

**Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's
Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth
on Wednesday 23 September 2026 at 6.30pm**

Councillors present: Edward Willis Fleming (Chair)
Hilary Nelson (Vice Chair)
Ian Barlow
Paul Dodds
Chris Lockyear
Francetta Bridle
Jo Dodds
Paul Dodds
John Loudoun

Invited Reps present: Tim Shardlow (TIC Manager)
Tina Veater (Ignyte)
Kerrera Kingman (Ignyte)

Apologies : Kevin Walker
Rachel Perram

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.30pm

PART 'A'

62 Minutes

The Minutes of the Tourism, Economy, Arts and Culture Committee meeting held on Wednesday 17 June 2026 were signed and approved as a true and accurate record.

63 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

64 Matters of urgency and report

There were no matters of urgency reported.

65 Tourism & Promotion Finance Report

The Vice Chair presented the Tourism & Promotion Finance Report for the period May to July 2026. It was noted that the payment of £6,294 made in June to the 'Visit Sidmouth Website' had been incorrectly coded and should have been allocated to the 'Ignyte Service Agreement'. It was also reported that there had been no overspend on the Town Map. The design cost of £2,024 should have been recorded in the 2025/26 financial year and will be reconciled at the end of the current financial year.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The report be noted.
- 2) Authority be delegated to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, together with the Member for Finance, to review the probable requirements for the financial year 2027/28.

66 Tourist Information Centre Summary of Activities

Members received an update from the Tourist Information Centre Manager, Tim Shardlow. It

was reported that the Centre had welcomed approximately 9,500 visitors since July, with an average daily footfall of around 100 visitors.

Councillor Barlow provided very positive feedback on the team at the Centre, noting that staff were consistently friendly and welcoming to visitors.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The report be noted.
- 2) That the Committee thank the Tourist Information Centre team for their continued contribution, commitment and dedication to supporting visitors and local residents alike.

67 South West Visitor Economy Data Report

RESOLVED: That Members found the report useful and that the report be noted.

68 Strategic Tourism Development Sub Group (STDSG)

The Chair of the group gave an update to Members on the meetings to date of the sub group of the Resources Working Group. This included proposals to utilise Section 106 (S106) funding to support future projects, including the Esplanade crossing and Market Place.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Tourism Development Sub Group (STDSG) report be noted.

69 Festival Updates

Members received an update from the Chair on the festivals and events held to date.

Sidmouth Folk Festival

Sidmouth Jazz & Blues Festival

Sidmouth Regatta

Sidmouth Health and Wellbeing Week

Sidmouth and East Devon Walking Festival

Sidmouth's Festival of Flags

It was reported that all festivals had been very successful overall. Members noted that, despite the adverse weather conditions and the Red Arrows being unable to fly, the Regatta Airshow weekend had remained a very positive event. The return of the popular three-legged event and tug-of-war to the Regatta programme had been particularly well received and it was confirmed that both events would continue to form part of future Regattas.

Members also received an update on the new Health & Wellbeing Week, which had been considered a great success. A number of lessons had been learned and positive feedback had been received. It was confirmed that the event would continue, with plans to commence advertising before the summer, to allow local businesses sufficient time to respond and become involved.

The Chair expressed his thanks and gratitude to Councillor Bridle for her considerable work, commitment and contribution to organising and delivering this new event.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The festival reports be noted.
- 2) A meeting be scheduled with the Chair and organisers of the 'Festival of the Flags' to discuss next year's festival.
- 3) An error be corrected in the report submitted by the organisers of the 'Festival of the Flags'. A contribution from the Chamber of Commerce was for £250 and not £500 as reported.

70 Tourism & Promotion Contract Report

Members received an update from Tina Veater from Ignyte detailing the ongoing tourism promotion and recent social media activity.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The report be noted.
- 2) Ignyte liaise with the Chair of the Committee to agree a shortlist of local residents to be interviewed for the monthly 'Big 5' feature.

71 Review of Tourism Promotion Contract

RESOLVED: That a sub-group be appointed to review the current Tourism Promotion Contract, including the provision of the town website and social media and to consider potential options for the future delivery of these services. The sub-group would report its findings and recommendations to the December meeting for consideration.

72 Proposed redevelopment of Kings Down Tail Caravan and Camping Park

Members considered the potential impact of the proposed redevelopment of Kings Down Tail Caravan and Camping Park, Salcombe Regis (26/0665/MFUL), including the proposed provision of 59 static caravan bases with decking, a spa/gym, reception and associated works.

RESOLVED: Members raised no objections or concerns regarding the proposal. It was further resolved that the Committee's views be conveyed to the Planning Committee accordingly.

73 Matters Raised by Invited Representatives

No matters of urgency raised.

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CHAIR OF THE TOURISM , ECONOMY, ARTS and CULTURE COMMITTEE