

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY 2009
AT 6.30 PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor Mrs. S. Carr Councillor S. Hughes (Vice-Chairman) Councillor P. Sullivan (Chairman)
Sidmouth South	Councillor J.G.T. Dyson Councillor C.F.A. Gibbings 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 J. Turner
Sidford	Councillor S.J. Brokenshire Councillor I.J. McKenzie-Edwards
Sidbury	Councillor J.W. Hollick
Salcombe Regis	Councillor Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly Councillor A.W.J. Reed

09:05/12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. C.E. Drew and Mrs. F.I. Newth.

09:05/13 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 6th April 2009 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

09:05/14 **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
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09:05/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

09:05/36	Councillor Mrs Carr	Relative member of tennis club
09:05/36	Councillor Hughes	Relative member of tennis club
09:05/36	Councillor Mrs Liverton	Relative member of tennis club
09:05/36	Councillor GK Liverton	Relative member of tennis club
09:05/37	Councillor Mrs Liverton	Personal – EDDC representative on Scout District Executive Committee

09:05/16 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported the following:

- A letter of resignation had been received from Councillor Cox.
- As Vice-Chairman, Councillor Sullivan, had attended the official opening of the new Nurture Room, library and cooking area at St. Nicholas School.

09:05/17 POLICE REPORT

PC Steve Lemon presented the April 2009 Police Report.

09:05/18 COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS

09:05/18.1 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 1st and 22nd April 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

09:05/19 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

09:05/19.1 Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Finance Report for March and Interim Finance Report for April 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

09:05/19.2 Sidmouth Hopper

Councillor Dyson gave a verbal report on this year's free bus service which would run from Monday 1st June to Sunday 27th September; a launch event would be held on Monday 1st June 2009.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:05/19.3 Sidmouth in Bloom

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

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:05/19.4 Sidmouth Museum

Councillor Mrs. Jolly gave a verbal report from the Museum committee meeting regarding necessary repairs to Hope Cottage and a potential extension to the building.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred for discussion to the next Council meeting.

09:05/20 TREE POLICY

The Planning Committee had agreed a Policy in respect of Trees and this was submitted to the Town Council for final approval/ratification.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

Councillor Gibbings left the meeting prior to the next item.

09:05/21 PLANNING TRAINING

Attached to the agenda was a letter received from Mrs Kate Little (Head of Planning & Countryside Services) at East Devon District Council and enclosed a flyer from South West Planning Aid who offered 'free and independent' advice on planning matters to Parish and Town Councils.

The Town Clerk advised that whilst all training was beneficial and advocated acceptance of the offer; the training outlined appeared not to cover the areas of recent confusion and suggested that specific training and/or advice from Steve Beli or Kate Little was required in other areas.

RESOLVED: That a training course be arranged to which members of the Sid Vale Association Planning Committee should also be invited. Additional training/advice should be sought from the District Council.

09:05/22 POWER OF WELL BEING

The Local Government Act 2000(s.2) gave Principal Authorities a new power entitled Power of Well Being. In 2007(s.77) amended the power to include Parish Councils provided they were eligible. A report was attached to the agenda for Members information.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk should obtain the qualification; then Members would receive training and decide whether to adopt the power.

09:05/23 LAND ADJOINING PINE COTTAGE, LENNOX AVENUE

East Devon District Council had been approached by the executors of the late Mr J.C. Smith of Pine Cottage, Lennox Avenue with a request that they purchase the area of garden land adjoining the property which had been leased to successive owners of Pine Cottage for many years. The District Council asked whether the Town Council would give its consent to the District Council assigning its leasehold to the executors.

The former Sidmouth UDC acquired this land in 1932 in order to preserve the scots pine tree which was something of a landmark, however, the tree had to be taken down for safety reasons recently following storm damage. The District Council had a 999 year lease from the Town Council. The Town Clerk suggested that, if the Town Council gave permission to the release of the freehold of this land, the District Council should be asked to share any revenue generated from the sale.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council (as successor to the former Sidmouth Urban District Council) agree the sale of the freehold in respect of the piece of garden land shown on the plan and that any value of the freehold should be shared equally between East Devon District Council and Sidmouth Town Council.

09:05/24 CONSERVATIONAL AREA APPRAISAL FOR SALCOMBE REGIS

A letter had been received from Stephen Guy (Principal Conservation Officer) East Devon District Council reporting that at the December 2008 Development Control Committee Members endorsed the draft conservation area appraisal for Salcombe Regis including an interim update for consultation. The Town Council was asked for its comments, particularly errors and omissions contained within the appraisal and interim review. Comments were requested by Friday 29th May 2009. The Salcombe Regis Ward Members had reviewed the documents to enable them to report to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Mrs. Kelly's report be circulated for Members information and discussed at the next planning committee meeting.

09:05/25 STOWFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

An email had been received from Roger Grainger, Policy Officer/Community Strategy at Devon County Council outlining the following:-

The aim of the Stowford Community Centre project was to achieve a viable and sustainable centre at Stowford Rise that could offer community space and also host a children's centre and some primary care services. Officers from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council had been looking at the scope of the project and dealing with some of the early technical/construction issues, but they were now at a point where the project needed a person to act as project facilitator, bringing together the work of the professionals and also developing the involvement of community representatives in writing a viable business case that demonstrated the viability of both building the centre and meets future revenue and upkeep costs.

Unfortunately at this time, neither DCC nor EDDC had an officer with the necessary skills (community development, co-ordination, facilitation and progress chasing) and time available to dedicate to this project. The project would need to be undertaken over the next 6-12 months and would not be a full-time post.

A provisional estimate of cost was £10,000 and the Town Council was asked whether it would consider releasing some of the earmarked contribution towards the project and also whether the person appointed might be able to work from the Town Council's offices.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Turner would attend the next Stowford Community Centre project meeting with Councillor Hughes and present a written report to the June Council meeting so that a decision could be made.

09:05/26 EVENTS ON COUNCIL LAND

Sidmouth Society of Artists had made a request to hold their annual open air exhibition at Connaught Gardens on the 29th August 2009. The Town Council was asked whether it had any objection.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:05/27 COUNTY COMMITTEE

The following Councillors were elected to the County Committee:

Cllr Paul Lewis	Ottery St Mary Town Council
Cllr Jane Wardle	Broadclyst Parish Council

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:05/28 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

The following Road Closure Orders had been received:

- Thursday 28th May 2009 Salcombe Regis Country Fair
- From Thursday 19th May Coburg Road (from outside Olinda
 To Thursday 21st May Cottage to outside Sidmouth Museum)
- 11th to 22nd May C807 Seaton Road

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

09:05/29 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP

Members were invited to put forward items for the next Traffic Management Group meeting (Tuesday 21st July 2009):

- Parking outside Shauls Bakery – Councillor Hughes reported that this area had been included in the recent traffic orders but following the Council's objection to the Manor Road order all the Traffic Orders had been delayed until September.
- Councillor Liverton requested that another issue be discussed in Part B.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:05/30 GRANTS

A greetings card from Lourdes had been received; sent by the HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust (personally signed by 15 of the young people) thanking the Council for its support.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:05/31 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Attached to the agenda was a letter for Member's information.

RESOLVED: That this was considered inappropriate for discussion by the Council.

**09:05/32 DORSET & EAST DEVON COAST (JURASSIC COAST)
WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

A copy of the revised edition of the above had been received which was out for public consultation until 9th June 2009. A copy of the document was available in the office or could be viewed at www.juarassiccoast.com/plan. The accompanying letter stated; 'As one of the coastal Gateway Towns along the Jurassic Coast we are keen that you have a say in the management of the World Heritage Site, so are very interested to hear your community's feedback on the revised plan'.

RESOLVED: (i) That the original Management Plan contained paragraphs regarding coastal erosion; these do not appear in the revised plan and Sidmouth Town Council believes this to be an unacceptable omission.

(ii) The draft Flood & Water Management Bill to be placed on the June agenda for discussion.

09:05/33 ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the draft Annual Report was tabled at the meeting for Members to inspect and approve prior to it being sent to the printer.

RESOLVED: That email addresses for District Council members should be altered; the Annual Report then be noted and agreed.

09:05/34 DEVON HEDGE WEEK

Natural England had notified that Devon Hedge Week would take place between Saturday 24th October and Sunday 1st November 2009 and asked whether as an agreement holder participating in the Countryside Stewardship scheme the Town Council would be holding any events. The Town Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Toby Taylor of the RSPB who would be liaising with the District Council Rangers to arrange an event to be held on Fire Beacon Nature Reserve.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:05/35 DOCUMENTS AND PERIODICALS

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

- Devon County Council – Money Matters
- Devon Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field Spring 2009
- Devon Association of Parish Councils – Newsletter May/June 2009
- Devon Youth Service - East Devon Annual Report 2008

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

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.**

*Councillors Mrs. Carr, Hughes, Mrs. Liverton and GK Liverton left the Chamber
for discussion of the following item.*

09:05/36 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM WOOLLEY BEQUEST

A letter had been received from David McCallum (Sidmouth Tennis Club) requesting a grant from the Woolley Trust towards the installation of floodlighting over the three tennis courts at the Fortfield. He had sent a copy of the Club's latest accounts details of which were made available at the meeting. The Town Clerk read out details of the Club's proposal as attached with Mr McCallum's letter.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council had considered the request on behalf of the Tennis Club very carefully but were unable to approve the application for a grant from the Woolley Bequest; this is used extremely sparingly by the Town Council and not usually offered to a private clubs unless circumstances are exceptional.

09:05/37 SALCOMBE REGIS FIELD

The Chairman gave a verbal report and the Town Clerk showed Members various photographs of the Salcombe Regis field used by the scouts.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent the scout group, enclosing the photographs, explaining that the Council had resolved to give the Scouts a period of six weeks to give this matter their urgent attention and ensure that by summer the field was cleaned up and returned to a more acceptable condition.

09:05/38 CAR PARKING

Councillor Liverton gave a verbal report regarding a letter sent from an individual Member which might have indicated that he was either representing the Town Council, or had the support of the Town Council.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the District Council stating that this was not the case and correspondence and comments were private views and not necessarily those of Sidmouth Town Council.

09:05/39 TRUSTEE MATTERS

Two requests had been received which could be dealt with at this meeting to avoid an extra meeting being called:

- (1) Salcombe Regis Country Fair had asked to use the field at Salcombe Regis on Thursday 29th May for car parking as they had in previous years.
- (2) The Emmanuel Baptist Church asked permission to use Manstone Recreation Field on Saturday 27th June from 2pm until 5pm for their annual Family Fun Day.

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL