

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
MONDAY 7TH JUNE 2010
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 Mrs. F.I. Newth Councillor S.P. Pollentine	
Primley	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 A.W.J. Reed	

10:06/1 **PRAYERS**

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Graham Tarn.

10:06/2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dr. D.S. Fung, Mrs. A.E. Liverton, G.K. Liverton and C.H. Wale

10:06/3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Mondays 10th and 17th May 2010 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

10:06/4 **MATTERS OF URGENCY**

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

10:06/5

Standing Orders were suspended for fifteen minutes during

PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

Members of the Public were invited to put questions (taking no more than 3 minutes) to the Council through the Chairman.

Questions were received as follows:

Q. Stella Powell – Was there anything that could be done to alleviate the nuisance caused by seagulls in the town?

A. Councillor Gibbings – The District Council had previously taken professional advice which concluded that unfortunately as a seaside town there was very little that would effectively alleviate the problems caused by seagulls.

Councillors also had the opportunity to ask questions of the County and District members during this time slot whilst giving priority to members of the public.

Standing Orders were reinstated

10:06/6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

10:06/7 Cllr Dyson Member of Sidmouth Folk Week Ltd.

10:06/13.1 Cllr Gibbings Prejudicial – close friend/business associate of individual involved with ‘The Arches’

10:06/7 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

- The Chairman reported that he had attended meetings of various organisations to present grant cheques. He had also attended the Rotary Citizen of the Year award ceremony and the Sidmouth Hopper Bus launch.
- At the Sidmouth Local Action Group meeting it had been reported that Operation ‘Piva’ was continuing throughout the summer, the Police were asking for more information from residents regarding Anti-Social behaviour and that the security at the Fortfield Hotel site was becoming a major problem.
- Following suggestions proposed by the Town Council the following street names had been put forward by EDDC for the Stowford Rise development: Lindemann and Sampson.
- A request had been received from Sidmouth Folk Week Ltd. to use the Alma Field for the firework display on Friday 6th August 2010.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted for one year; to be reviewed for future years.

10:06/8 **POLICE REPORT**

PC Steve Lemon presented the Police Report for May 2010. He confirmed that the security and safety at the former Fortfield Hotel was indeed a major problem.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to the District Council expressing the Town Council’s concerns regarding the safety issues at the Fortfield Hotel and the lack of progress with regard to planning.

Councillor Gibbings (in his capacity as a District Councillor) agreed to arrange a site meeting between the District Council's Planning and Environmental Health Departments, the Fire Service and the Police.

10:06/9 **COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

10:06/9.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor McKenzie-Edwards, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 12th and 26th May 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

10:06/10 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

10:06/10.1 Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Interim Finance Report for May 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report be noted and agreed.

10:06/10.2 DALC Larger Local Councils

Councillor Pollentine gave a verbal report of the recent meeting of the DALC Larger Local Councils sub-committee.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:06/11 **VACANCY ON SALCOMBE REGIS WARD**

East Devon District Council had notified that there were no validly nominated candidates put forward, therefore, the Town Council was at liberty to commence co-option procedures to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable.

RESOLVED: That it be publicised that the Town Council would seek a candidate for co-option to represent the Salcombe Regis ward.

10:06/12 **S106 FUNDING**

Councillor Pollentine and the Clerk had a meeting with Sulina Tallock, EDDC's S106 Officer to update on funds which might be available in the Sidmouth area. The advice from Sulina was that £40,000 had been identified as available for capital projects for Sport. In order to access any of this funding it would be necessary for consultation to take place with local sports organisations within the Sid Valley. It was recommended that sports groups and organisations be invited to contact the Town Council with any capital projects they had in mind. Sulina, together with Jamie Buckley of EDDC, would then assist with taking this forward.

There was also a further £40,000 S106 money available for children's play areas, however, there was a 600 metre rule which made its use on existing play areas somewhat challenging. Councillor Pollentine and the Clerk had been discussing whether an outdoor fitness gym for teenagers and adults might be something which could add to the Council's play provision and S106 funds would be more likely to be available for this as a new capital (sport) project.

PPG17 SIDMOUTH - Sulina was working towards identification of all existing facilities in Sidmouth in order to help shape future S106 requirements. Enclosed with the agenda was a form which she had asked if each Councillor could complete and return for her analysis. (These should be sent back to the Town Clerk who would forward to Sulina.)

RESOLVED: That the availability of S106 funds be welcomed and the Town Council would collate any applications from local sports clubs/organisations received and forward to East Devon District Council.

Councillor Gibbings left the Chamber for discussion of the following items.

10:06/13 **ESPLANADE SHELTERS – ‘THE ARCHES’**

10:06/13.1 A report had been received from the Architect that the western shelter (youth café) was complete. The eastern shelter would be glazed on the 10th June and the privacy/decorative vinyl fixed the following day. Complete cleaning and snagging would take place between 14th and 16th June. An ‘official opening ceremony’ could be arranged after that date.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:06/13.2 Councillor Gibbings considered he had too many connected interests and wished to relinquish his role as Member with Special Responsibility for the former seafront shelters.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hollick would become the Member with Special Responsibility for the Seafront Amenity Building.

Councillor Gibbings returned to the Chamber.

10:06/14 **SIDMOUTH POLICE STATION – OPENING HOURS**

Enclosed with the agenda was a copy of the response received from Paul Netherton, Assistant Chief Constable.

RESOLVED: That (i) Sidmouth Town Council did not accept the response as satisfactory; there is much more contact with the public than the 15% stated in the letter.

(ii) Consideration should be given to selling the current Police station and moving to a central position in town to create a ‘one stop shop’ as in Teignmouth and Dawlish.

(iii) The consultation process was disingenuous as it only allowed for 20 hours availability; therefore, it would appear that the decision had already been taken.

10:06/15 **RAILINGS ON SIDMOUTH ESPLANADE**

Following a letter sent by the Town Clerk to East Devon District Council’s Chief Executive which expressed the Town Council’s concern that Sidmouth’s seafront railings were not going to be painted this year (see April Min. No. 10:04/7), a reply had been received stating:

‘I do agree with you that it is disappointing that the Council has not been able to include a budget sum for painting the railings this year. The quote that we received was apparently for £16,000 and in the difficult budget setting process that my Council went

through Members considered that they were unable to justify this sum of money for the current financial year. However, I am aware that the appearance of the railings is important and am of the firm view that we will need to make provision for painting in 2011'.

RESOLVED: That a reminder letter be sent to the District Council prior to their next budget process

10:06/16 PARISH LENGTHSMAN

The Parish Lengthsman would be in the Sidmouth area from 2nd to the 23rd June and then again 31st August to 13th September 2010.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:06/17 LETTERS OF THANKS

Letters of thanks had been received from the following grant recipients:

- Citizens Advice Service East Devon
- Sidmouth Sailing Club

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:06/18 ROAD/FOOTPATH CLOSURE ORDERS

The following Road Closure Orders had been received:

- Ice House Lane 3rd August to 9th August 2010 (South West Water)
- Cotmaton (outside Lodge Orchard)
 26th July to 30th July 2010 (South West Water)
- Arcot Park (outside 72 to Longdale)
 19th July to 21st July 2010 (South West Water)
- Road from Synderborough Farm to Pin Hill Farm, Sidbury
 31st August to 3rd September (South West Water)
- Footpath 111 Monday 7th to Friday 11th June
(To replace footbridge over the Snod Brook at Harcombe)
- Howarth Close, Sidmouth – stopping up of a 16 metre southern part width of cul-de-sac comprising its turning head adjacent to the southern boundary of no. 9 Howarth Close – to enable residential development consisting of 133 dwellings.

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

10:06/19 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT GROUP

Members were invited to put forward items for the next Traffic Management Group meeting to be held on Tuesday 22nd June 2010.

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

- Pedestrian crossing on The Esplanade
- Pavement approaching Sidford traffic lights.
- Condition of All Saints Road.

10:06/20 CIVIC NIGHT AT FOLK WEEK

Enclosed with the agenda was a letter regarding the Chairman's Civic Night at the Folk Week for Member's to complete and return.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:06/21 DOCUMENTS AND PERIODICALS

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

- Natural England – The Farm Visitor Summer 2010
- DALC Newsletter – May/June2010

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.**

The following item was brought forward on the agenda.

10:06/24 STOWFORD RISE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Debbie Stewart of CEU Limited attended the meeting and gave a report to Members explaining the process so far. Members were asked to consider accepting the Transfer of the Freehold Land from the District Council at no charge to enable the project to continue.

RESOLVED: That Ms. Stewart be thanked for her presentation and her work so far on behalf of the Stowford Rise Community Centre. Sidmouth Town Council would accept the Transfer of Freehold Land from the District Council at no charge.

10:06/22 SIDMOUTH SAILING CLUB

A letter had been received from the Commodore of Sidmouth Sailing Club with a request of funds from The Woolley Trust Fund.

RESOLVED: That the Sailing Club be offered a five year interest free loan of £2,500 from the Woolley Bequest, to be repaid at £500 per annum. The Sailing Club should also consider making an application for S106 funding from the District Council.

10:06/23 SIDMOUTH RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

A letter had been received from the Sidmouth Rugby Football Club with a request for S106 funds.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and the Rugby Club's request be put forward for Section 106 funding.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL