

10:04/3 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 22nd March 2010 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

10:04/4 **MATTERS OF URGENCY**

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

10:04/5

As no questions had been received Standing Orders were not suspended for a
PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

As from the May meeting of the Town Council this item would invite Members of the Public to put questions to the Council through the Chairman
(without notice and taking no more than 3 minutes)

Councillors would also have the opportunity to ask questions of the County and District Members during this time slot whilst giving priority at this part of the meeting to Members of the Public.
(Members were reminded to notify the Councillor concerned and the Clerk of questions to be raised.)

10:04/6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

10:04/12	Councillor Mrs. Drew	Chairman Stowford Rise Community Association Committee
10:04/12	Councillor Hughes	Acquisition of funding for Stowford Rise Project
10:04/12	Councillor Turner	Member Stowford Rise Community Association Committee
10:04/14	All East Devon District Councillors present	declared a personal interest.
10:04/15	Councillor Reed	President of Town Band
10:04/16	Councillor Reed	Relative of Carnival Chairman

10:04/7 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman had attended the following functions on behalf of the Council:

24 th March	Jurassic Coast Disabled Seminar held at Bovington Camp
26 th March	100 th Anniversary Dinner of St. Nicholas School
12 th April	LDF meeting held at Kennaway House

The Chairman reported the following:

The railings on The Esplanade were in poor condition but it had been reported that the District Council had cut this expenditure from its budget and the railings would not now be repainted. The Chairman asked Members to consider writing to the District Council on this issue.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council write to the District Council asking that it reconsider its decision not to carry out the maintenance of The Esplanade railings.

10:04/8 **POLICE REPORT**

PC Steve Lemon presented the Police Report for March 2010.

10:04/9 **COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

10:04/9.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor McKenzie-Edwards, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 3rd and 17th March 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Reports be noted and agreed.

10:04/9.2 Tourism & Publicity Report

The Chairman of the Tourism & Publicity Committee, Councillor Pollentine, presented the report of the Tourism & Publicity Committee meeting held on Monday 8th March 2010.

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

10:04/10 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

10:04/10.1.1 Finance Report

Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Finance Report for February and the Interim Report for March 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

10:04/10.1.2 Councillor Turner reported that he had met with the Town Council's Internal Auditor (Mr John Richardson) on 24th February 2010 and discussed with him the Internal Audit Review Parts 1 and 2. Councillor Turner had reviewed and was happy to confirm the effectiveness of internal audit.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and Councillor Turner be thanked for his work in this matter.

10:04/10.2 Sidmouth Museum

Councillor Mrs Jolly gave a verbal report with regard to the Sidmouth Museum and reported that it had been successful in its application for National Accreditation.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:04/10.3 Fire Beacon Nature Reserve

Councillor McKenzie-Edwards reported that he had attended a meeting at the Fire Beacon Nature Reserve with Councillor Dyson, (P3) Toby Taylor (RSPB) and a representative from Natural England to discuss the application for the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. It had been suggested that an area of the Nature Reserve would be fenced off for grazing by ponies.

RESOLVED: That this be noted. Congratulations and good wishes be sent to Toby Taylor on the occasion of his forthcoming wedding.

10:04/11 **VISION GROUP – TOWN PLAN**

The Working Party appointed by the Town Council consisting of Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Planning and Chairman and Vice Chairman of Tourism met to consider the Vision Group's amended version of the Town Plan for Sidmouth.

The Working Party's recommendation to Council was as follows:-

The Town Council is unable to endorse the Vision Group's 2006 (amended) Town Plan, but commend the Group for the effort and work undertaken in the production of this document. It should be acknowledged that many of the objectives identified have already been achieved by others. Events have superseded this document with regard to many issues. The Town Council acknowledge that two main issues are still relevant e.g. Port Royal Development and the threat to Salcombe Cliffs.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

Item 10:04/12 was discussed in Part B.

10:04/13 **VACANCY ON SALCOMBE REGIS WARD**

The Chairman reported that following a resignation received from Councillor Mrs Lois Kelly there was now a vacancy in the Salcombe Regis Ward. This would now be reported to the District Council.

RESOLVED: That this be noted. A letter of thanks would be sent to Mrs Kelly

10:04/14 **CHANGES TO THE HOME SAFEGUARD ALARM SERVICES**

The attached notification had been sent to all interested parties with regard to the changes to the Home Safeguard Alarm Service which currently operates.

RESOLVED: That a letter be sent to East Devon District Council outlining the Town Council's concerns with regard to the letter which has been sent to users of the Home Safeguard alarm system.

The Town Council feel that the District Council should send a supplementary message to Home Safeguard users that if financial need exists then an approach could be made to the District Council. The original letter makes no mention of this and users would not realise that assistance was available upon request. The Town Council understood from the District Councillors present at the meeting that it was their understanding that all Safeguard users would be notified of this facility and considered that the letter sent was somewhat 'cold' in its approach.

Items 10:04/15 and 10:04/16 were discussed in Part B.

10:04/17 **JURASSIC COAST MEETINGS**

Councillor Pollentine would normally attend the following meetings on behalf of the Town Council but was unfortunately not able to attend on this particular day.

10:04/17.1 The next meeting of the Jurassic Coast Communities Forum was on Monday 17th May and the suggested theme was 'Sustainable Transport on the Jurassic Coast'.

RESOLVED: That, if possible, Councillor Dyson would attend this meeting.

10:04/17.2 The inaugural meeting of the Jurassic Coast DEFRA Coastal Change Pathfinder Education Programme would be held on Monday 17th May at Kennaway House.

RESOLVED: That Members would inform the Town Clerk if they were able to attend this meeting.

10:04/18 **RATEABLE VALUE – ESPLANADE SHELTERS**

The rateable value for the Esplanade Shelters had risen from £146 to £11,500 with effect from 1st April 2010. The Town Clerk had queried this with the Valuation Office in Exeter and received a response that the previous rateable value of £146 was applicable to a 12.16 sq. mtrs first aid post with a small toilet whereas the revised rateable value applies to the new building where the toilets, shower and deckchair store are located totalling approximately 120 sq. mtrs. The letter from the Valuation Office stated that the other two new buildings for the Youth Trust and Interpretation Centre would need to be assessed once they were completed and would be given separate rateable values accordingly. The current rateable value of £11,500 for the middle shelter's conversion created a Council Tax requirement from East Devon District Council of £4,761.00.

This matter had been raised with the Council because of the effect this would have on the budget for the shelters which was set at a total of £10,800 to include all maintenance, cleaning, provisions, rates, etc., and with this high sum required on Council Tax it was likely that the budget would be exceeded. There would also be an extra cost to the Youth Trust and the proposed Interpretation Centre.

The Town Clerk reported that since the agenda had been compiled further discussion had taken place with the Valuation Office and it was discovered that the valuation had been measured incorrectly and the rateable value should not be £11,500 as previously stated but would be reduced to £3,600.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and the Town Clerk thanked for her work to find the solution to this problem.

10:04/19 EVENTS ON COUNCIL LAND

The District Council had received the following requests and asked whether the Town Council had any objections:-

- Connaught Gardens – Ottery St Mary Silver Band – throughout the summer for evening concerts on a Tuesday of each week.
- Connaught Gardens – Ottery Deanery Group – Songs of Praise – 9th June (7-9pm)
- Connaught Gardens – Christians Together in Sidmouth – Sunday Services in July & August

RESOLVED: That these be noted and agreed.

10:04/20 ROAD CLOSURE ORDERS

- Hill View, Sidmouth from Wednesday 9th to Tuesday 15th June – South West Water
- Heydons Lane, Sidmouth from Monday 3rd May to Tuesday 1st June – Utility works
- Road from Synderborough Farm to Pin Hill Farm, Sidmouth from Monday 10th to Thursday 13th May – Utility works

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

10:03/21 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 Traffic Management Group:

- Manstone Lane to Woolbrook – parking problems causing danger to children walking to school – suggested one way road
- Lymebourne/Arcot Park – request to move zebra crossing from Temple Street nearer to Potbury's yard
- Access road behind Riverside and opposite The Swan – parking creating a blocking nuisance
- Whole area of Woolbrook – problems with parking and access to local shops
- Road outside The Swan – potholes on the bend.
- One-way system from Blackmore Drive to All Saints Corner

10:03/22 GRANTS

A Working Party would be formed consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Councillors Pollentine, Fung and Hollick to consider the current application form for grants and set amended criteria for future adoption. It was recommended that reminder letters to previous candidates for grants were not sent out in the future.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

10:03/23 **DOCUMENTS & PERIODICALS**

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

- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust – RD&Express Newsletter March 2010
- Devon County Council – Devontalk Spring 2010
- East Devon Forum for the Voluntary & Community Sector – Meeting at Blue Ball Inn, Sidford on Monday 26th April 2010 9.45am to 12.30pm
- DAPC – Newsletter Mar/Apr 2010
- Community Council of Devon – Village Green March 2010
- East Devon CVS – VIVA April 2010

RESOLVED: That these be noted.

10:04/24 **QUESTIONS TO COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

There were no questions raised at this meeting. From May onwards this Question time would be at the beginning of the meeting.

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.**

10:04/25 **MR RICHARD ELEY**

Mr Richard Eley had asked to make a presentation to the Town Council on a possible future project for Sidmouth.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council offers its full support to the Sidmouth Arboretum Project.

10:04/12 **STOWFORD RISE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The attached letter had been received from East Devon District Council and suggested that the freehold of the Chambers Close site, together with the completed community centre, be transferred to Sidmouth Town Council subject to a long lease to Trustees of the Stowford Rise Community Centre (to be appointed) and 25 year sub leases of parts of the building to DCC's 'Children's and Young Persons Service' and to Devon Primary Care Trust.

RESOLVED: That in principle Sidmouth Town Council sees no reason why it should not be able to take over the freehold of the Stowford Rise Community Centre but would prefer to take this decision towards the end of the year when management structures are known.

10:04/15 **SIDMOUTH TOWN BAND**

Earlier in March Sidmouth Town Band won the areas contest (third section) and would travel to Harrogate in September to represent the South West. Both the first and second place bands would attend representing an area which is from Gloucestershire to Hampshire and then West to Somerset Dorset, Devon and Cornwall. Sidmouth took first place and a band from Gloucestershire took second place. Councillor G.K. Liverton requested that the Council discuss (in part 'B') whether the Council might be able to offer some financial assistance towards Sidmouth Town Band's expenses.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council offer a grant of £2,000 to the Town Band to assist with the expense of attending the competition in Harrogate.

Councillor Reed left the meeting prior to the next item.

10:04/16 SIDMOUTH CARNIVAL

Sidmouth Carnival had applied for a grant towards the 2010 carnival.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council offer a grant of £500 to the Sidmouth Carnival to assist with its expenditure for this year.

10:04/26 TRUSTEE MATTERS

10:04/26.1 The Ham – The Town Clerk gave a verbal report of the current position with regard to the proposed lease between the Town Council and South West Water.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

10:04/26.2 Manstone – The Emmanuel Baptist Church had written asking for permission to use the Manstone Recreation Field on Saturday 26th June from 2pm to 5pm for its annual Family Fun Day.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL