

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 7 July 2025 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stephen Blakeway
	Bernie Davis
	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	Paul Dodds (Vice Chair)
	Chris Lockyear
	John Nicholson
	Rachel Perram
Primley	Francetta Bridle
	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
	Kevin Walker
Sidford	Mike Goodman
	Joanne Dodds

Apologies: John Loudoun, Lorraine Brown, Denise Bickley (DCC)

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

PART 'A'

9 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2 June 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record, subject to Cllr Dent being added to the list of those present and the correct spelling of Cllr Loudoun's name.

10 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at this meeting.

11 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

No Matters of Urgency were received at this meeting.

12 Public Open Question Time

Cllr Jo Dodds requested a follow up to her question asked at the Council meeting held on June 2, 2025 where she had previously 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?

Cllrs Barlow and Goodman advised that the use of Glyphosate by the District Council needed to be examined by both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and then ultimately agreed by cabinet. Cllr Hughes added that Dorset Council had recently reviewed its use of Glyphosate resulting in a reintroduction and targeted use.

RESOLVED that the use of Glyphosate through limited and targeted use be discussed further by a future Environment Committee meeting.

13 Police Advocate Report

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the report be noted.
- 2) Cllr Nelson and Cllr Brown would attend a Police Advocacy meeting scheduled for July 24. Members should raise any issues or questions they would like raised at this meeting by July 17.

14 Committee/Working Group Reports

14.1 Planning Committee Report

Cllr Dent presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday June 4 and 25 2025.

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

14.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Cllr Willis Fleming presented the report from the Tourism & Economy meeting held on June 11 and gave an update on the recent TAG meeting, where it was decided that 'The Visit Sidmouth' website, Town Map and Tourist Information Centre window would be examined with a view to it being refreshed.

Cllr Hughes asked Members to be mindful of the communications and media around the potential 'Mobility Scooter Grand Prix' for the Regatta weekend 2026.

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

14.3 Environment Committee Report

Cllr Barlow reported that the next Environment Committee meeting was scheduled for July 14, 2025.

14.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair reported that there would be a meeting of the Council Resources Working Group on Monday 14 July 2025.

14.5 Youth Provision Committee

Cllr Perram updated Members on current status of Youth Provision. Young Devon had withdrawn from the tender process and would finish providing the service at the end of this academic year. The committee had been very busy meeting alternative local providers.

A new location for the Youth club was trialled on June 25 at Sidmouth International School's 'Old Exchange'. It had been very successful and attracted 34 young people as opposed to usual attendance of 8-10 young people.

RESOLVED: That the Youth Provision Committee continue discussions with alternative providers in accordance with the needs and wants of Young People in the Sid Valley with a view to a new service starting in September 2025.

15 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

15.1 Finance Report

Finance Officer Cllr Lockyear presented the May report. It was noted that a grant of £5,000 granted to the Jazz & Blues festival had been miscoded from the grants budget and would correctly be allocated to the Tourism and Economy Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and agreed.

15.2 South West Water

Cllr Lockyear attended a project update meeting with SWW's Charlie Ford on June 15. Cllr Lockyear provided an update on all four aspects of the project to date.

- 1) Infiltration works – These were now complete. With little rainfall of late, the water table was low, the actual effects could not yet be determined.
- 2) Re-routing surface water – these works were making good progress.
- 3) New tank on the Ham – installation was scheduled for October 2025
- 4) Rising Main – undergoing further integrity testing and investigation

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and agreed.

15.3 Beach Management

Cllr Lockyear attended an advisory meeting of the Beach Management scheme on May 22, 2025.

Cliff Road residents attended and have contributed £50,000 towards the scheme. Cllr Lockyear told Members that the scheme was currently one year behind schedule, as EDDC had other more critical priorities and deployed resources elsewhere. A further advisory meeting was scheduled for later in July.

16 CCTV

The Chair presented the report which presented three CCTV options for the Town Council to employ for its own use, to deter vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) option 1 be removed due to expense and suitability.
- 2) option 2 and 3 be investigated further and discussed with local police and once the best option was identified, a further report and full specification be presented to the Council.

17 Additional toilet provision for August 2025

Members were asked to consider a proposal to source and supply additional temporary toilets during the peak summer month of August 2025, which included both Sidmouth Folk Festival and Sidmouth Regatta. It was recommended that the fully plumbed in mains sewerage type was opted for, which were of a better quality and avoided the need of constant servicing.

Sidmouth Folk Festival had indicated that they may be able to contribute meaning that approx. £2,000 plus an amount for cleaning (at time of publication of the agenda, this was still being investigated) would need to be made available from the Ham Maintenance Reserve.

RESOLVED: that £2,000 from the Ham Maintenance reserve be allocated to the provision of temporary toilets for the month of August. This will provide a total of 7 free toilets in the Port Royal vicinity during August 2025 and funded by Sidmouth Town Council.

18 Change of dates

Members were asked to approve and note the change of date of:

Council from 5 to 12 January 2026

Environment Committee from 12 to 14 January 2026

RESOLVED that the changes to the Council meeting dates be agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL