



**08:03/3**        **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

**08:03/4**        **MATTERS OF URGENCY**

There were no matters of urgency brought forward by the Chairman.

As no questions had been received Standing Orders were not suspended for a  
**PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME**

**08:03/5**        **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- 08:03/15        Councillor Gibbings                    Member of EDDC Task & Finish Forum
- 08:03/28        Councillor Mrs Drew    Member of EDDC Licensing Committee
- 08:03/28        Councillor Mrs Newth Member of EDDC Licensing Committee

**08:03/6**        **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman's Diary (as attached) was circulated to Members at the meeting. The Chairman reported as follows:

- That Sidmouth Youth Council had arranged a Community Day to be held on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April at Manstone Recreation Field from 10am to 4pm. All Members were encouraged to attend.
- The Town Council's Civic Service would be held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2008.
- The next Trustee and Tourism meetings would be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March not 10<sup>th</sup> March as previously reported.
- Sidmouth Twinning Club would be holding a Buffet Supper at The Blue Ball on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2008; Councillor Mrs Jolly had tickets available.
- Following problems with the use of the Town Council's catenary wire for hanging banners, the Chairman suggested that the Council might wish to consider the provision of new separate fixings for banners only. New eye bolts and wire could be fitted by Torbay Display at a cost of £250.

**RESOLVED:** That the fitting of new eye bolts and wire be agreed at a cost of £250. Only one banner at a time should be hung and not between November to February inclusive as bad weather could create possible weakening and danger.

**08:03/7**        **POLICE REPORT**

PC Lemon presented the February Police Report (as attached), a printed copy of the January Police Report was attached with the agenda.

**08:03/8**        **COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

08:03/8.1        Planning Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Cox, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

**08:03/9**      **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

08:03/9.1      Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Finance Report for January and the Interim Finance Report for February 2008. Councillor Turner reported that following the January Finance meeting new quotations had been received from Streetscene for grounds maintenance work; this would give a saving of approximately £5,000 on the budgeted figures.

**RESOLVED:** That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

**08:03/10**      **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The Minutes of the Sidmouth Traffic Group were tabled at the meeting for Members information. It was agreed at that meeting that minutes of future meetings should be taken by a member of the Town Council's staff in order that a copy could be available for distribution with the monthly Council agenda. Councillor Hughes would liaise with the Town Clerk with respect to formulation of the agendas.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted and agreed.

**08:03/11**      **ESPLANADE SHELTERS**

The next meeting of the Esplanade Shelters Working Party, to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March, would consider draft plans for possible proposals which had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**08:03/12**      **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POWERS UNDER THE CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005**

A letter was received from East Devon District Council setting out the resolution made by the Council's Executive Board in respect of the above. At the February meeting it was resolved that a Working Party be set up to consider this issue and report back to this meeting; Working Party members were the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Councillors Brokenshire, Hollick and Wale. The Working Party's report was attached to the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and agreed.

**08:03/13**      **CONSULTATION ON ORDERS AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE CONDUCT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS IN ENGLAND**

In early January the Government published a consultation paper which sought views on the detailed arrangements for putting into effect the orders and regulations to provide a revised more locally-based ethical regime for the conduct of local councillors in England. A copy of the consultation paper was available in the Council office. At the February meeting it was resolved that a Working Party be set up to consider this issue and reply on behalf of the Town Council in order to meet the deadline; Working Party members were the Chairman,

Vice-Chairman and Councillors Brokenshire, Hollick and Wale. The Working Party's report was attached to the agenda.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and agreed.

**08:03/14**      **DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2008/09 – 2010/11**

Attached to the agenda was a copy of the Chairman's report which was submitted on the Council's behalf.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted and agreed.

**08:03/15**      **EAST DEVON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL - GENERIC SCOPING REPORT FOR CORE STRATEGY AND OTHER LDF DOCUMENTS (INCLUDING APPRAISAL OF THE GYPSY AND TRAVELLER DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT)**

East Devon District Council was preparing a series of new planning policy documents to guide and regulate development. These new documents would make up the East Devon Local Development Framework (LDF) and they were required to undertake a sustainability appraisal of these documents.

Sustainability appraisal was a process used to evaluate the potential impacts that development proposals and policies would have on the environment and on social and economic wellbeing. Through assessing potential impacts at an early stage and an ongoing basis through document production the District Council hoped to plan for adverse impacts to be minimised and ensure positive benefits were realised.

Prior to actually undertaking sustainability appraisal of an LDF document the District Council was required to produce a document called a scoping report. The scoping report sets out the background information about relevant sustainability issues and also included a framework of key sustainability objectives against which planning policies were to be assessed. The District Council had produced a scoping report for their Core Strategy but the intention was that it would be used for other plans (including the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document). For other plans they may make changes or issue additional information in the form of an addendum, if appropriate.

The East Devon Generic Scoping Report for Core Strategy and other LDF Documents would be subject to an initial five week consultation period which started on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 and comments must be received by 5.00pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

To minimise printing costs and avoid adverse environmental impacts the District Council was not circulating paper copies of the scoping report. Instead they encouraged all interested bodies and individuals to view the document on the Council website at [www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-sustainability-appraisal](http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-sustainability-appraisal) or by going to the East Devon Website and following the file path.

**RESOLVED:** That all Town Councillors, who were not also District Councillors, be members of a Working Party to be set up to consider this issue and reply by the consultation deadline of 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**08:03/16      LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION IN DEVON**

At a meeting of the District Council's Executive Board in December it was agreed that all Parish Councils would be sent the Terms of Reference in respect of a request from the Government to the Boundary Committee to advise on the consequences of Exeter City Council's failed bid to become a unitary council. A copy of the District Council's letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> February was attached to the agenda. A copy of the request was available in the Town Council offices for Member's information.

**RESOLVED:** That the Chairman would attend the meeting and report back to the next Council meeting.

**08:03/17      NATIONWIDE FREE BUS SCHEME FOR OVER 60s AND DISABLED PEOPLE**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April this year a nationwide free bus travel scheme was being introduced. This would mean that, whether using the bus locally, or when visiting other parts of the country, older and eligible disabled people will be able to travel for free on any off-peak local bus anywhere in England. (In East Devon the off-peak hours are from 9.00am to Midnight, Monday to Friday and all day weekends). The District Council had produced posters and leaflets to promote the scheme which was part of a nationwide television, press and poster advertising campaign.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**08:03/18      CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED METHODOLOGY FOR PREPARING A 'STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT'**

Attached to the agenda was a letter received from East Devon District Council (addressed to all Parish/Town Councils) inviting comments on the Draft Methodology and encouraging councils to view the document on the District Council website. Members were asked to note the deadline; 5pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2008, for comments.

**RESOLVED:** That the Working Party set to discuss item 15 should also consider this item.

**08:03/19      2006/07 AUDIT FEE**

Members would recall that the audit fee for 2006/07 was set at £1,950 as the income exceeded £500,000. Following a letter to the Audit Commission, they had agreed that following consideration of the contents of the letter 'that the £500,000 threshold was exceeded due to exceptional circumstances. Therefore on this occasion, and without prejudice to future circumstances, they were prepared to reduce the audit fee to £1,050'.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**08:03/20      WOODS FARM – RECYCLING CENTRE**

A response had been received from Devon County Council to the letter sent on the 16<sup>th</sup> January reporting that the Town Council's comments regarding future recycling for the area had been noted and forwarded to Mr Chandler in the County Council's Waste Management section. The letter also stated that 'the recycling centre has a temporary planning permission which requires the cessation of use of the site by December 2012'. It was understood that the County Council would be carrying out a further site search for a permanent facility to serve the Sidmouth area and Mr Chandler had been asked to keep the Town Council informed; the Council was also asked to submit any suggestions as to a possible permanent

site. A copy of the grant of conditional planning permission for an extension to the recycling centre at Woods Farm had been received.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**08:03/21      LETTERS OF THANKS – GRANTS**

Letters of thanks had been received from Sidmouth Choral Society, Sidmouth Garden Club, Sid Vale Swimming Club, Sidmouth Sailing Club, Sidmouth Air Cadets, East Devon Citizens Advice Bureau and Sidford Playgroup following notification of the grants which will be sent to them in April 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

**08:03/22      ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS**

The following Road Closure Orders had been received:

- Cotmaton Road – From Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April until Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted. Concern was expressed regarding the late notification of closure orders and Councillor Hughes agreed to investigate and report back.

**08:03/23      VILLAGE HALLS & COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

08:03/23.1      The Community Council of Devon had an Access Project which was helping community buildings and village halls to improve their physical accessibility under the Disability Discrimination Act. They reported that recent research undertaken indicated that a large number of halls would like to publish information about what their halls offer. The Community Council of Devon had commissioned the development of a website which was being launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April and they were holding information sessions for halls wanting to find out more about joining the website. The CCD was also holding training workshops. The East Devon workshop was on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May at Uplowman Village Hall.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted.

The Chairman reported that a request had been received from Sidford Community Hall for the Town council to assist with saving VAT on the purchase of a new cooker.

**RESOLVED:** That this be noted and agreed.

**08:03/24      DOCUMENTS AND/OR PERIODICALS**

The following had been received and were available in the office:

- East Devon District Council – Countryside Service Events Programme
- East Devon Volunteer Support – January 2008
- Defra – Ways to tackle climate change
- Devon County Council – Local Services at your fingertips
- Devon County Council – Devon Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
- Sidmouth college – Voice
- The Governance Hub – Trustee Voices March 2008

**RESOLVED:** That these be noted.

**08:03/25      QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

No questions had been received.

## **PART 'B'**

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960  
the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting due to the  
confidential nature of its contents.**

**08:03/26      REDEVELOPMENT OF EASTERN TOWN**

The Chairman gave a report to the Council following a meeting with Karim Hassan of the District Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council welcomes the opportunity to work in partnership with East Devon District Council towards a Planning Brief for the Eastern Town.

**08:03/27      LIASON WITH VISION GROUP**

The Chairman gave a verbal report to the Council.

**RESOLVED:** (i) That the Chairman of the Council will engage with the Vision Group with regard to their vision statement and how best to make progress for the future in particular with regard to Eastern Town development.

(ii) The Vision Group will be asked if they would like to send representatives to the Town Council (in Part B) to make a presentation and exchange views.

(iii) The Town Council will consult with the Vision Group and then work in partnership with East Devon District Council towards a Planning Brief for the Eastern Town.

**08:03/28      TRADING ON THE ESPLANADE DURING FOLK WEEK**

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with John Tippin and Ian Carter, East Devon District Council's Licensing Officers, to discuss problems experienced with regard to trading on The Esplanade during last years Folk Week. He explained that there were three options available for this year:

- Do nothing
- Enforce regulations
- Declare The Esplanade a 'consent street', designating and dividing areas for specific use by agreed traders.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Council support in principle the formation of a 'consent street' as outlined by the Licensing Officers and await documents before making final formal decisions.

.....  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL