

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 6 October 2025 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	Paul Dodds (Vice Chair)
	Chris Lockyear
	John Nicholson
	Rachel Perram
Salcombe Regis	Edward Willis Fleming
	Ian Barlow
East Ward	Lorraine Brown
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
Sidford	Joanne Dodds
Sidbury	John Loudoun

Apologies: Bernie Davis, Mike Goodman & Francetta Bridle

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7:15pm.

The Chair started the meeting by welcoming the Council's new finance officer to the meeting.

A minute's silence followed in remembrance of former Councillor Jack Brokenshire who had served with Sidmouth Town Council for many years.

PART 'A'

37 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 1 September 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record, with the addition of the names of Councillor Ian Barlow, Stuart Hughes and Joanne Dodds as present.

38 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at the meeting.

39 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No matters of urgency were reported at the meeting.

40 Public Open Question Time

There were no questions raised.

41 Police Advocate Report:

Police Officers from Sidmouth Police Station attended the meeting and reported that 61 crimes had been reported in August. This figure was down by 17 crimes reported at the same time in 2024.

The breakdown was as follows:

- Violent and sexual nature - 34
- Shoplifting: - 5
- Antisocial behaviour - 8

- Criminal damage and Arson - 2
- Other – 12

It was also reported that there had been one arrest during the Folk Festival and no reported incidents during the Regatta Airshow weekend.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

42 Committee/Working Group Reports

42.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 3 and 24 September 2025.

In addition, Cllr Dent updated Members on the recent planning application for 'The Old Ship' in Sidmouth which Sidmouth Town Council had expressed concerns over though the Local Planning Authority had approved.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

42.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Willis Fleming, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, reported it had been agreed that the Town Council would advise East Devon District Council that no more advertising banners or posters would be displayed on the esplanade.

The Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee and the Town Clerk were looking at alternative methods and areas in the town to promote the larger events.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

42.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow, Chair of the Environment Committee, informed Members that the minutes from the meeting held on Monday 29 September would be distributed shortly.

RESOLVED that the Environment Committee update be noted.

42.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported that the Council Resources Working Group met on Monday 14 September 2025 and recommendations from the meeting would be discussed later in the meeting.

42.5 Youth Provision Committee

Cllr Perram Chair of the Youth Provision Committee updated Members on the current status of Youth Provision. Cllr Perram reported that the new Youth provision open access sessions for 11–14 year-olds was proving a great success, with an average of 30 young people attending each week.

Cllr Rachel Perram also informed Members that:

- a) Young Devon would be withdrawing the Mental Health Provision at Sidmouth College from December 2025.
- b) Youth Provision had received a generous donation of £250 from funds raised at a recent raffle at the Balfour Arms.
- c) There would be a news feature on BBC Spotlight highlighting the Town's diverse age profile.

RESOLVED that:

The Youth Provision Committee update be noted.

43 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

43.1 Finance Report

Cllr Lockyear presented the August report. He made special mention of the increase in funds raised at the Sidmouth Regatta Airshow. He informed the Members that the Council was in the process of opening a new bank account with the Unity Trust Bank and that a higher interest rate would be paid on deposits of a minimum term of 6 months.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

43.2 South West Water

Cllr Lockyear reported that SWW had carried out maintenance work at Port Royal without prior notice. The Council had only been made aware by a local business due to the inconvenience being caused by the unscheduled works.

RESOLVED it was noted that the Council would discuss the ongoing maintenance at Port Royal with Charlie Ford from SWW on Thursday 09 October.

43.3 Beach Management Plan

Cllr Lockyear reported that the project had gained further momentum and had been advised that a Project Manager and Senior Engineer had been appointed. A detailed design plan should be available in 2026.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

44 Change of Meeting

Members considered the change of date of the next meeting of the Environment Committee from 14 January 2026 to 8 December 2025. The change was to allow additional time for the formation of the Committee's final budget, in line with other Committee timetables.

RESOLVED that the change to the Environment Committee meeting be agreed.

PART 'B'

45 Council Community Asset Transfers and Local Government Reorganisation Recommendations from Resources Working Group

Members were asked to ratify the guidance of the informal meeting of all Members held on 28 April 2025 and the subsequent recommendations of the Resources Working Group.

RESOLVED that the Council confirms the recommendation of the informal meeting of members held in April 2025 and that delegated authority be given to the Resources Working Group to enter into a formal process to instigate Community Asset Transfers with a decision on any final proposals to be considered by the full Council.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL