

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 5 October 2026 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Kelvin Dent
	Chris Lockyear (Vice Chair)
	John Nicholson
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow
	Edward Willis Fleming
Primley	Hilary Nelson (Chair)
	Kevin Walker
Sidbury	John Loudon

Apologies: Peter Blackmore, Francetta Bridle, Joanne Dodds, Paul Dodds, Mike Goodman, Rachel Perram

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 6.55pm.

70 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 7 September 2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

71 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

72 Matters of Urgency or report from the Chair

- The Chair reminded Members that the Youth Provision Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday 6 October had been cancelled. The next one would be Tuesday 18 November 2026.
- The Chair announced that Community Small Grant applications were open until Monday 7 December 2026. Members were asked to make the groups aware of this and direct them to Sidmouth Town Councils website for an application form.
- The Chair reported she would be attending a Local Government Reorganisation workshop on Tuesday 6 October 2026 at East Devon District Council. She would update Members on any information received at the next Council Meeting.
- The recent Town Surgery held at the Market Place Building on 26 September 2026 was a success with 65 members of the public attending. Some of the issues raised included car park charges, toilets and Connaught Garden repairs. The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday 24 October 2026 at Stowford Community Centre.
- Members considered a request for Councillor Jo Dodds to join the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group alongside Councillors Nelson, Dent, Perram and Barlow.

RESOLVED: that Members approved Councillor Jo Dodds as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

73 Public Open Question Time

Councillor Kelvin Dent asked District Councillors for an update on Connaught Gardens repairs, Jacobs Ladder and the opening of the Millenium walkway. Councillor Barlow reported that a meeting was due to take place in December to try and find the funds for the repairs. He was hopeful that the Millenium Walkway would reopen next year but will update again as soon as he has more information.

74 Police Advocate Report

Councillor Nelson reported that Phil Gray from the Sidmouth Neighbourhood Policing Team had been invited to attend the next Council meeting in November.
RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

75 Committee/Working Group Reports

75.1 Planning Committee Report

Councillor Dent presented the report of the Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2 September 2026.

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

75.2 Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee Report

Councillor Willis Fleming presented the report of the Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee held on Wednesday 23 September 2026. Members were asked to consider Councillor Walker being added to the sub group to review the current Tourism Promotion Contract

RESOLVED That

- a) the Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee report be noted and agreed.
- b) Councillor Walker be added to a sub group to review the current Tourism Promotion Contract

75.3 Environment Committee Report

Councillor Barlow presented the report of the Environment Committee.

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

75.4 Youth Provision Committee

Councillor Nelson presented the report of the Youth Provision Committee. It was noted that new sessions had been instituted for years 5 and 6 (aged 9-11) on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. Attendance so far had been slow but feedback for sessions excellent and it was hopeful numbers would pick up in the next few weeks once more people were aware.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and agreed.

76 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

76.1 Finance Report

Member with special responsibility for Finance, Councillor Chris Lockyear, presented the August report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

76.2 Market Place

Councillor Lockyear requested an extension to the mandate for the Strategic, Tourism and Development Group to decide on who should occupy the Market Place building. The extension had been requested until the 10 January 2027.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed for the Strategic, Tourism and Development group be permitted to decide on suitable occupants for the Market Place building up to 10 January 2027

77 Committee Membership Appointment

Members were asked to consider Councillor Peter Blackmore's request to be appointed to sit on the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed for Councillor Peter Blackmore to be appointed to sit on the Environment Committee.

78 Emergency Plan

Members were asked to consider the recommendation from the Environment Committee to undertake a review of the Emergency Plan with a particular reference to flooding risk.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed to undertake a review of the Emergency Plan with a particular reference to flooding risk.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL