

MINUTES
OF THE
MEETING OF
SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
IN ITS CAPACITY AS TRUSTEE
HELD ON
MONDAY 16TH JUNE 2008
AT 6.30PM
WOOLCOMBE HOUSE
SIDMOUTH, DEVON

Members Present:

Sidmouth North	Councillor Mrs. S. Carr Councillor P. Sullivan	(Vice-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	
Sidmouth West	Councillor Mrs. A.E. Liverton Councillor G.K. Liverton	
Primley	Councillor T.J. Cox Councillor J. Turner	(Chairman)
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	

08:06/T1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Hughes, Mrs. L.W.A. Kelly and C.H. Wale. It was reported that Councillor Liverton would be arriving late.

08:06/T2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Trustee meeting held on 17th March 2008 were received and signed as a true and accurate record.

08:06/T3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were received as follows:

08:06/T4.2 Councillor Mrs. Liverton Governor of Bicton College
08:06/T5 Councillor Gibbings EDDC NLO committee representative
08:06/T5 Councillor Mrs Drew STC NLO committee representative

Councillor G.K. Liverton arrived during discussion of the following item.

08:06/T4 THE HAM

08:06/T4.1 At the May meeting of the Town Council Coco Hodgkinson and Sarah Sparks asked to address the Council regarding the possibility of refurbishing the play area at The Ham; they attended the Trustee meeting to speak with Members in their capacity as Trustee. It was suggested that a Working Party be set up to include interested parents, children and the Youth Council, together with Councillor Mrs. Newth and Pollentine to progress this issue.

It had previously been reported that the multi-unit equipment (which is over ten years old) needed attention and some of the other play equipment was older than this unit. The Town Clerk reported that the Ham Reserve was £11,814 at the end of the Financial Year 2007/2008.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council wholeheartedly supported this local initiative and confirmed that a substantial sum would be made available from next year's budget and hopefully also from the Woolley Bequest.

08:06/T4.2 The Chairman of the Council attended an environmental campaign on The Ham on the 24th April when Year 2 Foundation Degree Environmental Arts & Crafts students at Bicton promoted the reduction in use and also recycling of plastic bottles.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

08:06/T4.3 At the March meeting it was reported that complaints had been received from residents nearby that the riverside walkway needed more regular cleaning. It was agreed at the meeting to contact Streetscene and ask for a quote to clean. The cost to clean the current dinghy park and paths would be:-

Weekly	£2,180	
Monthly		£600
Quarterly		£400

RESOLVED: That a contract sum be obtained for monthly cleaning from April to September; two winter cleanings in November and January; with the option for emergency call outs.

08:06/T4.4 It was reported at the last meeting that letters had been sent to residents of Riverside and the houses facing Riverside offering the parking space on an annual licence at a cost of £800. It was agreed that if more than one person indicated an interest there would be an invitation for them to attend the Council offices at Woolcombe House to attend a ballot. There was only one request received and, therefore, an annual licence had been signed and a sum of £800 paid by Mr Jason Tait of 4 Riverside.

RESOLVED: That this be noted.

It was resolved that items 08:06/T4.5 and 08:06/T4.6 be discussed in Part B.

08:06/T4.7 Following information received from Mark Pollard regarding problems with a tree at The Ham a report had been requested from Rowse Tree Services. They stated that 'Although the tree could be retained if it were to be heavily reduced it would be of little amenity value and any re-growth would have weak attachment to the main stem resulting in further branch loss.'

It was recommended that the tree be removed and a more suitable species planted. Cost for removal £480 + VAT and grind stump below ground level £90 + VAT. Suggested replanting with a group of three *Betula utilis* 'Jacquemontii'.

RESOLVED: That this be noted and agreed at a cost of £570.

08:06/T5 RECREATION FIELD AT SALCOMBE REGIS

A request had been received from the Norman Lockyer Observatory to use the recreation field at Salcombe Regis as an overflow car park for their open day to be held on Saturday 9th August 2008 (see letter attached). The Town Clerk reported that this letter was acknowledged on the 21st April and Mr Posford had been informed that the Trustee meeting would be on 16th June when his request would be placed before Members.

RESOLVED: That permission be granted for the NLO to use the recreation field for their open day; with the understanding that the NLO would liaise with the scouts to ensure that the field is not already in use; the field must not be used for parking in extreme wet weather; the NLO must hold sufficient insurance and take responsibility for any damage caused.

NLO should also liaise with Councillor Dyson with regard to the Sidmouth Hopper Bus which may be able to reduce the number of cars attending the open day.

08:06/T6 MANSTONE RECREATION GROUND

08:06/T6.1 Concern had been expressed by some Members regarding the poor condition of the fencing around Manstone Recreation Ground. Members were asked what action should be taken with regard to this matter. Should quotes be obtained for complete or partial fencing?

RESOLVED: (i) That suitable and appropriate fencing be installed along the full length of the Manstone Recreation Ground; the hedge should be retained and in some areas extended.

(ii) A letter be written to Sidmouth Town AFC expressing the Town Council's concerns with regard to the condition of the high fencing behind the goal mouth; enquiring when the last Health and Safety check had been carried out on this fencing.

(iii) A site meeting be arranged with Sidmouth Town AFC, the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Town Clerk and Councillors Mrs. Carr, Gibbings and Reed to discuss which type of fencing should be used.

08:06/T6.2 An email had been received from Devon County Council which asked that attention be given to hedge cutting and clearance and appropriate tree lifting works a Manstone Recreation Ground. They identified that the hedge and two lower limbs of one or two trees were an obstruction to highway users and needed to be cleared back to

- (a) beyond the highway kerbing through the full length of Yarde Hill Orchard and
- (b) height clearance of 16'6" (5.2m) over the carriageway.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be arranged with the tree surgeon Mr. Rowse, Councillors Mrs. Carr, Pollentine and the Town Clerk to identify whose is responsible for the land and what work was required.

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.

08:06/T.4.5 In July 1991 planning permission was granted for change of use of the former boating pond to be used for temporary boat parking. The following April (1992) Sidmouth Sailing Club made a donation of £3,000 towards the cost of the enhancement of this area. In March 1993 Whitton & Laing of Exeter confirmed that a licence fee for summer use be valued at £200 per annum. It was agreed that Sidmouth Town Council would licence the land in question to the Sailing Club using the £3,000 donated at a licence fee of £200 per annum for a period not exceeding fifteen years. The original licence was dated 1st April 1993, therefore as at 1st April 2008 this agreement ceased.

On the 3rd April the Town Clerk wrote to the Commodore asking what the wishes of the Sailing Club were in respect of this matter as a report would be made to the next meeting of the Council in its capacity as Trustee. The attached reply had been received from Oliver Salter, President of Sidmouth Sailing Club.

RESOLVED: (i) That an annual Licence be granted to Sidmouth Sailing Club as the Town Council may have another use for this area in the future.

(ii) Prior to the issue of the Licence Sidmouth Sailing Club must take responsibility for clearing the area of all rubbish, debris and dilapidated boats.

(iii) The Licence will be issued at a cost of £1,000 per annum.

08:06/T.4.6 An application had been received from John Radford of Stage Electrics who were taking over responsibility for managing the Ham marquee productions to use The Ham for Folk Week 2008. The event opens on the 31st July until the 8th August, this was one day earlier than last year.

Mr Radford wrote that 'if the weather remains fair to good we envisage not using any elements of flooring within the Ham venue, if however the weather deteriorates to a level where a surface dressing is required to maintain public safety we envisage using a natural coir or similar matting in high wear areas. We do NOT intend using plastic sheeting and/ or straw on this venue. Obviously, if the weather is inclement or very hot damage

will be caused to the lawn at a surface level. By acting sensitively on the site we hope to minimise this so that the recovery rate is significantly increased over 2007. Please note that the seating will be on metal 2in wide tracks this year, these will inevitably lead to “strips” of grass deterioration. However the problem of chair legs sinking into the ground should be eliminated by using this product.” Mr Radford continued, “We hope to build at a more relaxed rate this year to build a margin into the schedules to enable a “hold” on building work if the weather is terrible and/or other issues”. Copies of the layout plans had been received.

The Town Clerk reported that at the Trustee meeting held in March it was agreed that funfairs using The Ham would be charged £125 for Active Days and £55 for Standing Down Days. (Min.No. 08:03/T4.6). Members were asked whether this new charge was also to be levied to Folk Week, or should the previous charge of £100 per operational day be maintained?

RESOLVED: That the Town Council would continue to charge Folk Week Productions £100 per operational day for the use of The Ham during Folk Week.

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL