

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 12 January 2026 at 6.30pm

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

Apologies: Bernie Davis, John Nicholson, Chris Lockyear, Edward Willis Fleming & Ian Barlow

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 7:25pm.

PART 'A'

68 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings of the Town Council held on Monday 1 December 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

69 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received at the meeting.

70 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that Di Fuller had been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Sidmouth and the Sid Valley and that she has written to Di to congratulate her.

71 Public Open Question Time

Hannah Loxton of Sidmouth Library asked Members to help raise awareness of the ongoing consultation on proposals to cut funds to Libraries by Libraries Unlimited resulting in reduced hours for Sidmouth Library. As well as being a lending library, Hannah expressed her concerns over what would be a lack of a safe and warm space for local residents who used this service frequently. The closest libraries still open would not be within easy commutable distance. She notified Members of the online consultation which was open to complete until Sunday 22 February and encouraged as many people as possible to complete this to help with the future of Sidmouth Library.

72 Police Advocate Report:

PC Tom Driver of Sidmouth Police attended the meeting and reported that 74 crimes had been reported in November 2025. This figure was similar to the previous months.

The breakdown was as follows:

- Violent and sexual nature - 35
- Antisocial behaviour - 9
- Vehicle Crime - 8
- Other – 22

It was reported there had been a serious anti-social behaviour incident on the 30 December at Connaught Gardens involving over 100 youths aged between 10-16. A section 35 dispersal order was put in place for 48 hours. Although many youths were from Sidmouth, a higher proportion had come from the surrounding areas including Cranbrook, Ottery and Honiton. PC Driver informed members he had arranged a meeting with EDDC and the licencing team to discuss this incident and how it could be prevented from happening in the future.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

73 Committee/Working Group Reports

73.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesday 26 November and Wednesday 17 December 2025. Councillor Dent asked Members to take note of the New East Devon Local Plan which was out for consultation.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

73.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Nelson presented the report of the Tourism and Economy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 December. Councillor Nelson added that the marketing offer was still being revised.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

73.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Nelson presented the report of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 8 December making note of the 14,000 tree project which has been completed under budget and quicker than anticipated.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

73.4 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Perram, Chair of the Youth Provision Committee, updated Members on the work of the Youth Provision Committee. Councillor Perram reported she had spoken to Sidmouth College regarding some of their students potentially helping with the Youth Provision website design.

Councillor Perram also informed Members that;

- a) The Christmas movie event for young people at the cinema was a great success.
- b) A Youth provision session for older primary aged children was being investigated and may be trialled in the future.

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

73.5 Council Resources Working Group

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

74 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

74.1 Finance Report

Deputy Finance Officer Councillor Dodds presented the November finance report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and agreed.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL