

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
in its Capacity as Trustee
held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth
on Monday 6 January 2025

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
Apologies:	Ian Barlow, Edward Willis Fleming

The meeting started at 6.55pm and finished at 7.40pm.

PART 'A'

The Council, when acting as Trustee to discuss agenda items placed before it, considers economic, social, environmental and equality impacts as a whole and in making its decisions, seeks to strike a balance between the positive and negative impacts on the community in the Sid Valley. When considering issues, Town Councillors exercise their individual judgment based on the evidence before them.

18 Minutes

The minutes of the Trustee meeting held on Monday 4 November 2024 were signed as a true and accurate record.

19 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Chris Lockyear	22 Use of The Ham – Sidmouth Folk Week 2025	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Folk Festival Trustee
Cllr John Loudoun	22 Use of The Ham – Sidmouth Folk Week 2025	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Friend of Folk Festival

20 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that he wished to raise an additional Part B item relating to recent correspondence received.

21 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.

22 Use of The Ham – Sidmouth Folk Week 31 July to 8 August 2025

Sidmouth Folk Festival had written to request use of The Ham for the 2025 Folk Festival.

Access would be needed from Wednesday 23 July to Tuesday 12 August; this included build and take down periods, allowing some snagging days.

Events would run from Thursday 31 July until Friday 8 August; hours of operation would be 9.30am to 11pm daily. Members were asked to consider the letter and application form which showed the relevant dates and times.

Concerns were raised by Members that the condition set of no single use plastics to be used and/or sold at the events had not been adhered to during the 2024 Folk Festival; Cllrs had photographs of rubbish bins full of plastic festival glasses.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted to Sidmouth Folk Week Productions to use The Ham from Wednesday 23 July to Tuesday 12 August 2025, for the 2025 Folk Festival as applied for, subject to the following conditions:

- Set up – Wednesday 23 July to Wednesday 30 July – if necessary, quiet work may be carried out between the hours of 6pm and 10pm.
(Quiet Work is defined as “Indoor work or construction activity conducted on the construction site, which is NOT audible by adjacent sites by homeowners or visitors”.)
- Festival Days – the concerts must finish no later than 10.30pm each night.
- Take down – Friday 8 August – there is to be NO de-rig work of any kind to be carried out after 11pm following the Friday evening show.
- In line with the Town Council’s Environment Policy NO single use plastics are to be used and/or sold at this event.
- The Town Clerk, Chair of Council and Chair of Tourism & Economy Committee would raise the use of single use plastics during the festival, with organisers.

23 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’

24 The Ham – Naming and Maintenance

The Chair read out a letter received which proposed renaming an area of The Ham in order to recognise and celebrate the time, effort and funds freely given by individuals over an extended period of time.

RESOLVED: That the renaming of an area of The Ham be agreed; the exact wording to be discussed with the individuals nominated.

25 Response to recent newspaper correspondence

The Chair asked Members to consider whether a response should be given in the light of recent newspaper correspondence.

RESOLVED: That as the issues in the correspondence had previous been raised and dealt with in full, a response was not deemed necessary.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL