

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2008
AT 6.30 PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North Councillor Mrs. S. Carr
 Councillor S. Hughes
 Councillor P. Sullivan (Vice-Chairman)

Sidmouth South Councillor J.G.T. Dyson
 Councillor Mrs. M. Jolly

Sidmouth East Councillor S.P. Pollentine

Sidmouth West Councillor Mrs. A.E. Liverton
 Councillor G.K. Liverton
 Councillor C.H. Wale

Primley Councillor T.J. Cox (Chairman)
 Councillor J. Turner

Sidford Councillor S.J. Brokenshire
 Councillor I.J. McKenzie-Edwards

Sidbury Councillor Mrs. C.E. Drew
 Councillor J.W. Hollick

Salcombe Regis Councillor Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly
 Councillor A.W.J. Reed

08:06/1 PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Alastair McKenna, Emmanuel Baptist Church.

08:06/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C.F.A. Gibbings and Mrs. F.I. Newth. It was reported that Councillor Mrs. Liverton would be arriving late.

08:06/3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 12th and 19th May 2008 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

08:06/4 MATTERS OF URGENCY

The Chairman reported that the stairs to the Band Hut were in urgent need of replacement and proposed that an additional item be added to the agenda in Part B to discuss this issue.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

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

08:06/5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

08:06/24 Councillor Reed Relative of the proposed contractor

08:06/6 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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

- A curry lunch was to be held on Saturday 14th June from 12.00 noon until 1.30pm at The Anchor in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.
- The notice board for Woolcombe House had been delayed by the planning procedure but would be installed as soon as possible.
- The next Town Council newsletter would only cover four A4 sides instead of the usual eight. The Chairman asked that Members inform the Town Clerk of any items they wished to be included.
- A meeting had taken place between the Chairman, Town Clerk and a representative from East Devon District Council to obtain information with regard to assets in Sidmouth currently held by the District Council which might possibly be transferred to Sidmouth Town Council following future Council boundary changes.
- The Town Council's suggestion of Dyers Meadow as the road name for the new development at the end of Byes Lane had been referred to the Developer.
- Information had been received that although the Post Offices in Sidmouth and Sidford were safe from the threat of closure those at Clyst St. George, Offwell and Tipton St. John were all threatened. The Town Clerk asked whether Members wished her to write to voice the Town Council's concerns regarding the proposed closures.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

- Members had received an invitation to attend a performance during Folk Week. The Chairman asked that replies were received as soon as possible in order that tickets could be obtained.
- The Town Clerk had emailed invitations to all Members for the AONB Annual Forum.
- The Britain in Bloom judging would take place on Thursday 17th July 2008 at 2.00pm.

08:06/7 POLICE REPORT

In the absence of PC Lemon, the Town Clerk read the May Police Report (as attached); a printed copy of the April Police Report was attached with the agenda.

08:06/8 COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS

08:06/8.1 Planning Committee Reports

In the absence of Councillor C.F.A. Gibbings, the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor McKenzie-Edwards, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 14th and 28th May 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

08:06/9 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

08:06/9.1 Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Interim Finance Report for May 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

08:06/9.2 Britain in Bloom

Councillor Mrs. Jolly gave a verbal report from the Britain in Bloom committee.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

Councillor Mrs. Liverton arrived at the meeting prior to the following item.

08:06/10 THE VISION GROUP FOR SIDMOUTH

Members of The Vision Group for Sidmouth attended the meeting and Dr. Brian Golding, Author of the 2006 Vision report, and Robert Crick, Chairman of the Vision Group gave a presentation of The Vision and the Action List which would form the basis of a Parish Plan.

RESOLVED: That following a meeting of the Town Council to consider the content of the presentation, a meeting would take place with the Vision Group. A link with Sidmouth Town Council's website be offered to the Vision Group.

08:06/11 EAST DEVON GYPSY & TRAVELLER PLAN DOCUMENT ISSUES AND OPTIONS REPORT

At the May meeting it was reported that a copy of the Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan Document – Issues and Options Report was available on www.eastdevon.gov.uk. Comments on this document were requested on or before 5pm Friday 13th June 2008. It was resolved that a Town Council's LDF Working Party meeting would be held to discuss this item; the report of which was tabled for Members consideration.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and agreed.

08:06/12 'THE WAY AHEAD' THE FUTURE OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE IN DEVON

Attached to the agenda was a copy of an email sent on behalf of the Town Council by Councillor Cox in respect of the above.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed with thanks to Cllr. Cox

08:06/13 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP

A copy of the agenda for the Traffic Management Group Meeting to be held on Tuesday 17th June at 10.00am was attached to the agenda for Members information.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:06/14 BLACKMORE GARDENS CONSERVATORY

Councillor Turner tabled a report on possible replacements for the fountain in the Blackmore Gardens Conservatory. He proposed that the Eton Fountain be replaced with a monolith style water feature which would be more vandal proof.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor Turner have delegated powers to choose which design and order a replacement 'monolith' style water feature at an estimated cost of £580.

08:06/15 STREET CLEANSING

A copy letter was requested from the District Council; it being the reply to Mrs Howe of Harcombe Lane East regarding street cleansing; this was attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED: That a letter be written to District Councillor David Cox, Portfolio Holder covering Streetscene regarding the need for more street cleansing in Sidmouth.

**08:06/16 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK EVIDENCE BASE
EAST DEVON RETAIL NEEDS & TOWN CENTRE HEALTH
CHECK REPORT**

Copies of the two documents prepared by GVA Grimley for East Devon District Council had been received in the office. These form the latest piece of evidence that will form part of the background information for the Local Development Framework. Electronic versions were available to view at www.eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-ldf_evidence_base. The report provided an overview of trends within the retail sector, identified expenditure generated within the district, provided an informative overview of retailing across key settlements within the district and would inform future planning policy.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:06/17 STORAGE FACILITIES AT WOOLCOMBE HOUSE

Listed Building Consent had been received for alterations to the open sided store next to the bandroom to provide covered storage. Members were asked whether they wished now to progress with obtaining estimates for this work or wait until next year's budget.

RESOLVED: That costings be obtained and reported to a future meeting.

08:06/18 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

The following Road Closure Orders were reported to the meeting:

- Ashley Crescent Monday 7th to Friday 18th July 2008 DCC Footway Works
- Cotmaton Road Monday 21st to Monday 28th July 2008 DCC Footway Works

- Riverside Cottage to Longbarn House, Sidbury Monday 4th to Tuesday 5th August 2008 DCC Highway patching and construction works
- Roselands, Sidmouth Tuesday 5th to Wednesday 6th August 2008 DCC Highway patching works.

RESOLVED: That these be noted, with the exception of Roselands which had been scheduled during Folk Week; Councillor Hughes would request that this work be deferred to a later date.

08:06/19 USE OF COUNCIL LAND

(a) Sidmouth Society of Artists wished to hold an Open Air Art Exhibition in Connaught Gardens on 23rd August 2008. (Proceeds would go to a nominated charity).

(b) A request had been received to hold a Bandstand Marathon brass band concert using the Connaught Gardens Bandstand on 27th September. This was to celebrate the handover from Beijing to London as the host of the 2012 Olympic Games and they would be undertaking an ambitious project using as many public spaces and bandstands as possible to showcase cultural heritage. The project takes the form of a Bandstand Marathon which would take place in 50 towns throughout the South West of England on this particular weekend.

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

08:06/20 FIRE DRILLS

Councillor Gibbins in his responsibility of Safety Officer for the Council will organise fire drills for both staff and council chamber at some time in the near future. Councillor Gibbins had requested that staff and Members were aware of procedures (see note enclosed)

RESOLVED: That this be noted; Councillor Gibbins as Safety Officer should read out the Fire Drill Instructions at the beginning of each meeting. The safety instructions should also take account of the disabled who may need to use the lift to exit the building.

08:06/21 DOCUMENTS AND/OR PERIODICALS

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

- Sidmouth College – Voice June 2008 (in future the college newsletter will be sent direct by email to Members)
- Devon & Cornwall Police Authority – Liaison Meetings Honiton 17th June and Exmouth 1st July; both at 7.30pm.
- Devon’s Community Recycling & Community Composting Networks – Junk Mail Spring 2008
- Devon County Council – Parish Paths Partnership Spring Newsletter 2008
- Bicton College – Annual Open Day Saturday 14th June 2008

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

08:06/22 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no questions asked at this meeting.

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.**

08:06/23 PAST CHAIRMEN'S PENDANTS

The Town Clerk reported that there had been a supply of past Chairman's pendants in store which had been used for some considerable number of years, these had all been distributed. Samples and prices had been requested for replacements and the Town Clerk distributed them for Members inspection.

RESOLVED: That as none of the samples were thought suitable the Town Clerk would continue negotiations to obtain another design for report at a future meeting.

Councillor Reed left the Chamber prior to the following item.

08:06/24 BAND HUT STAIRS

Following a report from members of the Town Band regarding the poor condition of the band hut stairs; contractors had been appointed to undertake an inspection. At the inspection the staircase was condemned as dangerous and in urgent need of replacement. Verbal estimates had been received amounting to a sum of £5,900 (to include building and installation); it had not yet been verified whether this would require Planning Permission and/or Listed Building Consent.

In the interim the Town Band had made arrangements to practice at the District Council offices, but asked whether it would be possible to use the Town Council chamber on the few occasions when the District Council could not accommodate them.

RESOLVED: That (i) A new staircase be ordered at an agreed cost of £3,900 plus £2,000 to instal. (ii) The planning procedure be followed; including obtaining Listed Building consent if required. (iii) That permission be granted for the Town Band to use the Town Council chamber if necessary.

.....
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL