

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council's
Environment Committee
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 8 July 2019 at 6.30 pm

Councillors present: Ian Barlow
Denise Bickley
Stuart Hughes
Emma Murdoch
John Rayson
Marianne Rixson

Apologies: Charissa Evans, Chris Lockyear

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.20pm

PART 'A'

1 Election of the Chair of the Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Barlow and seconded by Councillor Hughes that Councillor Bickley be elected Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Bickley was duly elected Chair of Sidmouth Town Council's Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Rixson and seconded by Councillor Barlow that Councillor Lockyear be appointed Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee for the forthcoming year. There being no other nominations, Councillor Lockyear was duly appointed Vice-Chair of Sidmouth Town Council's Environment Committee for the forthcoming year.

3 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
CLlr Denise Bickley	Environment Committee	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Surfers Against Sewage SW Representative and Chair of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors

4 Exclusion of the Public

There were no items required to be dealt with under Part B.

5 Terms of Reference

Members considered the draft Terms of Reference agreed by Council.

RESOLVED: that the Committee's Terms of Reference be as follows:

- The Committee's is formed "to coordinate and improve the natural and built environment of the Sid Valley".
- The Committee to meet 4 times a year, reporting minutes to full Council.
- Any spending by the Committee shall be authorised by full Council.
- Membership to consist of the Chair of the Council and 7 other Councillors

- Group Representatives (Non-voting) to be invited to each meeting to include: Sidmouth Arboretum, Sidmouth in Bloom, Sidmouth Plastic Warriors, Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce, Sid Vale Association, Friends of the Bays and others as required for specific meetings.
- The Committee to help with the co-ordination of the Town Centre Task Force days.

6 Sidmouth in Bloom

Lynette Talbot and Peter Endersby gave a brief update on the work that Sidmouth in Bloom had been carrying out and what they hoped could be done in and around the Town to help achieve success with residents, visitors and judges.

They thanked the Town and District Council and Town Council's contractors efforts in helping to clean and tidy the town, especially in the past year with particular regard to the Taskforce clean-up days held in the past.

Special mention was made of the efforts to rid the river areas of Himalayan Balsam but it was noted that in these areas Japanese Knotweed had taken hold, threatening to invade and harm agricultural land.

- RESOLVED:**
- 1) That Sidmouth in Bloom be thanked for their report and update.
 - 2) That County Councillor Hughes and the Town Clerk investigate the most appropriate way to inform the Environment Agency of the gradual increase in Japanese Knotweed in the Sid Valley.

7 Plastic Bottle Collection Point

Members received a presentation from Rachel Perram who together with her colleagues, Gillian Mitchell and Marc Kilsbie had created a prototype fish sculpture to be a collection point for waste plastic. After displaying the prototype at Seafest they had received various enquiries and interest and had since drawn up two designs for possible use on the seafront. Emptying the collection points could be carried out with Streetscene via the built-in lockable hatches. Each unit would cost £250.

RESOLVED: That Rachel Perram be thanked for her report.

***RECOMMENDED:**

That the Council commissions the construction of two, fish themed plastic collection point sculptures, at a total cost of £500 and that the Council arranges with East Devon District Council Streetscene for regular emptying.

8 Urban Fruit Project

Members reiterated their support to plant fruit trees in public areas in the town. The project would receive renewed energy working with Sidmouth Arboretum and the new Committee. Members also discussed increasing the number of trees planted for fruit and also add other trees. It was agreed that all should be from British stock.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council reaffirms its commitment to plant fruit trees in public areas.

***RECOMMENDED:** That the Council purchases and plants 100 fruit trees and 200 other trees in the Sidmouth area.

9 Traffic Free Sundays

Members discussed the idea of having part of the town as a traffic free zone at certain times of the year to help reduce emissions in town and also to encourage visitors and help put Sidmouth at the forefront of green tourism as few towns in the South West had done this and yet on the continent it was a regular occurrence. It was agreed that Sundays in July and August would be particularly desirable for visitors to the town. It was also agreed that the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses must be supportive of any such initiative. The area to close would need to be agreed with suggestions ranging from the whole town to just the esplanade being made.

RESOLVED: That Sidmouth Town Council consults Devon County Council and Sidmouth Chamber of Commerce on the feasibility of running Traffic Free Sundays in summer 2020.

10 Blue Flag Award

Members discussed the recent work carried out by East Devon District Council towards attaining a Blue Flag award for the Town's Beaches. It was discussed how many strict criteria were applied to achieve Blue Flag status, one requirement of which was a Lifeguard service which the District Council were progressing.

RESOLVED: That the Council supports efforts being made by East Devon District Council to achieve a Blue Flag award at Sidmouth.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE