

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 3 August 2026 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Paul Dodds
	Rachel Perram
	John Nicholson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (acting Vice Chair)
Primley	Francetta Bridle
	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
Sidford	Joanne Dodds
	Mike Goodman
Sidbury	John Loudon

Apologies: Bernie Davis, Kelvin Dent, Chris Lockyear, Kevin Walker, Edward Willis Fleming

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.00 pm.

49 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 6 July 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

50 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

51 Appointment of the Vice Chair of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Nelson and seconded by Councillor Bridle that Councillor Chris Lockyear be appointed Vice Chair of Sidmouth Town Council. There being no other nominations; Councillor Lockyear was duly appointed Vice Chair of Sidmouth Town Council.

Councillor Lockyear would read and sign the Vice Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office at his earliest convenience.

The Chair of Council also thanked Cllr Paul Dodds for his support, energy and enthusiasm during his tenure as Vice Chair of the Council.

52 Adjournment

At this point in the meeting the Chair adjourned the meeting of the Council to allow the Trustee meeting to take place more conveniently for a number of members of the public in attendance for that meeting.

53 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

The Chair updated Members on the recent fire at Fire Beacon Hill. It was reported that a BBQ on unauthorised decking in the woods had been the cause and that fire crews from Sidmouth, Ottery and Seaton had managed to bring the fire under control. A letter of thanks would be written to the Fire Crews involved.

The Chair also updated Members that Sidmouths Town of Culture bid had been unsuccessful. Councillor Nelson believed Sidmouth had, had a strong bid and was very grateful for the support received from the Town and community groups. A letter of thanks would be written to Louise, Coco and Emma of Sidmouth School of Art for their help with the bid.

The Chair also reported on the recent Councillor Surgery held at The Market Place Building, which had been attended by 46 members of the public. Issues raised included the pedestrianisation of the Town Centre, lack of public toilets and street cleaning. Members noted that the event had provided a successful session, with the next scheduled for Saturday 22 August 2026 at Stowford.

54 Public Open Question Time

Councillor Perram raised a question regarding EDDC trading fees on the promenade during the Folk Festival. Members were advised that of the 40 pitches available, 20 had been taken and of these, only 1 was of a small local business. Councillor Perram believed that if a locals discount was introduced, there may be more uptake. The question was also raised on where the revenue was allocated at EDDC. It was answered that the revenue goes towards a Street scene fund.

55 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Dodds reported that Sidmouth had a new Neighbourhood Policing officer join the team and they had been all been working at Sidmouth Folk Festival. Other issues dealt with recently included vandalism and anti social behaviour.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

56 Committee/Working Group Reports

56.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Perram presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 24 June 2026.

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

56.2 Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee Report

Councillor Nelson presented the report of the Tourism and Economy Committee. Members were advised on the upcoming Health and Wellbeing Festival from 12-19 September 2026 and Cllr Bridle reported there had been an encouraging amount of business' wanting to be involved. Councillor Nelson thanked Councillor Bridle for all her help with the preparations for the festival.

RESOLVED That the Tourism and Economy Committee report be noted and agreed.

56.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow presented the report of the Environment Committee.

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

56.4 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Dodds presented the report of the Youth Provision Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2026. Members were advised that concerns had been raised about the termination of the holiday food voucher programme and that families in the valley would struggle during the school holidays. It was decided that a Summer

Holiday lunch box club scheme would be set up and funded to help those families in need. The scheme had been well attended with 33 young people and parents were receiving support from the benefits teams at EDDC.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and agreed.

57 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

57.1 Finance Report

Deputy Finance Officer Councillor Paul Dodds presented the June report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57.2 Sidmouth in Bloom

Councillor Nelson reported that Sidmouth in Bloom had hosted a really successful town clean up ahead of the judging which took place on Thursday 16th July. The Chair will write a letter of thanks to Sidmouth in Bloom for all of their hard work.

58 Local Government Reorganisation

The Chair of Council gave a brief update on the recent announcement regarding Local Government Reorganisation. It has been decided that East Devon District Council would be split between an expanded Exeter City Unitary Council and Sidmouth would be part of a Devon Unitary Authority. The Chair said the Council would continue to advocate for shared spaces and safeguard what was special about our town. The focus would always be acting on the best interest of the Sid Valley. Sidmouth Town Council would continue to work with East Devon District Council and Devon County Council alongside the new shadow authority when they came into effect in May 2027.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL