

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON
MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2011
AT 6.30 PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor P. Sullivan (Chairman) Councillor S. Hughes (Vice Chairman)
Sidmouth South	Councillor J.G.T. Dyson Councillor Mrs M. Jolly
Sidmouth East	Councillor Mrs F.I. Newth Councillor S.P. Pollentine
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
Salcombe Regis	Councillor D. Barratt Councillor A.W.J. Reed

11:02/1 PRAYERS

Prayers were taken by the Reverend Dave Brown.

Rev Brown announced that this would be his last visit to the Council to take prayers as he was moving away from Sidmouth. The Chairman and Members offered their good wishes for his future and thanked him for his work in Sidmouth.

11:02/2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. S. Carr, J.W. Hollick, Mrs. A.E. Liverton, G.K. Liverton and C.H. Wale. Councillor Gibbings was absent.

11:02/3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council meetings held on Monday 10th and 24th January 2011 were signed as a true and accurate record.

11:02/4 MATTERS OF URGENCY

The Chairman reported that there were urgent repairs needed at the Manstone Skateboard Park and a quotation had been received in the sum of £225. The quotation also included a replacement bin in the sum of £661.25 as the existing one had been damaged beyond repair. It was agreed that the Council pay £225 for the repairs and Councillor Hughes agreed to pay for the replacement bin from his Devon County Council Locality Budget.

11:02/5

Standing Orders were suspended for
PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME
No Members of the Public or Councillors wished to put questions
Standing Orders were reinstated.

11:02/6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were received as follows:

- 11:02/11 Councillor Mrs Newth – School Governor at St. Nicholas School.
- 11:02/12 Councillor Sullivan – Director Stowford Hall Community Organisation
- 11:02/12 Councillor Hughes – Director Stowford Hall Community Organisation
- 11:02/12 Councillor Mrs Drew – Director Stowford Hall Community Organisation
- 11:02/12 Councillor Turner – Director Stowford Hall Community Organisation
- 11:02/15 Councillor Hughes – Devon County Councillor
- 11:02/20 Councillor Hughes – Devon County Councillor

11:02/7 MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

There was no Chairman's Diary as January had been a quiet month for the Chairman. Councillor Sullivan reported that Civic Service acceptances for next Sunday had already been received in excess of 100.

11:02/8 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Andy Turner presented the Police Report for January 2011. Sergeant Turner also reported on the possible changes which would take place as from the 20th May 2011 when there would have to be an overall loss of 700 officers. There were to be 'response hubs' at Honiton, Exmouth and Cullompton. PCSO's would remain unchanged and become the 'bed rock' of policing. Neighbourhood Beat Managers would have bigger patches with more routine work. It was unlikely that Sergeant Turner would be based in Sidmouth.

Sergeant Turner reported that PC Steve Lemon would be joining CID and everyone wished him well. A letter of congratulations and thanks for all his work for Sidmouth would be sent to PC Lemon.

Sergeant Turner reported that Debbie Hollamby (the front desk officer at the police Station) had taken voluntary redundancy and would be leaving after May. It was agreed that a letter be sent offering the Council's appreciation to Debbie for her work over the years spent at the Sidmouth Station.

11:02/9 **COMMITTEE/WORKING PARTY REPORTS**

11:02/9.1 Planning Committee Reports

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor McKenzie Edwards presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 5th and 19th January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee reports be noted and agreed.

11:02/9.2 Tourism & Publicity Report

The Chairman of the Tourism & Publicity Committee, Councillor Pollentine, presented the report of the Tourism & Publicity Committee meeting held on Monday 10th January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Publicity Committee reports be noted and agreed

11:02/10 **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

11:02/10.1 Finance Report

The Member with Special Responsibility for Finance, Councillor Turner, presented the Finance Report for December 2010 and the Interim Finance Report for January 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Reports be noted and agreed.

11:02/10.2 Councillor Pollentine gave a verbal report on his recent attendance in Plymouth at the Planning & Localism Seminar at which there were four key speakers representing the Department of Communities & Local Government, University of Plymouth, Cornwall County Council and a Planning Consultant.

11:02/10.3 Councillor Dyson gave a verbal report on the projected finances for the Hopper Bus this season, reporting that the Keith Owen Fund had offered to 'match' any donations received.

Councillor Mrs Newth left the Chamber for the following item

11:02/11 **CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF SIDMOUTH INFANTS AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS**

Following discussions between Devon Local Authority and the Governing Bodies of Sidmouth Infants Community School, All Saints Infants VC CofE School and St. Nicholas VA CofE School, a proposal had been developed to combine the infant and junior schools into an all-through primary school for pupils aged 4-11 from September 2011.

Further information could be found on Devon County Council's consultation website at www.consultationfinder.com/devon and would be updated as matters progress. Comments were required in writing by Friday 18th February 2011.

Because of the close timing to this meeting and the closure for consultation Members were sent an advance email of this matter on the 25th January 2011. Councillor Mrs Liverton had sent an email before she went on holiday the contents of which were reported to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members would send individual responses on line. The Council's response would be that Sidmouth wants the best possible education for its children. The transition time is key in order that no child suffers during any proposed changes.

*As both the Chairman and Vice Chairman had declared interests in the following item and would be leaving the Chamber, the Chairman proposed and Members agreed that Councillor Pollentine (as a former chairman of the Council) take the chair for this item.
Councillor Mrs Drew also left the Chamber as did Councillor Turner after presenting his report*

11:02/12 STOWFORD RISE COMMUNITY CENTRE

11:02/12.1 The final invoice had been settled by the Town Council in respect of the consultant for Stowford Rise Community Centre, which left a balance in the account of £9,983. A cheque for this amount had been signed and given to the Treasurer of the Stowford Rise Community Centre. The Town Council's financial promise to the Centre of £10,000 had now been undertaken.

RESOLVED: That this be noted

11:02/12.2 Request for a Bridging Loan for Stowford Rise Community Centre.

The newly formed Stowford Community Centre CIC had been promised a grant of up to £35,000 from 'Making it Local' subject to raising matched funding of £15,000. The grant would be used to fund the capital costs of setting up the community centre kitchen and for the purchase of furniture and other equipment. Although the CIC had now almost raised the £15,000 required matched funding, it would not receive the MIL grant until the purchases had been completed and receipted invoices presented. Even then, the grant would be paid in the next financial quarter; ie. in arrears. If the equipment was purchased in July in time for the projected August opening, the grant was not likely to be received until October or November. Councillor Turner, one of the directors of the CIC had asked for an opportunity to request a bridging loan from Sidmouth Town Council to cover the capital expenditure over the period from June to November.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Turner's recommendations in his report (see attached) be agreed. It is imperative that the Town Clerk has assurance that the Making It local grant is totally secure and agreed prior to the loan being given.

The £30,000 to be taken from the Town Council's reserves.

11:02/13 SIDMOUTH YOUTH TRUST – THE ARCHES

A copy of a letter received from David Richards, the Secretary of Sidmouth Youth Trust, giving an update on The Arches (see attached) was circulated with the agenda. The Secretary asked whether the Council would be prepared to amend the current lease which precludes them from allowing other users to have the premises. They specifically mentioned locally based charities such as Living with Cancer or the Memory Cafe and wondered whether the Council would make an exception if users were an obvious benefit to the Sidmouth community.

RESOLVED: That the Chairman and Town Clerk should meet with the Youth Trust to discuss this proposal and report back to the Council.

11:02/14 LOCAL FLOODING SURVEY

Devon County Council's Flood Risk manager had written reporting that the Floods Risk Regulations 2009 and the recent Flood & Water Management Act 2010 required the County Council to prepare a Devon-wide assessment of surface water and local flooding in order to produce a strategy to deal with significant flood risks. The Environment Agency had accurate records of river and coastal flood events going back many years but to support this collection of data, information on local and surface water flood events was needed. A survey form had been received which the County Council want completed and returned by the 28th February.

A copy of the letter from Devon County Council and the Survey form was sent to all members of the Emergency Working Party asking for their comments and observations for this meeting. Responses had been received from Councillors Ann & Graham Liverton reporting problems in Woolbrook Road at its junctions with Alexandria Road and Bennetts Hill, plus debris in the Woolbrook, these comments were reported to the meeting.

Councillor Mrs Newth reported problems at Higher Woolbrook and Councillor Hughes reported issues at Station Road near the Bedford Hotel.

RESOLVED: That the above comments be sent to Devon County Council.

11:02/15 **PROVISION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ON-STREET PARKING**

A letter was received from Devon County Council stating:-

“In light of the response to the advertised proposals and discussions with communities, Devon County Council has decided to suspend plans for an early implementation of on-street pay and display parking. However, the County Council has not abandoned this process, but wants to discuss the needs of individual communities in more detail with towns, parishes and traders.

The County Council recognises there is a need for fuller consultation with individual communities over the range of parking issues, including the scope for residents parking which has been suggested in some cases.

We will first need to review the responses received to the consultation on the draft orders and consider how we might move forward. I will write again when this assessment has been completed.”

The letter was dated 24th January and signed by Ian Harrison, Deputy Executive Director of Environment, Economy and Culture.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the letter be noted. It was hoped that any future consultation with the Town Council on this matter would be in good time.

11:02/16 **DEVON & CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY**

Attached is a letter dated 19th January for Member’s information

RESOLVED: That this be noted

11:02/17 **FOOTPATH NO 169 – DIVERSION ORDER**

A Notice of the Order in respect of Footpath 169 had been received. This will divert the public footpath running from Holmdale through a yard and forecourt to Mill Street to a line running along the southern boundary of the site as shown on that attached Order Map.

Representations about or objections to the order are to be sent in writing to the County Solicitor not later than 4th March 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council objects to the proposed diversion and sees no reason why Footpath 169 should be diverted and is concerned that a developer is seeking to move an existing, well used footpath for their own commercial benefit.

11:02/18 **FIRE BEACON NATURE RESERVE**

Members were reminded that a new gate was required at Fire Beacon Nature Reserve to replace the one damaged by unknown vehicle/s. An invoice had been received in the sum of £390 which was for the installation of a kissing gate and replacing the horse access barrier. It was suggested that this be paid for by dividing between P3 and the Council at £195 each.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed.

11:02/19 **QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE**

Council's were asked whether they might be interested in participating in Fields in Trust's new project being led by Prince William to mark Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge was a programme to mark both the Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics. The aim was to protect 2012 outdoor recreational sites for communities all across the country by 2012. This network of fields would be a successor to the King George V Memorial Fields and any large or small council could participate by nominating a recreational site to be included in the programme. To date a £1 million fund exclusively available to Queen Elizabeth II fields had been created by SITA Trust and would be split between 2011 and 2012. Sport England's People, Places Play Legacy would also support the Challenge through the £10 million Protecting Playing Fields fund. These funds both open in 2011 and therefore the sooner nominations were received for potential sites the sooner the fields would become eligible to access these funds.

RESOLVED: That the Town Council nominate Long Park for designation as a Queen Elizabeth II Field.

11:02/20 **SNOW WARDENS, ETC.**

11:02/20.1 Devon County Council ran a training session in December for prospective Snow Wardens in towns and parishes and a further training session had been arranged for Monday 14th February from 1.30 to 5pm. The Town Council was asked whether it wished to appoint a Snow Warden to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED: That no member wished to be a Snow Warden

11:02/20.2 At a recent meeting of Chairmen and Clerks of East Devon Towns it was asked if towns could report where extreme difficulties had arisen during the recent snow/icy conditions. This information would be collated and reported accordingly.

RESOLVED: That whilst many areas were reported as being problems during the recent unprecedented weather conditions the main issues would be clearance of the commercial centre of the town and primary routes into and out of Sidmouth.

11:02/20.3 A letter had been received from East Devon District Council asking which car parks (or parts of car parks) the Council would see as a priority in its area in terms of risk or likely extent of use.

RESOLVED: That gritting/salting and/or clearance should be focussed on the town centre car parks and if gritting of all the car park was not possible then access in and out plus routes around parking spaces should receive special attention.

