

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 2 June 2025 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stephen Blakeway
	Bernie Davis
Sidmouth South	Paul Dodds (Vice Chair)
	Rachel Perram
Sidmouth East	Lorraine Brown
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
	Kevin Walker
Sidford	Joanne Dodds
	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow

Apologies: Francetta Bridle, Stuart Hughes, Chris Lockyear, John Loudon, John Nicholson

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.00pm.

PART 'A'

1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 12 May 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

2 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at this meeting.

3 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No Matters of Urgency were received at this meeting.

4 Public Open Question Time

- Cllr Jo Dodds asked District Councillors if anything could be done to ensure the playparks which provided valuable facilities for Sidmouth's youngest members of the Community, were mowed every 6 weeks and more frequently in growing season? There were also concerns about the damaged gate at the Sidford Play park and the timescale for its repair.
Cllr Barlow answered that EDDC were currently running on reduced staff numbers which impacted cutting regimes and were waiting for parts to repair the gate.

- Cllr Jo Dodds asked District Councillors what plans were being made to address the excess growth of vegetation on kerbs and paths in Sidmouth's residential areas and would EDDC be able to re-examine their policy on Glyphosate for it to be used through limited and targeted use?

Cllr Barlow answered that the current weed killer that EDDC used took excessive manpower and was not effective in killing the weeds permanently. They were looking at other solutions.

- Cllr Rachel Perram asked District Councillors whether the purchase of mounted butt bins funded by the Plastic Warriors to combat the ongoing problem of disposing of cigarette butts could be re addressed. Cllr Ian Barlow offered to take this item to the Environment Committee due to the large, negative environmental impact. Cllr Paul Dodds offered to do a video to explain the damage of cigarette butts in drains.

5 Police Advocate Report

Cllr Brown reported that the Police had noticed an increase in rogue trading in the area.

It was also reported that there had been issues with the volunteers at the cemeteries and an aggressive local couple who walked their dog there. It was agreed that this type of incident should still be reported to the Police and online if necessary, It was noted that it was useful for any type of crime to be reported on the Police website, which notified them in writing of any incidents and produced accurate crime figures which in turn could result in more targeted and useful policing.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6 Committee/Working Group Reports

6.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 12 March 2025.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee report be noted and agreed.

6.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Cllr Nelson presented the reports of the Tourism and Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 19 March 2025. It was reported that Sidmouth had hosted two very successful festivals already this year.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism and Economy Committee report be noted and agreed.

Cllr Nelson reported that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 11 June. The Chair would write and thank the organisers of Seafest and the Jazz and Blues festival.

6.3 Environment Committee Report

Cllr Barlow updated Members on the progress of the recently purchased water testing kits. It was currently being used in Salcombe Regis with some success.

RESOLVED: Cllr Barlow would be attending meetings to discuss how to start the testing process in Sidmouth.

6.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported that no new meetings had taken place recently.

6.5 Youth Provision Committee

Cllr Nelson reported that there had been a meeting held in Part B on Tuesday 20 May that discussed the ongoing negotiations with Young Devon. There had been visits to Crediton Town Council to see how they run their in house Youth services and to Cranbrook to discuss their Youth bus service run by SPACE. The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 10 June.

7 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

7.1 Finance Report

Deputy Finance Officer Cllr Paul Dodds presented the April report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8 Housing Needs Survey

Members received a presentation on the recently received Housing Needs Survey by Chris Broughton.

RESOLVED: The chair and Members thanked Chris Broughton for his helpful and in depth report.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL