

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,
Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth
on Monday 29 September 2025 at 6.30pm

Councillors: Ian Barlow (Chair)
Kelvin Dent
Paul Dodds
Mike Goodman
Chris Lockyear
Hillary Nelson
Kevin Walker (Vice Chair)

Invited Reps:

Ed Dolphin	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Diana East	(Sidmouth Arboretum)
Robin Goodman	(Bactiquick Testing)
Jan Metcalf	(River Sid Project)
Charles Sinclair	(River Sid Project)
Lyndsay Hooper	(River Sid Project)

Apologies: Cllr Bernie Davis
Cllr Willis Fleming

Also: Cllr Denise Bickley

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm

PART 'A'

98 Minutes

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 14 July 2025, were agreed and signed as a true record.

99 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Chris Lockyear and Cllr Ian Barlow	All items	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Member of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group Member of Sidmouth Arboretum
Cllr Kelvin Dent and Cllr Mike Goodman	7.2	Personal	Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting	Resident of Knowle Drive

100 Matters of Urgency and Report

None reported.

101 Engagement

101.1 Robin Goodman updated the Committee on the Bactiquick water Testing. Testing had produced excellent results, with a consistent green result. Testing was to continue until April 2026, when a decision would be made regarding the next stage.

101.2 Councillor Chris Lockyear provided an update on the trial of the CAPS Eco Hub in Sidmouth and responded to questions from Members regarding the report. Following the six drop-in sessions held during the trial, it was decided to focus on activities and workshops within the Autumn programme to be delivered at Sidmouth Library. Cllr Lockyear also updated the Committee on the general progress of CAPS and awareness on Climate, reducing Carbon footprints and Energy Transmission.

RESOLVED:

1) that that Council gain further feedback and attempt to engage a wider and more diverse group with CAPS.

2) that a maximum budget of £1395 for February 2026 climate events and Eco Hub activities be approved subject to a set of KPI's be agreed prior to the next Environment Committee meeting to better inform the committee of the effectiveness of the engagement within the community of the CAPS/Eco Hub projects.

101.3 The Committee considered a report from Councillor Kevin Walker outlining the various stages of the Volunteers Project. Lyndsay Hooper (River Sid Project) presented a draft interactive map and leaflet detailing the many environmental volunteer organisations across the Valley.

The Committee suggested that the term "Environment" be added to the project title to ensure inclusion of volunteers from relevant areas. It was also suggested that the project be titled "Sid Valley" to encompass Sidbury and Salcombe Regis.

The Chair and Members thanked the Working Group and Lyndsay Hooper for their impressive work to date.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

102 Built Environment

102.1 a) Sidmouth Cycling Campaign updated Members on their annual report, including information on the Devon Countywide LCWIP, the Sidbury to Sidford Path, the Otter Trail, and Cycle to School Week. Concerns were raised regarding safety for young cyclists particularly when travelling from Sidbury to Sidmouth.

b) Friends of Glen Goyle reported on their project to reintroduce the path from the side entrance on Glen Road along the top of the lawn and down to the footbridge over the stream. A survey and estimate were required to determine the levels difference, distances involved and to design a suitable route between the bridge and the lawn.

RESOLVED: that a maximum grant of £500 be made available for the architect and surveyor to produce drawings for the most efficient access path that can be accurately priced.

c) It was noted that new signage had been installed by the District Council at Sidmouth Cemetery, requesting dog owners to pick up after their dogs. The Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries (CSC) project had requested a budget of up to £1,000 from the Environment Committee within the current financial year to provide a Cemeteries Reserve. CSC expressed concerns regarding accessibility improvements.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That A budget of £500 be approved to improve public accessibility.
- 2) that additional proposals be considered during the year from the existing Environment Committee budget.

- 102.2 Councillor Kevin Walker updated the Committee on the work of the Friends of the Knowle and a request to plant additional trees at the site. The intention was to plant two broadleaved species on the top lawn terrace in the garden alongside the Ginkgo (to be relocated), and a conifer near the site of the recently felled Cedar in the park. As the Ginkgo was to be moved and replanted, additional trees were required to soften the visual impact of the McCarthy and Stone development.

RESOLVED:

The Committee congratulated the Friends of the Knowle on their continued commitment, noting the remarkable transformation achieved by the Council's contractors and volunteers in just 18 months. Consent was supported for the proposed tree planting.

- 102.3 Councillor Paul Dodds made a presentation outlining the work undertaken to improve the roads in Sidmouth. It was reported that the County Council would consider using the work as a pilot project for surrounding towns and villages.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Dodds be thanked for his excellent work on this pilot scheme and that the significant positive impact the project had made to date in the Sid valley be noted. Members would decide the effectiveness and future of the pilot roads project after the trial had finished in spring 2026 when a final report would be submitted with feedback from DCC.

103 Natural Environment

- 103.1 Jan Metcalf and Charles Sinclair updated the Committee on the ongoing success of the River Sid Project and The Great UK WaterBlitz. Results from the Upper Valley had been positive. It was noted that a plan was needed to identify areas with high nitrate levels elsewhere in the river, pending data from the Environment Agency. A trigger level had been requested from the Agency but had not yet been received.

Charles Sinclair reported the presence of 19 brown trout and one salmon parr in the River Sid. Signage was due to be installed in The Byes for both ongoing projects.

RESOLVED:

that Jan Metcalf would draft a letter to the Environment Agency, which would be sent on behalf of the Committee and Sidmouth Town Council.

- 103.2 Ed Dolphin from Sidmouth Arboretum updated the Committee on the ongoing 14,000 Tree Survey, which was expected to be completed by the end of November. The Committee congratulated Ed Dolphin and the Arboretum team on the success of the project.
- 104 During the meeting, budgetary requests for Environment Committee Projects were made for the next financial year. These would be considered for inclusion in the Committee's 2026/27 budget.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE