

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 1 June 2026 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Paul Dodds (Vice Chair) John Nicholson Rachel Perram
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Chair) Kevin Walker
Sidford	Mike Goodman
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow Edward Willis Fleming
Apologies:	Francetta Bridle, Bernie Davis, Joanne Dodds, Chris Lockyear, John Loudon

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.15 pm.

27 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 18 May 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

28 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item / Reference	Type	Action Taken	Details of Interest
Cllr Ian Barlow & Cllr Mike Goodman & Cllr Stuart Hughes	Request for a contribution to EDDC towards repairs to wall at Connaught Gardens	Personal	Remained in the Chamber and voted.	Also EDDC Councillors

29 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair updated Members on the outcome of the recent consultation regarding Devon Libraries. It was reported that strong support had been expressed for Sidmouth Library and the value of its services to the community. Members were advised that, as a result, the library's opening hours would not be reduced.

The Chair also reported on the recent Councillor Surgery held at Sidmouth Library, which had been attended by 11 members of the public. Issues raised included beach huts, anti-social parking, litter bins and maintenance matters. Members noted that the event had provided a successful start to the programme of surgeries, with the next session scheduled for 26 June 2026.

30 Adjournment

At this point in the meeting the Chair adjourned the meeting of the Council to allow the Trustee meeting to take place and allow an interested member of the public to speak on a Trustee item.

31 Public Open Question Time

Cllr Perram reported to Members that a campervan had been parked on the Ham fishermen's area overnight on East Devon District Council (EDDC) land. EDDC Members agreed to take up this issue.

Cllr Barlow reported that the replacement beach huts project from EDDC would be starting on 20 June 2026 and finishing on 13 July 2026 ready for the summer holidays.

32 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Dodds reported that good links continued to be maintained with Devon and Cornwall Police. Members were advised that Councillor Dodds had attended a child-focused meeting and would continue to share information regarding the work and development of the Police Advocate programme.

Members were also advised that the public toilets at the Ham had recently been subject to vandalism.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

33 Committee/Working Group Reports

33.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2026. Members were advised that there had been a number of occasions where East Devon District Council's decisions had differed from the recommendations of Sidmouth Town Council. However, it was noted that, following further discussions regarding the Arcot Park planning application, the applicant had amended the proposal to reflect concerns and recommendations raised by Sidmouth Town Council.

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

33.2 Tourism and Economy Committee Report

Councillor Willis Fleming presented the report of the Tourism and Economy Committee.

Members were advised that work was progressing on a refreshed Visit Sidmouth website aimed at supporting independent businesses and encouraging visitors to the town.

It was agreed that the recent Sidmouth Jazz Festival had been highly successful. Members expressed their appreciation to the organisers, patrons and volunteers for their contribution to the event and noted the effective management of the festival.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the Chair of Council write a letter of thanks to the Sidmouth Jazz & Blues Festival team.
- 2) the Tourism and Economy Committee report be noted and agreed.

33.3 Environment Committee Report

Cllr Barlow updated Members

RESOLVED: that the Environment Committee report be noted and agreed.

33.4 Council Resources Working Group

The Chair of Council reported that there was a meeting held on 19 May 2026.

33.5 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Dodds and the Chair presented the report of the Youth Provision Committee meeting held on Tuesday 19 May 2026.

Members were advised that the Chair, Councillor Dodds and Projects Officer had met with the new representatives of Sidmouth International School and were pleased to report that the Open Access Youth Club Sessions would be reopening in June. It was noted that additional spring and summer activities were also being explored.

Members were further advised that the Get Involved Grant (GIG) scheme would be promoted again on 23 June 2026.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

34 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

34.1 Finance Report

Deputy Finance Officer Cllr Paul Dodds presented the April report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

35 Legacy Bequest

Members were asked to note that a legacy had been received from the estate of Julia Everett for “the upkeep of the flowers and public places”. Members suggested that a plaque or feature be made in honour of the generous donation when appropriate.

RESOLVED: That the chair had written a letter of thanks to the family of Julia Everett.

36 Request for contribution towards repairs at Connaught Gardens

Members were asked to consider a request from East Devon District Council’s Cabinet for a contribution from the Town Council towards for works to secure the wall above the undercliff path to enable the path to reopen and for the full reopening of Connaught gardens.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that there was insufficient information available at the time of the meeting to make a decision on a contribution to the District Council.
- 2) that it was inappropriate for the Town Council to contribute to immediate emergency works to make safe a District Council asset.
- 3) that Members were mindful of the unique importance of Connaught Gardens to the amenity of residents, the tourism industry and the appeal of the town and the District Council should be advised that any repair of the gardens should retain as many of the existing features as possible.

4) that in particular Members were concerned that the options presented by the District Council's Cabinet paper, namely sprayed concrete treatment or works that resulted in the permanent loss of the walkway and viewing area, would not preserve the unique character of the gardens.

5) that Town Council would consider a contribution to a future permanent solution along the lines of options 4.5 & 4.6 of the District Council's Cabinet paper which centred around the repositioning of the wall.

37 Market Place

Members were asked to consider the confidential report issued with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that

- 1) up to £10,000 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) be allocated for the continued refurbishment and renovation works at the Market Place Building
- 2) EDDC be notified of how much work and funding had been required for the Town Council to be able to use the Market Place Building.
- 3) that plans and discussions be continued regarding the long term future use of the building.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL