



Vision Group for Sidmouth

for the sustainable development of town and valley

Present: Dave Bramley, Liz Bramley, Robert Crick, Diana East, Steve Pemberton, Rita Hedley, Deirdre Hounsom, Graham Hutchinson, Peter Murphy, Tim Salt, Jean Twibell, John Twibell, Jeremy Woodward, Bob Miles, Mary Walden-Till,

Apologies: Dave Alexander, Jenny Alexander, Jon Ball, Michael Brittain, Miriam Brown, Graham Cooper, Graham Elsom, Jill Gray, Jackie and Tony Green, Louise Woolley.

Minutes - VGS Coordination Meeting 21 March 2018, 7pm at Leigh Browne Room

- DB welcomed and introduced new and familiar attendees to each other
 - We began by outlining the purpose of the meeting in view of the future and summarised briefly the history of the Vision Group for Sidmouth.
 - There was general agreement that members of the Vision Group were a valuable reservoir of local knowledge and contacts as well as connections to the community at large. Allowing people to have an idea relating to the community and helping them move it forward was a valuable role that the Vision Group has performed in the past.
1. Any actions from June 2017 AGM
 - All the actions have been completed.
 - the NP (Neighbourhood Plan) will be voted on, possibly Sep or Oct. More on the NP below.
 2. Treasurer's summary - JT
 - The current balance is around £3000.
 - When the VGS ran the Farmers Market, we had a steady income, which has now dried up as Kennaway House has taken over the Market. In the past any other income has consisted of grants and donations towards specific initiatives.
 - The biggest expense remaining is our insurance, which covers public liability for events the VGS organises. We need to see if we can reduce the premiums now that we foresee fewer events. **Action:** **DB** will arrange to review the insurance status, terms and costs.
 3. Officers: planned changes - update pre-AGM
 - We are planning to hold the AGM in May. The current officers wish to highlight the need for new people to take over after managing the VGS for a number of years. Therefore, we will need to elect new officers at the AGM. The officers are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity, Website. Publicity and website roles could be integrated depending on decisions at AGM.
 - The choices at the AGM will also involve reviewing the Constitution to ensure it still serves its purpose.
 - **RH** will send agenda out in early May - please send any items to Rita in the meantime.
 4. Website and communications - discuss and agree changes
 - We welcomed Mary Walden-Till as the new web manager. Mary will be in charge of the VGS website from now on, and is working on a new and updated site already. If you wish to take a look at the new draft site, the address is: <http://sandbox.historic-sidmouth.uk/>
username = admin password = VGS
 - We wanted to express our warmest thanks to Mary for working on the new website which we hope will be live this summer.
 - Please note: In future, as now, the website information will be updated based on prompts from those who wish to communicate something.
 5. Discuss future of VGS post AGM and agree date of AGM - briefly! Main discussion to be reserved to the AGM.
 - See above
 6. Plastics - past, present and possible future - update from Robert C / Jeremy W

- Denise of the Sidmouth Plastic Warriors continues to raise awareness locally, The Plastic Warriors hope to organise a special events week 7-11 May ahead of the SeaFest. For more news and events information, do check their blog: <http://sidmouthplasticwarriors.org/blog/>
 - **BM** may be able to find a speaker for this Plastics week.
7. Update from SidEnergy - Graham Hutchinson
- Visited Anaerobic Digester (Clyst St Mary),
 - Held an home Energy Efficiency event,
 - Promoted Devon Surviving Winter Appeal,
 - Undertook energy efficiency review at Kennaway House,
 - Offered advice on solar PV to Sidmouth Parish Church,
 - Offered advice to Dissenters on solar PV,
 - Discussed solar project with Sidmouth College, and;
 - Circulated newsletters to supporters.
8. Update on Beach Management Plan - Robert Crick
- It is hoped that the BMP is getting closer to a solution. The completion of the plan will be followed by the need to raise the funds to implement it.
9. Update on other 'VGS' - projects (Science Festival, Food Festival)
- Science Festival: plans are well ahead for the October 2018 Festival which will run from 4 Oct to 14 Oct.
 - Kerry G is no longer the organiser of the Sidmouth Food Festival. Kennaway House is hoping to put together a smaller scale Food Festival on the 18th of August 2018. Keep an eye on the notice boards!
10. Update on Neighbourhood Plan:
- the first draft of the plan was published at the end of February and can be found online: <https://sidvalleyneighbourhoodplan.com>. There are also hard copies at library.
 - this plan contains a list of potential community actions for future implementation
 - the plan is now in its statutory phase through the various official channels
 - All of the documentation on the NP is also on the Town Council website for those who are interested.
11. Community Actions included in NP - Jeremy W
- These will be decided later on in the process

AOB.

- Our thanks go to Graham Cooper in his role and contribution as the Port Royal Reference Group
- Date for the diary: 9 April 2018 - Town Assembly. You can find the agenda via this link: http://sidmouth.gov.uk/images/Town_Meeting_Agenda_2018.pdf

Next meeting - AGM on Wednesday 30 May 2018 - 7pm at the Leigh Browne Room - was agreed.

There were suggestions for a talk, at the AGM, on topics such as Plastic, NP, etc. - please send any ideas to Dave Bramley or Rita Hedley in the coming weeks.