

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

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stephen Blakeway
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	Chris Lockyear
	Rachel Perram
Salcombe Regis	Edward Willis Fleming
	Ian Barlow
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
	Kevin Walker
	Francetta Bridle
Sidford	Mike Goodman

Apologies: Bernie Davis, Paul Dodds, John Loudoun, Joanne Dodds, Stuart Hughes & John Nicholson

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8:30pm.

In the absence of the Vice Chair of Council, Members agreed that Councillor Chris Lockyear act as Vice Chair for the meeting.

PART 'A'

58 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Monday 13 October and Monday 3 November 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

59 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at the meeting.

60 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that Councillor Brown had resigned and there was now a vacancy in the East Ward.

61 Public Open Question Time

There were no questions raised.

62 Ham Infrastructure Works: Update from South West Water

Charlie Ford, South West Water Project Manager and Alan Burrows, Head of Local Government liaison gave a presentation to Members on the Ham Infrastructure works to install a storm overflow tank.

They had previously answered key questions that had been raised at a previous meeting with Officers and Councillors and went through each answer in detail for the full Council.

Mobilisation on the project was due to start on 1 December 2025 and would be completed by the end of June 2026. Local residents and the swimming pool operators had been visited by a surveyor appointed by South West Water to assess their properties which would be monitored during the construction.

At the Council meeting they stated that Sidmouth Folk Festival would not be disrupted even if their programme was delayed as there were sufficient break points to suspend works if required. Any possible suspension of works would be discussed with the Council and regular updates would be given to the Council during the project.

It was agreed that the works, which would improve water quality and decrease the number of overflow spills was a good news story that needed to be communicated to the public. SWW advised that they were already drafting a press release and it was agreed that they would work with the Council to publish a joint press release afterwards.

During discussion, Members also raised concerns over the known increase to pressure in the rising main to the Sidford treatment works and whether the existing pipework had been tested to account for this. Members were advised that SWW were unable at present to test the integrity of the pipework but were looking into new methods to allow this. They advised that the increase in pressure was small and that inspections carried out to date had not raised any concerns within the company.

RESOLVED that

- a) Members agreed unanimously that they were content for works go ahead on the basis of the assurances provided by South West Water.
- b) it be noted that SWW confirmed that, the Ham would be ready for Sidmouth Folk Festival to begin rigging in July 2026.
- c) SWW to give regular progress updates to track against milestones throughout the infrastructure works
- d) a joint Press Release to be issued on progress in the near future.
- e) an agreement be confirmed in writing from South West Water for temporary and final reinstatement works.

63 Police Advocate Report:

Councillor Nelson reported that 63 offences had occurred in the month of September. The breakdown was;

- 27 Violent and Sexual
- 8 Non-violent
- 7 Antisocial behaviour
- 7 Criminal damage
- 14 Other

It was reported that recent anti-social behaviour hot spot areas were between Waitrose and Lidl as well as the town centre. It was proposed by Councillor Nelson that Councillor Paul Dodds and Councillor Bridle jointly take the position of Police Advocates.

RESOLVED

- 1) that the report be noted and agreed.
- 2) that Councillor Paul Dodds and Councillor Bridle jointly be appointed as Police Advocate for the Council.

64 Committee/Working Group Reports

64.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 6 November 2025.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

64.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Willis Fleming, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported the next Tourism and Economy meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 10th December. Councillor Nelson added that the South West Tourism Network and Tina Veater from Ignyte would be attending this meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

64.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow updated Members on the great success of the 14,000 tree survey which is now complete. The next Environment Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday 8 December 2025.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

64.4 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Perram, Chair of the Youth Provision Committee, updated Members on the work of the Youth Provision Committee. Councillor Perram reported that the new Youth provision open access sessions for 11–14 year-olds were still proving a great success, with an average of 35 young people attending each week.

Councillor Perram also informed Members that:

- a) The cinema was booked for a Christmas movie for young people in the valley.
- b) There was still a need to try and engage the 'older' young people.

RESOLVED that The Youth Provision Committee update be noted.

64.5 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported that an 'Expression of Interest for Assets' for the Community Asset Transfer had been submitted on Monday 1 December. A meeting was arranged with East Devon District Council on Wednesday 3 December to discuss further. Members thanked those involved for producing the thorough application and supporting documents. These would be circulated to Members for information.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

65 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

65.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the October finance report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

66 Western Esplanade crossing point

Members considered plans to install a safe crossing point at the western end of the seafront. Members discussed how the crossing point would be good for tourism as well as being a traffic calming measure and good for road safety. Section 106 money could be requested for this project, and it was hoped it would be completed for Summer 2026.

RESOLVED that;

- a) Sidmouth Town Council supports plans to install a safe crossing point at the western end of the seafront.
- b) East Devon District Council be asked to release S106 Sidmouth Tourism funding for this project.
- c) The Chair and Members thanked the Project Officer for all her work so far on the project

67 Draft Timetable of meeting dates for 2026/27

Members received the draft list of meeting dates for the Civic year 2026/27.

RESOLVED:

- 1) Members agreed new meeting dates for the Civic Year 2026/27.
- 2) that the Tourism and Economy Committee previously agreed for 18th March 2026 in the current civic year be changed to 25th March 2026
- 3) that Annual Council, previously agreed for 11th May be moved to 18th May
- 4) that the planning meeting previously agreed in the current civic year be changed from Wednesday 7 January to Wednesday 14 January.
- 5) that in the draft list of meetings, Environment meetings be rescheduled in March, June, September and December accordingly to fit in with the budgeting process.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL