

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 7 October 2024 at 7.30pm

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

Apologies: Francetta Bridle, Lorraine Brown

The meeting started at 7.30pm and finished at 8.40pm.

PART 'A'

64 Minutes

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

65 Declarations of Interest

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

66 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that following the resignation of Phil Weaver, a petition for a By Election in the vacancy for the West Ward of the Town Council had not been received.

It was suggested that elections could be encouraged for the three Town Council vacancies to be held in May 2025 together with the County Council elections.

- The Chair reported that Anne Bishop, Chair of the Sidmouth Twinning Circle, had written to inform the Town Council that the Twinning Circle had deregistered from the Charity Commission. There would be a trip to Le Locle planned for June 2025 when it coincided with the 40-year anniversary.

67 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Walker commented on a District Council press release regarding the Drill Hall and asked for confirmation that there would still be a requirement to supply public conveniences at the site.

District Cllr Goodman replied that even if the lease was assigned to a funder and then leased back by Rock Fish, the requirement to create and maintain public conveniences would still be part of the lease conditions.

- Cllr Dodds reported concerns that had been raised at the Environment Committee that the condition of the roads was dangerous for cyclists and asked what plans there were for non-actionable holes that didn't meet the current criteria to be made safer for all road users including cyclists.

County Cllr Hughes replied that he was endeavouring to obtain some Instamac filler that could be used by trained local volunteers to fill the smaller holes that didn't meet the County Council's criteria which DCC would review their criteria for actionable defects.

- Cllr Willis Fleming asked why, when the collapsed road at Stevens Cross had been repaired, had the smaller potholes nearby not also been filled.

County Cllr Hughes replied that unfortunately only those areas that were part of a contractor's order of work could be carried out at any one time.

However, there was a substantial amount of road work planned for the Sidmouth area in the near future.

68 Police Advocate Report

PC Tom Driver and PCSO Sarah Reece attended the meeting and gave a statistical report of reported crimes for August 2024 in comparison with 2023.

There was a full complement of three in the Neighbourhood Team and the Sidmouth Carnival and Folk Festival had passed with no significant problems. There was now an improved response time for both 999 and 101 calls, plus the backlog of emails had been cleared leading to increased reporting.

Cllr Nelson reported that a Police Advocate meeting had been held on 25 September and that she and Cllr Brown would be progressing work on the CCTV project.

Cllr Loudoun also reported that he had requested the reopening of the Sidmouth Police Station front desk.

69 Committee/Working Group Reports

69.1 Planning Working Group Reports

a) Members were asked to consider the appointment of Cllrs Nelson and Willis Fleming to the Planning Working Group.

RESOLVED: That Cllrs Nelson and Willis Fleming be appointed to the Planning Working Group.

b) Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Working Group meetings held on Wednesday 28 August, Thursday 5 and Wednesday 25 September 2024.

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

69.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 2024.

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

69.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 21 October 2024.

69.4 Council Resources Working Group

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

69.5 Youth Provision Working Group

Councillor Nelson, Chair of the Youth Provision Working Group, reported that the Youth Centre building had been closed and the site secured on schedule, 1 October 2024. Councillor Nelson thanked Councillor Davis for the work she had been carrying out with the senior school.

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

70 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

70.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance Report for August 2024.

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

70.2 South West Water

Councillor Lockyear reported that South West Water representatives would attend the November meeting to give Members an update with regard to the planned work on The Ham. Councillor Lockyear had been checking data supplied to ensure that the proposed smaller additional tank and increased flow rate would not cause breakage of pipes and consequent pollution. He had requested that South West Water inspect the pipework to confirm that it is not corroded.

RESOLVED: That the South West Water report be noted

71 Sidmouth Regatta Review

Members considered the Sidmouth Regatta Review report and the recommendations within.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) taking into consideration the value of Sidmouth Regatta to the town and its popularity among residents, the annual Air Show continues to be the central event of the Sidmouth Regatta Weekend for the next 5 years, with a commitment to continued ongoing sustainability and improvement, subject to holding a review of future and ongoing air shows in 2028.
- 2) the Town Council to work with the event organising team and others to reduce the carbon impact of visitor numbers.
- 3) additional Revenue and Sponsorship for the event to be explored, together with further rejuvenation of the land and sea elements of the Regatta.
- 4) the Town Council to maximise the opportunities presented by the large number of visitors attracted to the event.
- 5) Council officers, particularly the Project and Services Delivery Officer be thanked for their thorough report.

.....
CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL