year March 2025.

53 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

53.1 Finance Report

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

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

53.2 South West Water

Councillor Lockyear reported that he was working to coordinate the work due to be carried out by South West Water, Sidmouth Lifeboat and Rockfish during 2024/2025.

A representative from South West Water would attend the September Council meeting to give an update on their schedule of works.

53.3 WHAT Representative

Councillor Davis reported that at a recent WHAT meeting it was suggested that the Council notice boards should be enlarged. Councillor Lockyear replied that the notice boards were largely successfully self-managed by the groups using them, but occasionally notices were left longer than necessary.

53.4 Sidmouth Consolidated Charities

Councillor Perram reported that an application had been received from a woman who was living in District Council social housing which was so damp that there was a severe infestation of slugs and snails. Councillor Goodman reported that Councillor Hughes had already raised this issue with the Social Housing Department and he would undertake to follow up on this problem to obtain a resolution.

54 EDDC Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)

East Devon District Council had three existing Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) which applied across the district. These included a Dog Control PSPO, Seashores and Promenades PSPO, and Control of Anti-Social Behaviour & the Consumption of Intoxicating Substances in Exmouth PSPO.

The current PSPOs could be found on the Council's website: [Public spaces protection orders \(PSPOs\) - East Devon](#)

Copies of the Dog Control PSPO and Seashores and Promenades PSPO were attached to the agenda email for Members information and an extract was included in the agenda.

EDDC was required to review the PSPOs every 3 years and would be starting the review process in August 2024 with a full public consultation in Spring 2025.

Requests for changes to the current 2023 PSPO's would be accepted by the District Council until 30 September 2024 and would be included in the public consultation process.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council accept the Public Spaces Protection Orders as issued by the District Council.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL