

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,**  
**on Monday 2 February 2026 at 6.30pm**

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

Apologies: None

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7:55pm.

**PART 'A'**

**81 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Monday 12 and 19 January 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

**82 Declarations of Interest**

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	91.The Knowle, Sidmouth	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Lives in neighbouring property
Cllr Mike Goodman	91.The Knowle, Sidmouth	Personal	Remained in the meeting during discussion and voting	Lives in neighbouring property

**83 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair**

The Chair reported and Members noted, a change in the Environment Committee meeting date from Monday 20 April to Monday 16 March 2026.

**84 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

**85 Public Open Question Time**

Paul Ryder, Sidmouth resident, asked three questions which detailed his concerns over the use of Stowford Community Centre. He requested some clarity from Sidmouth Town Council that the Community Interest Company (CIC) was functioning as intended and that the centre was benefiting local residents. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would respond to Mr Ryder with a written answer to his questions.

**86 Police Advocate Report:**

Councillor Dodds reported the breakdown of offences that had occurred in the month of November. The breakdown was;

- 35 Violent and Sexual
- 8 Non-violent
- 9 Antisocial behaviour
- 7 Criminal damage

It was also reported that Police intend to raise their precept by 5.2% in 2026/27. Councillor Dodds had also spoken to various other councils regarding the installation of CCTV in Sidmouth and was receiving advice on the best way to go about this.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and agreed.

**87 Committee/Working Group Reports**

87.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 14 January 2026. Councillor Dent drew Members attention to the concern over the state of the Sidholme Hotel as well the lack of progress and information regarding general enforcement issues within Sidmouth.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and agreed.

87.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Willis Fleming, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported a meeting was scheduled with tourism promoter Ignyte on Wednesday 11 February to discuss the current Visit Sidmouth contract.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and agreed.

87.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, reported that the next meeting would be held on Monday 16 March 2026.

87.4 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Perram, Chair of the Youth Provision Committee, updated Members on the next meeting which was scheduled for Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 10am and the Police were attending to talk about the recent anti-social behaviour.

**RESOLVED** that The Youth Provision Committee update be noted and agreed.

87.5 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 12 February 2026.

**88 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities**

88.1 Finance Report

Councillor Lockyear presented the Finance report for December 2025.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and agreed.

88.2 South West Water Update

Councillor Lockyear updated Members on the progress of the work at The Ham. He informed Members that he had met with both the Contractor and the Project Manager and was made aware they were currently running 7 days behind the program due to the weather conditions recently, however this was being closely monitored. The target end date still remains the end of June 2026.

**89 Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan**

Members were asked to consider a review of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan with a view to updating and potentially modifying it. Councillor Dent, Chair of Planning advised that employing a consultant for advice on policies would be really particularly beneficial and necessary to deliver a review in a timely manner. Councillor Dent also made Members aware there may be possible grants available for this which he will investigate as well as estimated costs as this is still unknown at this stage. Members were keen to modify the plan for the protection of Sidmouth.

**RESOLVED** that;

- 1) the Council undertakes a review of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan with a view to updating and modifying it as necessary.
- 2) the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Council and Chair and Vice Chair of Planning, be authorised to appoint a consultant and agree their employment terms
- 3) the Council seek any grant funding available for the delivery of a review of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan
- 4) Regular updates be made to Council

**PART 'B'**

**90 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.

**91 Former Council Offices, The Knowle, Sidmouth**

Members were asked to consider the confidential report issued with the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** that a decision be deferred until further appropriate legal advice was obtained.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL