

SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of Sidmouth Town Council
held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Sidmouth,
on Monday 7 October 2019 at 6.30pm

Ward	Councillors Present:
Sidmouth North	Charissa Evans Stuart Hughes
Sidmouth South	Denise Bickley Kelvin Dent Chris Lockyear
Sidmouth East	Louise Thompson
Sidmouth West	Louise Cole
Primley	Deirdre Hounsom Jeff Turner
Sidford	Jack Brokenshire Marianne Rixson
Sidbury	John Loudoun
Salcombe Regis	Ian Barlow (Chair) David Barratt
Apologies:	Dawn Manley, Emma Murdoch, John Rayson, Jenny Ware, Paul Wright (Vice-Chair)

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 9.20pm.

PART 'A'

61 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Town Council held on Monday 2 September 2019 were signed as a true and accurate record.

62 Declarations of Interest

Name	Item Number	Type	Action Taken	Details
Cllr Kelvin Dent	6 Public Question Time	Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	Member of Knowle Residents Association
Cllr		Personal	Remained in the Chamber during discussion and voting	

63 Matters of Urgency or Report from the Chair

There were no matters of urgency or report from the Chair.

64 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED: that the classification given to the documents to be submitted to the Council, be confirmed, and that the reports relating to exempt information, be dealt with under Part B.

65 Public Open Question Time

- Councillor Kelvin Dent asked District Councillors about the former East Devon District Council headquarters at the Knowle. He asked why there had been such a delay from the time the Council had moved to its new headquarters in Honiton with no apparent building works at the Knowle and the building still owned by the District Council.

Councillor Stuart Hughes responding on behalf of the District Council, said that progress on the emptying and making safe of the building had taken longer than anticipated but that there had been no delay in carrying out tasks such as asbestos removal and the distribution of items of value which had been undertaken successfully. It was anticipated that the sale and transfer would be completed by the end of the year.

66 Police Report

PC Steve Lee presented the September police report which showed 57 crimes in September 2018 and 35 in September 2019; a reduction of 38.6%.

Councillor Denise Bickley asked if any forensic evidence was gathered in cases of criminal damage such as the recent damage to a shop in Church Street. PC Lee replied that the forensic teams were not deployed to small occurrences of criminal damage as resource pressures meant they were more effectively employed responding to incidents of serious assaults and thefts.

Councillor John Loudoun thanked the Police in helping to set up the Sidbury Speed watch scheme. He also commented that he had noted the Police were concentrating on incidents relating to Dangerous drugs, rural car crime and serious road traffic collisions.

67 Committee/Working Group Reports

67.1 Planning Committee Reports

Councillor Dent, Chair of the Planning Committee, presented the reports of the Planning Committee meetings held on Wednesdays 28 August, 11 and 25 September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Committee report be noted.

67.2 Tourism & Economy Committee Report

Councillor Cole, Chair of the Tourism & Economy Committee, presented the report of the Tourism & Economy Committee meeting held on Monday 9 September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Tourism & Economy Committee report be noted.

67.3 Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Members were asked to note the result of the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan referendum which showed 90% in favour of the Neighbourhood Plan, well above the 50% needed. The Plan was due to be approved and made at the next meeting of the East Devon District Council Cabinet.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan referendum result be noted.

2) That the Council's thanks to members of the former Sid Valley Neighbourhood Plan Steering groups be noted.

68 Reports from Members with Special Responsibilities

68.1 Finance Report

a) The Town Clerk presented the Finance Report for August 2019.

RESOLVED: That the Finance Report for August 2019 be noted and agreed.

b) Members were asked to consider the appointment of a deputy Member with Special Responsibility for Finance.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Chris Lockyear be appointed deputy Member with Special Responsibility for Finance.

69 Environment Policy

Members were asked to consider the adoption of the Environment Policy recommended by the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Environment Policy (appendix 1) be adopted by the Council.

70 Sidmouth Town Band – Annual Report

Martin Cordy, Chairman of the Town Band updated Members on the 2019 summer concert season, Last Night of the Proms and the band's success in winning silverware at the recent National Brass Band finals held in Cheltenham. He also reported on the bands ongoing move from the Band Room at Woolcombe House to St. Francis Hall, Woolbrook and on plans for 2020.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

71 Sidmouth Folk Festival – Annual Report

Sidmouth Folk Festival Director, John Braithwaite gave a report on the festival's activities and future plans. He specifically reported on the successful 2019 festival despite the challenges of the Friday due to sudden inclement weather. It was noted that festival goers had been particularly complimentary about the way the festival had coped with and adapted to the challenging conditions and weather-related issues on the final day. Other Issues linked to non-festival organised events in the marketplace were also mentioned and it was noted that ongoing work with businesses would be increased.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

72 Town Council Surgeries

Councillor Thompson suggested that the Council could hold regular surgeries to help the public gain access to their Councillors and also to help people understand more about the work of the Council. Though Members all agreed on the principle of surgeries, concern was expressed from some, that such events may be poorly attended or flag up issues which were not within the remit of the Council. It was agreed that any events would need to manage expectations carefully and could be run initially at least, in conjunction with the existing Police 'Have your Say' surgeries.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That Town Councillor surgeries linked with the Police 'Have Your Say' surgeries be piloted.
- 2) That the Town Clerk continue preparation of a Communications Policy/strategy for consideration by the Council.

73 Exclusion of the Public and Press

RESOLVED: That 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.

PART 'B'

74 Tourism and Economy Committee: Tourism Promotion Strategy TaFF – Interim Branding report

Councillor Louise Thompson and Jessica McDonald of Voyage Travel Marketing gave a presentation resulting from the work the Tourism Promotion Strategy TaFF had carried out on branding. Members were asked to consider the new branding for Visit Sidmouth in time for adoption in the new Town Guide and marketing for 2020.

The branding adopted, would form part of the final report from the TaFF to Tourism and Economy Committee in December.

RESOLVED: That the new branding be adopted by the Council for use in marketing and promotion of Visit Sidmouth.

75 Sidmouth Hopper Bus

Councillor Dent presented the end of season Sidmouth Hopper Bus report and asked Members to consider the feasibility of running a service for 2020.

RESOLVED: That the principle of the Council running a Hopper Bus in 2020 be agreed and that an additional £5,000 to the Hopper budget be agreed with other measures subject to contractor prices.

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CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL

Appendix 1

Sidmouth Town Council Environment Policy

Sidmouth Town Council is committed to transforming Sidmouth and the Sid Valley area into a cleaner and greener town and a more prosperous place to live and work. We commit to making Sidmouth a low carbon town and a healthy and active town - with a high quality built and natural environment.

Our Environmental Policy supports these goals. Through it, we will use our powers and influence to protect and enhance the environment, and make continual improvement in our own environmental performance, as set out below.

Natural Environment

- Protect, and where possible enhance, the designated green spaces and corridors, conservation areas, and views, as laid out in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Support and encourage the creation of a sustainable built environment through the planning process.
- Consider impact on biodiversity and sustainability of the management and use of the Sidmouth Town Council estate.

Low Carbon Town

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from Sidmouth Town Council activities year on year until carbon neutrality is achieved and promote the same in the community.
- Support the appropriate generation and use of renewable and low carbon energy.
- Encourage use of public and shared transport, bicycles, and walking for both residents and visitors by provision, or promotion with others, of appropriate assets.

Sustainability

- Practice recovery, reuse, repair, remanufacturing and recycling in Sidmouth Town Council's activities and promote the same in the community.
- Preferentially engage local contractors who demonstrate alignment to the Sidmouth Town Council's Environmental Policy.
- Consider the impact of future climate change, such as sea level rise, intensity of storms, and drought, on all decisions.

Engagement

- Inform and engage Sidmouth's residents and businesses, schools and event organisers of the Council's environmental activities and respond and react to feedback.
- Support individual, business, charity, and event organiser behaviour change and adoption of low environmental impact practices.
- Set biannual targets and report on progress, undertaking periodic audits of the Sidmouth Town Council's environmental management system.