

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 16 March 2026 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Stephen Blakeway
Bernie Davis
Paul Dodds
Chris Lockyear
Hillary Nelson
Kevin Walker (Vice Chair)
Edward Willis Fleming

Also present: Cllr Kelvin Dent
Cllr Denise Bickley

Invited Reps: Jeremy Woodward (Sidmouth Vale Association (SVA))
Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)
Jan Metcalf (River Sid Project)
Stefan Drew (Food Forest)
Peter Rose (SVA Trustee)
Tess Bison (Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries)

Apologies: Cllr Mike Goodman

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.45pm

PART 'A'

112 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 8 December 2025.

113 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Chris Lockyear	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Trustee of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Ian Barlow	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Trustee of Sidmouth Arboretum Trustee of Sidmouth School of Arts

Cllr Kevin Walker	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of the Vision Group Sidmouth
Cllr Kelvin Dent	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Knowle resident

114 **Matters of Urgency and Report**

The Chair gave members a leaflet to complete regarding the Marine and Green project.

115 **Items for action and funding**

115.1 Robin Goodman gave an informed power point presentation to the Committee about the progress of Batiquick water quality testing from July 2025 until March 2026. It was reported that the Bactiquick machine was not only quick but reliable with testing results coming out as the same as the Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: That the request for funding up to £2500 be approved for the following year.

115.2 Cllr Kelvin Dent updated the Committee on the recent work of Friends of the Knowle and requested funds to cover insurance cost for the year.

RESOLVED: That the Chair and Committee thanked the group for their dedication and success for the transformation of the Knowle. The request for insurance funds was granted.

115.3 Cllr Paul Dodds gave a presentation updating the Committee on the trial for road improvements in the Sid Valley. The trial had been very successful.

RESOLVED: That the request for £5000 for the pilot road repairs project for 2026/27 was approved by the Members.

115.4 Jeremy Woodward addressed the Committee on behalf of the SVA and Climate Awareness Project Sidmouth (CAPS) requesting funding for the following financial year.

RESOLVED: That the decision for funding be deferred until the next Environment Committee meeting held on 15 June by which time the VGS would submit KPI's and evidence of impact of last year's funding.

116 **Items to note**

The Committee noted the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) reports submitted by the Environment Community Groups, along with an update on the Arboretum. The Chair and Members expressed their sincere thanks to the volunteer groups for the impressive work undertaken on behalf of the Town.

RESOLVED: That the Committee approved the request for £200 to fund a flag and associated publicity materials for the Campaign's use at Seafest.

That the Clerk and Chair were asked to follow up on recent correspondence with the Environment Agency concerning questions relating to the River Sid Catchment.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE