

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

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor Mrs. S. Carr Councillor S. Hughes Councillor P. Sullivan	(Vice-Chairman) (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 Dr. D.S. Fung Councillor J. Turner	
Sidford	Councillor S.J. Brokenshire Councillor I.J. McKenzie-Edwards	
Sidbury	Councillor Mrs. C.E. Drew Councillor J.W. Hollick	

09:09/1 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by Councillor G.K. Liverton and the Reverend Graham Tarn.

09:09/2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly, Mrs. F.I. Newth and A.W.J. Reed.

09:09/3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Monday 10th August 2009 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

09:09/4 **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

09:09/5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

09:08/10	Councillor Mrs. C.E. Drew	EDDC Member
09:08/10	Councillor Gibbings	EDDC Member
09:08/10	Councillor Hughes	EDDC Member
09:08/10	Councillor Mrs. Liverton	EDDC Member
09:08/10	Councillor Liverton	EDDC Member
09:08/23	Councillor Gibbings	EDDC Vice Chairman Licensing Committee

09:09/6 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman reported on the functions he had attended.

The Chairman presented Councillor Liverton with a certificate commemorating his long service with Sidmouth Town Council. Councillor Liverton had been a Member for 25 years.

09:09/7 POLICE REPORT

PC Steve Lemon was unable to attend this meeting.

09:09/8 COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS

09:09/8.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor Hollick, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 29th July, 12th and 26th August 2009.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

Councillor Mrs. Drew arrived during the following item.

09:09/9 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

09:09/9.1 Finance Report

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

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

09:09/9.2 Sidmouth in Bloom Report

Councillor Mrs Jolly had been asked by the Sidmouth in Bloom Committee to report that they considered that Sidmouth would be ready to re-enter the Britain in Bloom Competition in 2010. Mrs Jolly also reported that the Committee considered that there was an issue of general cleanliness throughout the town, including the public conveniences.

RESOLVED: That this be noted; Sidmouth Town Council would support Sidmouth in Bloom in entering the 2010 Britain in Bloom competition.

09:09/10 CAR PARK REVIEW

At the August meeting it was reported that East Devon District Council was carrying out a review of the car parks under its control/ownership as part of the delivery of the Council's Asset Management Plan with the purpose of ensuring the delivery of best customer service and value for money. The District Council asked for the Town Council's thoughts and comments on the following issues:-

Operational Issues	Prices
	Permits (season tickets)
	Signage
	Method of Payment

Strategic

Is additional car parking required?
Are any car parks surplus to requirements?
Partnership working opportunities?
Opportunity for park & ride scheme?

It was agreed in August that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would accept the invitation to discuss these issues with Councillor Peter Halse, Len Wright and Donna Best at 4pm on Monday 14th September and that Members would give these matters consideration over the ensuing month and offer comments to this meeting for the Chairman and Vice Chairman to take forward.

RESOLVED: That when the Chairman and Vice Chairman visit with Councillor Halse, Len Wright and Donna Best many issues, including the following should be discussed :-

- A significant differential in car parking charges to be made between town centre car parks and Manor Road, especially in the winter months to encourage greater use.
- All Free car parks should remain free.
- Sidford car park should be free of charge or at least some dedicated spaces for health centre visitors. Consideration should be given to providing some (charged) residents spaces as in Temple Street car park.
- Enquiries to be made on the revenue generated from Sidford car park.
- More car parking is definitely required for Sidmouth.
- Investigations should continue regarding a Park and Ride scheme.

09:09/11 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

09:09/11.1 It was agreed at the August meeting that full discussions were necessary in respect of all public conveniences in the Sid Valley. A report from the Town Clerk was attached for Members information.

RESOLVED: That East Devon District Council be asked how soon the gentleman's toilet at Long Park will be re-opened. It was suggested that Wallgate Units should be installed and not porcelain basins replaced. Investigation should be made by EDDC as to whether this could be a 'paid facility'. EDDC were also to be encouraged to consider entering into negotiations with a local business (such as The Balfour Arms) and offer them financial incentives to make their facilities available to the general public. It is understood that this has occurred elsewhere when assistance has been made to water rates, etc.

It was proposed that a meeting should take place with the Portfolio Holder Councillor David Cox and officers of EDDC.

09:09/11.2 The District Council had received a request from the landlady at The Balfour Arms asking if the toilets at Long Park could remain open late on the 26th September (Carnival night). The Town Clerk reported that the gents were closed due to vandalism, so only the ladies toilet would be available. The District Council reported that they could not send someone out late at night to close this facility, therefore, the ladies toilet would have to remain open all night.

RESOLVED: That the public conveniences at Long Park remain open the night of Sidmouth Carnival.

09:09/12 SEAFRONT AMENITY BUILDING

The Chairman gave a verbal report regarding the current position of the refurbishment of the Seafrost Amenity Building.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/13 **ALMA BRIDGE – LISTING**

Following investigations by Councillors Dyson, Carr and Kelly, a letter had been sent (with evidence and photographs) to the Department of Culture Media and Sport requesting consideration of the 'Listing' of Alma Bridge.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/14 **POWER OF WELLBEING**

Seventeen Members of the Town Council received the required training in the Power of Well Being on Wednesday 2nd September; this met the required commitment of 80% attendance. The next requirement was to create a Community Engagement Statement.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/15 **STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY**

The National Association of Local Councils had sent out a Policy and Parliamentary Consultation document on 'Strengthening Local Democracy'. The consultation asked 26 questions, broken down into five main topic areas. The five page document was attached and responses to NALC were requested by Friday 18th September, or 2nd October if the Council responded direct to the DCLG. The Chairman reported that the questionnaire appeared to be more relevant to the District Council.

RESOLVED: That a response be made to the consultation document that whilst this is primarily aimed at principal authorities; Sidmouth Town Council wishes to express its unequivocal support to any strengthening of local democracy.

09:09/16 **VISION GROUP**

The Vision Group Secretary (Jeremy Woodward) had asked if the Town Council would care to look again at the Vision Group's proposal for a Town Plan. A request had also been received from another member of the Vision Group (Dave Bramley) to meet with the Town Council regarding a bid for funding submitted by the Group. It was suggested that a Working Party be formed to meet with the Vision Group to consider their revised Town Plan and the funding application.

RESOLVED: That the Vision Group be notified that the Town Council has formed a Working Party to discuss with them issues such as the Town Plan and their funding bid.

The Working Party will consist of: - Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee and Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Tourism Committee.

09:09/17 **UPDATED FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

In consultation with Councillor Turner (Member with Special Responsibility for Finance) the Town Clerk had updated the Council's Financial Regulations for 2009/2010 and a copy was attached for Members consideration and/or approval/amendment.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:09/18 **BLACKMORE GARDENS – THE LATE ANN BAGWELL**

A request had been made by the Britain in Bloom Committee to East Devon District Council asking for permission to remove a section of shrubbery in Blackmore Gardens and replace it with a cottage style garden in memory of Ann Bagwell. Mark Pollard reported that a new planting/landscape project in this area could be beneficial to the gardens and if approved, Sidmouth in Bloom together with Bagwell Builders would fund the project.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

09:09/19 **ITEMS FOR TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP**

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 from Blackmore Drive to All Saints Corner
- Parking in Roselands
- Possible review of entrance to Bedford Lawn Car Park

09:09/20 **ROAD CLOSURES**

Notification had been received of the following road closures:-

Ice House Lane, Sidmouth 29th September – 2nd October South West Water

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/21 **WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

Notification had been received that Devon County Council proposed to make an Order to impose 'No Waiting 8am-6pm' in Stowford Rise and junctions with Baker Close, Chambers Close, Fairmead, Hawthorn Drive, Ladymead, Lock Close, Moor View Close, road from Sidford High Street to Stowford Rise, Sedemuda Road, Stowford Rise and Woolbrook Road (as attached)

RESOLVED: That the Town Council does not support this restriction, primarily for two reasons, firstly it is considered that by the removal of on street parking, speeding will be exacerbated and, secondly, there will be little or no parking for Waitrose staff and this might well create alternative parking in unsuitable nearby roads.

09:09/22 **DEVON CAR FREE DAY – 22ND SEPTEMBER**

Devon County Council was promoting a Devon Car Free Day; an annual event held on the 22nd September which encouraged people to try a different and more sustainable way of travelling to work on that day rather than making the journey by car.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/23 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 – STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES**

The attached letter had been received from East Devon District Council from which Members would see that this was a statutory consultation by them and offered until Monday 26th October for comment on the policy prior to its renewal.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to East Devon District Council reporting that Sidmouth Town Council has great concern that this local level of Council has no input in these matters. Parish and Town Councils must be permitted to comment, provided they have first discussed issues at a meeting and a resolution made. A Member or Officer should then be allowed to attend and make known the Council's resolution. It would be essential; that prior notification be received from the District Council in order to give sufficient time for matters to be placed on an agenda.

09:09/24 **LE LOCLE VISIT – CIVIC NIGHT**

A visit to Sidmouth was planned by Members of the Le Locle Twinning Group from 5th to 9th October 2009 to mark the 25th Anniversary of Twinning. Included in the group will be Mesieur Charles Hasler and Madame Mireille Hasler who would be staying at The Hotel Riviera. Mesieur Hasler is the Vice President of the Council in LeLocle. On Tuesday 6th October (7.00 for 7.30) the Council would be hosting a dinner at Knowle for the Swiss visitors, their host families and Members of the Council. There would be a three course Dinner at a cost of £20 per head. Members who wished to attend notified the Clerk who would arrange for menu choices to be sent out.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/25 DOCUMENTS & PERIODICALS

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

- East Devon Voluntary Support Agency – VIVA August 2009

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

09:09/26 QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There were no questions raised at this meeting.

09:09/27 TRUSTEE MATTERS

- The Chairman reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Stage Electrics for the Town Council's support of this year's Folk Week which had been successful.
- Anderton and Rowland Fair had written to request permission to hold their fair on The Ham from 21st to 27th September 2009. They had introduced a new method of close fitting boards to protect the grass from damage during any bad weather.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL