

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House,
Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 1 September 2025 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	Paul Dodds (Vice Chair)
	John Nicholson
	Rachel Perram
Sidmouth East	Lorraine Brown
Primley	Francetta Bridle
	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
	Kevin Walker
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Sidford	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Edward Willis Fleming
Apologies:	Bernie Davis
	Chris Lockyear

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7.30pm

PART 'A'

27 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at this meeting.

28 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that East Devon District Council would be looking at the use of Glyphosphate by its maintenance teams at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

29 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.

30 Public Open Question Time

No questions were raised at this meeting.

31 Police and Police Advocate Report

Cllr Brown reported that the Police had experienced a quiet August in the area, with minor offending and no serious incidents in the Folk Festival and Regatta period. The Police were continuing to work up a potential CCTV system for the Town area.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

32 Committee/Working Group Reports

32.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 August 2025.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Committee report be noted.

32.2 Tourism and Economy Committee

Cllr Willis Fleming reported that Sidmouth Regatta had been a great success this year with over 25,000 people attending the airshow and community events over the weekend.

There had been discussion with the VGS about creating an incentive for the local shops in Sidmouth to keep the surrounding outside area around their premises attractive, clean and tidy. This would be discussed at a future meeting of the Environment Committee.

Members expressed their appreciation for the Sidmouth lifeguards this Summer. It was noted that the standard of cleaning of the toilets, bin emptying and street scene has been exceptional this Summer.

RESOLVED: that thanks be given to those involved for their hard work and commitment to making the Sidmouth Regatta such a success. Thanks, would also be expressed to Sidmouth the Lifeboat expressing the Councils appreciation for the Lifeguard service they had funded and enabled.

The Chair would also write to East Devon District Council to express Sidmouth Town Councils gratitude to Street Scene for their conscientiousness over the summer.

32.3 Environment Committee Report

Cllr Barlow updated Members on the progress of the River Catchment Group fish count initiative.

32.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported that recent meetings had discussed Skatepark Litter issues, Local Government Reorganisation and would shortly be looking at the potential uses for the former Youth Centre site.

32.5 Youth Provision Committee

Cllr Perram reported about the new up and coming Youth Provision service Y@S, which would be launching on Tuesday 9 September with open access sessions at Sidmouth International Schools (SIS) venue, the Old Exchange. Sessions would be facilitated by the SIS activity leaders with a press release in Sidmouth Herald.

The Youth Provision Committee would be working with Sidmouth college students to create a website and Social Media Presence which would also cover the Get Involved Grants.

Members were especially thankful for the new service at a time when many Councils were cutting back on Youth Provision.

RESOLVED: the Chair and Members gave great thanks and appreciation to Cllrs Perram and Davis for their hard work and dedication to this project.

33 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

7.1 Finance Report

Deputy Finance Officer Cllr John Nicholson presented the July 2025 report.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

34 Temporary use of former Manstone Youth Centre Site

Members considered a proposal that Manstone Youth Centre site be used as a temporary parking facility for vehicles accessing the construction area for the new Manstone School site to help avoid parking difficulties in the area whilst making use of the empty site and to provide a limited income that could be reinvested into the Youth Provision.

RESOLVED: that the former Youth Centre site be offered as temporary parking to contractors involved with the building of the new Manstone School site.

35 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'

36 Market Place Building

Members received a verbal update from the Chair of Council regarding the future use of the Market Place Building, owned by East Devon District Council.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be given delegated authority, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council to continue negotiations with East Devon District Council regarding the use of the Market Place Building.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL