

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 8 July 2024 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Stephen Blakeway (Vice Chair)
Paul Dodds
Hillary Nelson
John Nicholson
Rachel Perram
Kevin Walker

Invited Reps:

Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf (River Sid Project)
Charles Sinclair (River Sid Project)
Dave Bramley (CAPS)

Apologies: Jeremy Woodward (SVA)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.20pm

PART 'A'

58 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 22 April 2024, were agreed, and signed.

59 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Ian Barlow	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Member of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting.	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group

60 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

61 Natural Environment:

61.1 Jan Metcalf reported on the section of the Lower Reaches of the river Sid. After examining the river, it was noticed the potential of sewage fungi on both the walkway and at the Ford. Reports have been made to the Environment Agency and monitors would be approached to collect data and help us achieve our goal of having the cleanest river in the UK.

61.2 Charles Sinclair from River Sid Partnership gave a verbal update regarding their ongoing work on the River Sid project and work with South West Water.

61.3 Ed Dolphin gave a summary on behalf of the Biodiversity Group discussing the verge at The Bowd and Brownlands.

RECOMMENDED:

A brief leaflet to be made and distributed to the residents of Brownlands, explaining the planting and seeding process.

61.4 Jon Ball from the Arboretum gave an update on the 10-year treeconomics report.

61.5 Councillor Kevin Walker gave a summary of the report from the new Friends of the Knowle Group and their activities.

It was agreed that usage of the parkland would be considered at the next meeting in the context of the Councils existing policy 'guidelines on events in the Sid Valley'.

62 Built Environment

62.1 Councillor Paul Dodds reported on assisting Devon County Council with the ongoing issue of Potholes and drainage in the Sid Valley.

63 Engagement

63.1 An update on the Caps project was given by Dave Bramley. Discussing the aim to promote the work of Exeter Community Energy (ECO) and to Seek out opportunities to help households live more sustainably.

63.2 Councillor Stephen Blakeway reported about the intent to make Sidmouth signage cohesive. Using the current design system to align colour palettes and font.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Blakeway with the assistance of Councillor Perram investigate the design system already in place.

63.3 Councillor Stephen Blakeway updated the Committee on the progress of the new Environment policy for the Council.

RESOLVED: that the working group with Councillors Davis, Lockyear, Blakeway and Nicholson report to the Committee in the next Environment meeting to gain feedback and consultation for the new policy.

64 The Chairman thanked all the groups for the great work that they have done and are doing for our community and emphasised the importance of gathering insights and feedback from them on how the council could further assist them in their work going forward.

A proposal was made to develop a feedback mechanism to collect information on current projects, challenges, and additional support needs.

RESOLVED: The committee will review the feedback collected and discuss additional support needs for each focus area.

The committee will also prioritise agenda topics for the next quarter based on the forward plan.

65 Confirmed the date for the next meeting as Monday 21 October 24.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE