

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2008
AT 6.30 PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor S. Hughes Councillor P. Sullivan	(Vice-Chairman)
Sidmouth South	Councillor J.G.T. Dyson Councillor C.F.A. Gibbings Councillor Mrs. M. Jolly	
Sidmouth East	Councillor Mrs. F.I. Newth Councillor S.P. Pollentine	
Sidmouth West	Councillor Mrs. A.E. Liverton Councillor G.K. Liverton	
Primley	Councillor T.J. Cox Councillor J. Turner	(Chairman)
Sidford	Councillor S.J. Brokenshire	
Sidbury	Councillor Mrs. C.E. Drew Councillor J.W. Hollick	
Salcombe Regis	Councillor A.W.J. Reed	

08:12/1 PRAYERS

In the absence of the Reverend Brian Hadfield prayers were taken by Councillor Liverton.

08:12/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Carr, Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly, I.J. McKenzie-Edwards and C.H. Wale.

08:12/3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Mondays 27th October and 3rd November 2008 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

08:12/4 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

08:12/5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

08:12/9.3	Councillor G.K. Liverton	District Council Portfolio Holder
08:12/19	Councillor Mrs. Drew	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor S. Hughes	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor C.F.A. Gibbings	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor Mrs. F.I. Newth	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor Mrs. A.E. Liverton	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor G.K. Liverton	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/19	Councillor A.W.J. Reed	Member of East Devon District Council
08:12/21	Councillor G.K. Liverton	District Council Portfolio Holder
08:12/22	Councillor S. Hughes	Member of the Carnival Club

08:12/6 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

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

- The Town Clerk had also attended the Remembrance Day Service and had been omitted from the Chairman's Diary notes.
- Councillor Hollick reported on the Folk Week meeting that had been held recently.
- Councillor Liverton reported that not many Members had attended the Christmas Lights switch-on ceremony and requested that consideration be given to delaying the switch-on until later in November or early December to coincide with the late night shopping evening.
- Councillor Liverton also requested that a Local Business Working Party meeting be held early in the New Year to discuss this and other issues.
- The Chairman reported the death of Councillor Chris Tratt, Mayor of Honiton Town Council, on Monday 7th November 2008. The Chairman had written to send condolences on behalf of Sidmouth Town Council to both Mr. Tratt's widow and Honiton Town Council.
- The Town Clerk read out a letter received from the District Council reporting that an application had been made to English Heritage to list ten kiosks and this included one at Salcombe Regis. The kiosks in the Market Square and Lymebourne were not identified for retention. It was considered crucial that at least one kiosk in the Market Square be retained, if only with an emergency facility. (County Councillor Hughes offered to pay for its retention from his County Locality budget. This matter to be placed on the January agenda for further discussion.
- The Chairman reported that the Sidmouth Garden Centre had been awarded the Garden Centre of the Year Award for 2008; it also received the Best Service Award and Best Gift Area Award – this was out of 2,500 Horticultural Trade Association Members.
- The Chairman read a letter received from Freddy Wedderburn; also enclosed was the latest Sidmouth Lifeboat Newsletter.

08:12/7 POLICE REPORT

The Police Report had not been received.

08:12/8 COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS

08:12/8.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor C.F.A. Gibbings, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 5th and 19th November 2008. An amendment to the Minutes dated 19th November 2008 had been tabled for Members information.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports, with tabled amendment, be noted and agreed.

08:12/9 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

08:12/9.1 Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Finance Report for October and Interim Finance Report for November 2008.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

08:12/9.2 Sidmouth Twinning Circle

For personal reasons Councillor Mrs. Jolly had given up her role as representative on the Sidmouth Twinning Circle. The Twinning Circle had notified that they would welcome a replacement representative to join Councillor Wales.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:12/9.3 Sidmouth in Bloom

Councillor Mrs. Jolly gave a verbal report of the Sidmouth in Bloom Award Ceremony which would be brought forward next year to enable school children to attend. The Sidmouth in Bloom committee had written to the District Council to request that the pavements be weeded more regularly and not only pre Britain in Bloom judging and requested that the Sidmouth Town Council also support this initiative.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to East Devon District Council to request more frequent weeding of the pavements in Sidmouth.

08:12/10 **SIDMOUTH HOPPER BUS**

Following the report given to Members in Part B at last months meeting, Councillor Dyson gave a report on the future of the Sidmouth Hopper Bus Service (see attached).

RESOLVED: That this be noted with thanks to Councillor Dyson for all his work on behalf of the Sidmouth Hopper Bus committee.

08:12/11 **QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS**

As reported at the September meeting (Min. No. 08:09/17) if the Town Council wished to maintain its Quality status then re-accreditation must take place with certain caveats to the existing requirements. Firstly the Council needed to decide whether it wished to maintain status as a Quality Council. If this was resolved then a further resolution must be made to include paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct into the Town Council's Code of Conduct. This paragraph stated:

Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of your authority, you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

The Council was also required to have a Statement of Intent on training. The Council did not currently have such a document and the Clerk had attached a model for consideration and adoption.

RESOLVED: That (i) Sidmouth Town Council wished to maintain its Quality status and apply for re-accreditation.

(ii) That the Town Council's Code of Conduct be amended to include paragraph 12(2) of the Model Code of Conduct.

(iii) The model Statement of Intent on Training (as attached) be adopted.

08:12/12 POLICING LEVELS

A letter had been received from Hugo Swire MP enclosing a reply from Vernon Coaker MP, the Minister of State at the Home Office, regarding policing levels in Sidmouth. A copy of this was attached to the agenda for Members information.

RESOLVED: That (i) a letter be written to Hugo Swire MP reporting that the Town Council were dissatisfied with the response from Vernon Coaker MP which did not satisfactorily address the issues raised.

(ii) A copy of the Town Clerk's letter and Mr. Coaker's response be sent to John Smith, Chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Police Authority, for his comment.

08:12/13 ALMA FIELD

The Chairman gave a report regarding the attached request received from The National Trust.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

08:12/14 2009 / 2010 MEETING DATES

A draft schedule of proposed meeting dates had been attached to the October agenda for Members consideration and approval or amendment at this meeting.

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

08:12/15 CHRISTMAS LATE NIGHT OPENING

The Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce had written to extend an invitation to Members to attend their late night opening event throughout the town on Friday 5th December from 6pm to 8pm. There would also be a Trader's Supper from 8pm onwards at The Anchor; tickets were being sold at a cost of £10 to include a glass of wine. If any Members wished to attend the supper please contact Helen Watts of Kaitour, Fore Street to purchase tickets.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

**08:12/16 DEVON & SOMERSET FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION 2009/10 – 2011/12**

Sidmouth Town Council was invited to give its views on the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority Draft Corporate Plan Consultation 2009/10 – 2011/12. There were two specific areas on which views and opinions were sought; these were presented in a leaflet along with the full draft Corporate Plan which could be found on the following link:

www.dsfire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/4141A9A8-7150-4BE2-A8DF-923C91582EFB/0/Corporateplanwebpageinternet.pdf

The consultation period formally closed on 12th January 2009.

RESOLVED: That comments be sent to the Town Clerk before the end of the year for collation into a corporate response.

08:12/17 CYCLING ON FOOTPATHS

Councillor Dyson presented his report, which had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That No Cycling signs should be removed from bridleways but not footpaths.

08:12/18 SIDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH PATRONAGE FUND

A letter had been received from Mr. Philip Hughes, Secretary of Sidmouth Parish Church Patronage Fund, thanking Sidmouth Town Council for its continued support to the fund and invited Members to renew their donation in 2008 to commemorate our chosen date. He wrote that ‘You kindly sent us £50 last year but costs have increased dramatically since the scheme was launched so any increase or indeed any amount is gratefully received.’

RESOLVED: That a donation of £50 be sent to the Sidmouth Parish Church Patronage Fund.

08:12/19 POTENTIAL TRANSFERS FROM DISTRICT TO TOWN COUNCIL

The resolutions of Sidmouth Town Council’s special meeting held on Monday 27th October 2008 had been communicated to the District Council. A letter of acknowledgement had been received which stated that a copy had been passed to the District Council’s Principal Estates Surveyor with a request that the matter was assessed and a report prepared for presentation to the Asset Management Forum. The Town Clerk read a further letter which had been received after compilation of the agenda.

RESOLVED: That additional information be sought from the District Council with regard to the potential transfers and this issue be discussed again at the January meeting.

08:12/20 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

08:12/20.1 A round table meeting to discuss a traffic management plan for Sidmouth that could be submitted to the County Council for inclusion in the county wide 2012 LTP Local Transport Plan had been held on Thursday 20th November 2008 at the Royal York & Faulkner Hotel. Councillor Sullivan gave a verbal report of that meeting and asked that Members email their three Traffic Management priorities to him so that he could formulate a combined Council opinion.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:12/20.2 There were no items brought forward for the agenda of the next Traffic Management Group Meeting.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:12/21 FOOTPATH ACCESS TO THE BYES

Councillor Dyson presented his report, which had been emailed to Members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Dyson’s report be noted.

08:12/22 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

- Monday 1st to Tuesday 9th December 2008 – Greenhead Lane, Sidmouth (from junction with Ottery Lane to White Cross) to enable DCC Highway patching and reconstruction works.
- Saturday 26th September 2009 – Woolbrook Road from the Alexandria Road/Manstone Lane junction/mini roundabout to the junction with the A3052 from 3.30pm until

9.00pm. And all of All Saints Road from 8.00pm until 10.00pm. Both for the Sidmouth Illuminated Carnival.

- Tuesday 6th January to Wednesday 11th February 2009 – Footpath from Brownlands Close to Redwood Road to enable utility works on behalf of South West Water.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:12/23 **PANTOMIME**

The Chairman would attend the Sidmouth Amateur Dramatics' production of Cinderella on Thursday 8th January for a 'civic' night and would welcome other members accompanying him. The Ticket cost was £10 for adults and £5 for children (we may receive a discount if more than ten attend).

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:12/24 **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000**

As from January 2009 all Local Authorities were required to adopt a model publication scheme as prepared and approved by the Information Commissioner. A copy of the scheme was attached to the agenda.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

08:12/25 **BLUE PLAQUE – ANDERTON & ROWLAND FAIR**

Members were asked to consider supporting the erection of a blue plaque to mark the centenary (100 years) since Professor Anderton, founder of the Anderton and Rowland Fair drowned in the River Sid by the Weir on the 5th August 1909. Professor Anderton was buried in Sidmouth Cemetery. The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken with the SVA regarding the purchase of a possible blue plaque

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

08:12/26 **DOCUMENTS AND/OR PERIODICALS**

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

- East Devon District Council – Environmental Health Newsletter Autumn 2008
- East Devon District Council – Council news round-up Sept/Oct 2008
- Devon Association of Parish Councils – Newsletter Nov/Dec 2008
- Devon County Council – Pension Fund Annual Report & Accounts 2007/08
- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust – Annual Report 2007/08

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

08:12/27 **QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

There were no questions asked at this meeting.

.....
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL