

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the meeting of Sidmouth Town Council**  
**in its Capacity as Trustee**  
**held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth**  
**on Monday 3 March 2025**

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stephen Blakeway Bernie Davis Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent Paul Dodds Chris Lockyear (Chair) John Nicholson
Sidmouth East	Lorraine Brown
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Vice Chair) Kevin Walker
Sidford	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow Edward Willis Fleming

Apologies: John Loudoun, Rachel Perram

The meeting started at 8.00pm and finished at 8.25pm.

### **PART 'A'**

The Council, when acting as Trustee to discuss agenda items placed before it, considers economic, social, environmental and equality impacts as a whole and in making its decisions, seeks to strike a balance between the positive and negative impacts on the community in the Sid Valley. When considering issues, Town Councillors exercise their individual judgment based on the evidence before them.

#### **29 Minutes**

The minutes of the Trustee meeting held on Monday 3 February 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

#### **30 Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were received at this meeting.

#### **31 Fishermen's Sheds – Sidmouth Trawlers – Fish & Chip Trailer**

Members were asked to consider an email received from Sidmouth Trawlers requesting to continue to use space at the Fishermen's Sheds area to trade using a trailer to sell fish and chips. Attention was also drawn to Sidmouth Trawlers' additional request that the trailer be allowed to remain in the Fisherman's Yard throughout the year.

Trading was first considered at the Council's Trustee meeting held on Monday 7 August 2023. Permission to trade was extended at the 13 May 2024 Council meeting when the Town Council accepted the continuation of trading by Sidmouth Trawlers, selling fish and chips from its trailer, for a further 19 evenings, trading from 5pm to 9pm finishing in December 2024.

The two temporary permissions were designed to enable Sidmouth Trawlers to trade pending a planning application to construct an additional shop area on the site.

It was made clear in the permissions of 7 August 2023 and 13 May 2024 that no assumption should be made that the temporary permission period would be extended and/or renewed. It was also stated that a suitable rental charge plus VAT would be made and that the trailer must be removed from the site on dates when it was not being used for trading because of concerns that it would block access to other units.

Members expressed concerns that to grant a broad permission to trade might confer an unfair competitive advantage in relation to other existing food outlets in Sidmouth, which had significantly higher overheads. Permission for Sidmouth Trawlers to trade from a fish and chip trailer should not be assumed. In addition, Members noted concerns from other users of the site that storing the trailer in this location blocked access to the site.

Members noted that use of the fish and chip trailer was only ever meant to be a temporary measure pending the grant of planning permission for a more permanent structure and approval from the Trustee as freeholder of the site. Members were disappointed that no apparent progress had been made recently to progress the permanent solution of a new serving hut and hatch which would nullify the need for a separate fish and chip van.

**RESOLVED:** That:

1) temporary permission be extended to 26 September 2025 with dates on which trading is permitted from the fish and chip trailer being as follows:

Friday 28th March 2025

Friday 25th April 2025

Friday 30th May 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

Friday 11th July 2025

Friday 25th July 2025

Week commencing 1st August- 8th August each day. (Folk Festival)

Friday 29th August 2025

Friday 12th September 2025

Friday 26th September 2025

2) the trailer may be parked in the yard on the days mentioned in point (1) of this resolution but must be removed from the site on all other days.

3) Sidmouth Trawlers will use best endeavours to obtain the requisite permissions for a permanent trading solution as part of the shop

4) If the conditions set out in 1,2 and 3 above are breached by Sidmouth Trawlers, the Trustee will immediately re-examine the permission, which may be revoked at any time by the Trustee. In the event that any of the conditions of this permission are breached, further permission is unlikely to be extended.

5) that the lease between Sidmouth Trawlers and the Trustee be reviewed to take account of any permanent change to trading arrangements.