

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2009
AT 6.30 PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor Mrs. S. Carr Councillor S. Hughes	(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 Councillor C.H. Wale	
Sidford	Councillor S.J. Brokenshire	
Sidbury	Councillor Mrs. C.E. Drew Councillor J.W. Hollick	

*In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman of the Council,
Councillor Hughes acted as Chairman and Councillor Mrs. Liverton
acted as Vice-Chairman for this meeting.*

09:12/1 PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Prebendary David James and introduced Rev Angie Gammon to the Council.

09:12/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr. D.S. Fung, Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly, I.J. McKenzie-Edwards A.W.J. Reed, P. Sullivan and J. Turner.

09:12/3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 2nd November 2009 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

09:12/4 MATTERS OF URGENCY

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

Standing Orders will be suspended for fifteen minutes during a
PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

09:12/5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

- 09:12/10 Councillor Dyson – Member of Folk Week Management Team
09:12/14.2 Councillor Mrs. Drew – High Street one way system (mention of funeral directors)
09:12/15 Councillor Gibbings – Manor Road resident

09:12/6 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Hughes reported the following:

- The Sidmouth late night shopping evening had been very successful and well supported.
- Any Christmas cards that were left in the Chamber after the next planning meeting would not be posted on to Members.
- An email had been received from the District Council inviting the Town Council to nominate a representative to be part of the group producing a Development Brief for Port Royal.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Pollentine would be the Town Council's representative on the Development Brief Group for Port Royal.

- The Town Clerk reported that there had been problems with the heating boiler in Woolcombe House and requested that Members consider a maintenance contract with Fords of Sidmouth in the sum of £220 per annum.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

- A request had been received from Sidmouth Running Club to hold a small cross country race in The Byes on the 24th January 2010.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:12/7 POLICE REPORT

PC Steve Lemon presented the Police Report for November.

09:12/8 COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS

09:12/8.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Hollick, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 4th and 18th November 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

09:12/8.2 Tourism & Publicity Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Tourism & Publicity Committee, Councillor Pollentine, presented the reports of the Tourism & Publicity Committee meetings held on Monday 9th November 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Publicity Reports be noted and agreed.

09:12/9 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

09:12/9.1 Finance Report

In the absence of Councillor Turner, the Town Clerk presented the Finance Report for October and the Interim Report for November 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

09:12/9.2 Larger Local Council's meeting

Councillor Pollentine gave a report from a recent meeting of the Larger Local Councils.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/9.3 Seaborne Transport/Jurassic Coast

Councillor Pollentine gave a report of a recent meeting of the Seaborne Transport/Jurassic Coast.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/9.4 Empowering Communities

Councillors Dyson and Pollentine gave a report regarding a recent meeting of the Empowering Communities.

RESOLVED: That Dominic Maxwell-Batten be invited to attend a future meeting of the Town Council to discuss the requirements for an emergency 'self help' plan.

09:12/9.5 Parish Paths Partnership

Councillor Dyson gave a reported on the following works:

- Tree felling would be carried out in the woodland between the golf course and Mutters Moor from November 2009 to February 2010.
- Bridleway 41 at Fire Beacon Hill – drainage works to clear mud, install drainage and topping to enable safe access for horse riders.
- Barnes Sturges, Sidbury – water/stream damage to Bridleway. The P3 Committee would be acting as project managers on behalf of the County Council who would finance this work.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/9.6 Norman Lockyer Observatory

Councillor Mrs. Drew reported on a new initiative called 'Touch the Stars and Planets' designed to introduce astronomy to visually impaired people. Positive feedback had been received and future sessions were planned for February and August 2010.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/10 SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK

Item number 09:12/10.1 was deferred to Part B to enable financial discussions.

09:12/10.2 Mr. John Braithwaite requested that the Council consider the appointment of a Folk Week 'Cultural Champion'. If this was agreed there was an invitation to attend The Chapter House, Exeter Cathedral on Friday 11th December (12-2pm) for a reception.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Reed be asked to take on this position.

09:12/11 INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW

The external auditor had requested an annual review of the internal audit arrangements and Councillor Turner had produced the attached Internal Audit Review checklist for the Council to adopt.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:12/12 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**
POWER OF WELL BEING

In order to be eligible for the Power of Well Being certain criteria needed to be met; Sidmouth had met all the relevant criteria apart from a Community Engagement Strategy. Attached with the agenda was a proposed Strategy which Members were asked to consider for Sidmouth; if this was adopted then the Town Council could pass a resolution to confirm that the prescribed conditions had been met and commence using the Power.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council resolve to adopt the Power of Well Being.

09:12/13 **MILL STREET/YORK STREET**

Devon County Council was considering reducing the width of the carriageway of Mill Street at the widest point near to the junction with Russell Street/York Street. There was some concern that due to the width of the carriageway at this point, there was a misconception by drivers of larger vehicles that they could use Mill Street as an access into the High Street. This may, in part be due to the visibility of the 'width limit' and 'one way street' signs at this location.

Attached with the agenda was a copy of a letter circulated to local residents and businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed changes. Also enclosed was a rough sketch from DCC as to the proposed layout in Mill Street and High Street for the Town Council's comment.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed and as an interim measure it be recommended that the 'Left Turn Only' sign be repainted on the road. (Councillor Hughes agreed to deal with this matter)

09:12/14 **TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**

09:12/14.1 Attached to the agenda was a copy of the notes taken at the Traffic Management Group meeting held on Tuesday 27th October 2009.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/14.2 Members were invited to put forward items for the next Traffic Management Group meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following items be referred to Traffic Management Group:

- One Way system in the High Street from All Saints roundabout to the corner of Blackmore Drive.
- Sid Lane – problems with sat navs indicating that vehicles can cross the river at the bottom of Sid Lane; requires a replacement 'No Through' sign.
- The problem of illegal parking at the top of the High Street should be addressed.
- There were problems with dangerous parking on the corner of Bennetts Hill.
- Park and Ride Scheme – Report on research and Terms of Reference.

09:12/15 **MANOR ROAD – TRAFFIC ORDER**

Attached to the agenda was a copy of an email received in respect of the Traffic Order affecting Manor Road for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:12/16 PLANNING COMMITTEE BUDGET

At a meeting of the Planning Committee it was recommended to propose to the Council that a sum be set aside in next year's budget in order that when a replacement was required for the current projector/screen for showing plans to the Committee it might be more effective and efficiently undertaken using a plasma screen mounted on the wall and connected direct into the laptop computer. A 46" plasma screen had been quoted at £1,700.

RESOLVED: That this be agreed in principle and would be placed on the Budget agenda for discussion.

09:12/17 SIDMOUTH HOPPER BUS

Councillor Dyson presented his Sidmouth Hopper Bus report (as attached) and requested that Members consider increasing the Town Council's contribution from £5,000 to £7,000 for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That this be agreed in principle and would be placed on the Budget agenda for discussion.

09:12/18 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

Notification had been received of the following road closures:-

- Sid Road From Tuesday 12th January 2010 to Friday 15th January 2010
Utility Works to be carried out for Balfour Beatty Utilities
- Alexandria Road From Monday 25th January to Thursday 28th January 2010
Utility Works to be carried out for Balfour Beatty Utilities
- Knowle Drive From 22nd February to 25th February inclusive (Balfour Beatty)

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

09:12/19 SIDMOUTH PARISH CHURCH PATRONAGE FUND

A letter had been received from the Patronage Secretary thanking the Town Council for its support to the Patronage Fund and asked if this could continue as in the past. In previous years the Town Council had supported the fund with £50 which had been dedicated to Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council would again support the Patronage Fund with £50 to be dedicated to Remembrance Sunday.

09:12/20 FIRE BEACON NATURE RESERVE

09:12/20.1 A letter had been received from Mr. Michael Green of Fire Beacon Cottage which asked whether a local resident could erect a bench seat on the hillside of the same design and materials as that existing by the noticeboard on Fire Beacon. Mr Green asked for the Council's permission and gave an undertaking that no costs would fall upon the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:12/20.2 Chris Woodruff, the Manager of East Devon AONB, was investigating the opportunity of underground power cables in the AONB with Western Power and had been looking at a number of sites, one of which was Fire Beacon Hill. His proposal needed to be submitted by the 15th December. He had spoken with James Chubb (EDDC) and Toby Taylor (RSPB) and had sent them details of the scheme – in discussion they were supportive. Permission would also be required from DCC Historic Environment and Natural England and, of course, this Council.

The Town Clerk reported that it would be helpful for Chris Woodruff to have an 'in principle' support from the Town Council to endorse his consultation with others given the timescale. There

was, of course, no guarantee of success as there would be a number of AONBs also putting forward schemes in the South West.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:12/21 COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Enclosed with the agenda was a proposed list of Council meeting dates for 2010/2011 for Member's consideration.

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

09:12/22 DOCUMENTS & PERIODICALS

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

- Devon Association of Parish Councils – Newsletter Nov/Dec 2009
- East Devon Volunteer Support Agency – VIVA November 2009
- Devon County Council – Devontalk Winter 2009
- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust – November 2009

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

09:12/23 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Dyson to District Councillor Hughes:

Q: In view of the recent effect of heavy rainstorms elsewhere, when were the principal bridges across the River Sid and the bridge carrying the A3052 across the river at Newton Poppleford last inspected and what were the conclusions? Will they be inspected again within the next year, recognising that more extreme storms are likely in future?

A: Councillor Hughes gave a full and comprehensive reply (as attached).

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.**

09:12/10 SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK

09:12/10.1 John Braithwaite and John Radford, Members of the Folk Week Executive Management Team, attended the meeting and gave a presentation regarding this year's Folk Week and future plans for next year. Mr. Braithwaite requested that the Town Council consider increasing their grant to Folk Week for 2010/11.

RESOLVED: That (i) it be agreed, in principle, that £20,000 be set aside as a grant to Folk Week each year for the next five years (this was to include the Children's Festival grant and use of The Ham to be given free of charge).

(ii) This grant would be subject to review at each year's budget meeting following that year's presentation from the Folk Week Executive Management Team.

(iii) Use of the arena at The Ham to be negotiated for the Town Council to hold a Civic Night on the Saturday at the end of Folk Week.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL