

# SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **NOVEMBER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

## MINUTES

**Present**                    **Cllr. Maxine Robinson (Chair) and**  
**Cllr. Tim Jeanes (Vice-Chairman)**  
Cllrs. D. Waters, S. Hannan, J. Robinson, A. Blakemore, S. Sutherland, I. Sutherland, N. Dunn, D. Brown

**Officer**                    L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. J. Wayman, L. Goddard, R. Taylor, M. Garrood

**2. Declaration of interest**

None

**3. Mr. Bill Hopps, Chairman of Governors re Building Schools for the Future**

The Chair welcomed Mr. Bill Hopps, Chairman of the Community College Governors. Mr. Hopps gave a detailed account of the BSF scheme as applying to Sedgefield Community College. He then answered all questions from Members.

These included: -

- Concern was expressed about the reduction in community use other than sports facilities
- Lack of consultation/engagement of the community
- Provision of Youth facilities
- The demise of the SCCA
- The financial aspect re the Sports Hall funding

Mr. Hopps expressed his personal commitment to retain the community facilities and suggested the need for an overall committee with community focus. He agreed the Town Council should be consulted and said he hoped STC would be involved in future consultation/committees.

Mr. Hopps was thanked for attending by the Chair and he left the meeting.

Members then continued to discuss the issues raised: -

- Outstanding Loan on Sports Hall
- Limited consultation with both the Council and the community
- The lack of commitment for community facilities in the new building

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**DCC Councillor John Robinson to arrange a meeting with Stuart Crowe (DCC, Treasurer) and Claire Vasey (Community Development, DCC) Cllr. Sue Hannan, the Clerk and other Members to attend. (The Clerk will circulate details of the meeting).**

#### **4. Matters of Information**

As on agenda

#### **5. Reports**

##### **5.1 Music Festival Meeting**

A report had been circulated. DCC Councillor John Robinson informed Members that One North East is to fund the 2008 Festival.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

##### **5.2 Tourism**

A detailed report had been circulated. In addition the Chair, Cllr. Maxine Robinson gave details on the Tour visit the next day.

#### **RECOMMENDED**

- i) The Town Council in principle affirm their support for improving tourism in Sedgefield**
- ii) The Town Council to be involved in the group tours visit on 20<sup>th</sup> November as detailed in the report**
- iii) The Town Council support in principle the extension of the Council Offices (subject to suitable funding) to include Tourist Information and possible heritage materials etc**
- iv) The Town Council are in agreement with additional meetings with Sedgefield Borough Council Tourist Department and Area Tourism Partnership to progress all recommendations as above**

##### **5.3 Tourism Development**

Details have been circulated. In particular the Chair gave details of improving the Council Offices to include Tourism Provision and the meeting the following afternoon at 4 pm in the

Council Offices.

**RECOMMENDED**

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **Members invited to attend the meeting the next day to discuss how STC can work with other partners to provide a Tourism facility**

**5.4 Sedgefield 700**

A report had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED**

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 7 pm in the Council Offices**

**5.5 Youth Forum**

Cllr. John Robinson gave a verbal report on progress with the Youth Council.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**5.6 “Be Active”**

A report had been circulated. The next meeting is Wednesday at 4 pm in the Council Offices.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**5.7 SBC Neighbourhood Wardens**

A detailed report from SBC had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**5.8 Balance Sheet: Mayor’s Quiz**

The Balance Sheet from the Mayor’s Charity Quiz showing a profit of £261 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**5.9 Sedgefield LSP**

Cllr. Sue Hannan gave a brief report on the working party meeting to discuss establishing a local “LSP” for Sedgefield. She stressed the need that this must be carefully set up and there is a need to first of all explore models from other areas in order that the setting up of this new group produces what is needed for Sedgefield. The next meeting is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December when the Working Party will discuss other models and bring forward firm proposals for approval in January.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**6. Current Events**

Brief Verbal reports were given on the following:-

- **Switching on Lights / Snowman Parade – First Saturday December**

The Clerk informed Members that the organization of this event is well underway and the Community Development Officer, Angela Simpson is confident that some of the funding will be received from Koolkash. The newspapers and schools have been informed etc.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

- **Coach Trip – First Wednesday December**

The Clerk reported that there a few seats left on the Coach Trip to Leeds in December.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

- **Christmas Farmers Market – Second Sunday December**

The Clerk reported that arrangements are well underway for the usual activities as part of the Christmas Market.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

- **Carol Service / Wine & Cheese Reception – Second Thursday December**

The Clerk reported that the invitations have now been sent out in regard of the above.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

- **New Years Eve Dance / Fireworks – 31<sup>st</sup> December**

There are 3 / 4 tickets left for the dance.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

**7. Correspondence**

**7.1 Sedgefield Junior Badminton Club: Mrs. Katie McGuinness**

A letter has been received from Mrs. Katie McGuinness expressing concern about the closure of the Junior Badminton Club at the Sedgefield Community College.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To reply to Mrs. McGuinness that the Council share such concerns and that these have been passed onto Mr. Bill Hopps, Chairman of the Governors**

## **7.2 Sedgefield Rugby Team**

Information has been received through County Councillor John Robinson re the Sedgefield Rugby Team looking for a new venue in addition expressing concern that DCC have now given land adjacent to the Cricket Club to the Bowling Club as in the past this had not been agreed to. Cllr. John Robinson has asked for a meeting with John Richardson, Director of Environment at DCC and a report will be given at the next meeting.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

## **7.3 Rural Housing: Government Office North East**

Information has been received from the above re Rural Housing.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**To receive the information**

## **7.4 Fireworks**

A letter has been received from Mrs. Blood expressing concern about the noise of the fireworks at the recent Firework Display.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**To write back pointing out that this is a community event which Members feel is beneficial and safe for all**

## **8. Community Toilets**

Cllr. Dudley Waters suggested that Members consider looking at providing Community Toilets whereby the Town/Parish Council pays various local businesses to provide a toilet in their premises without having to buy a drink etc.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**In principle Members felt this was a good idea and the Clerk is to carry out some research and report back in the New Year.**

## **9. Heritage Centre**

The Chair, Cllr. Maxine Robinson suggested that the Town Council Offices could include a Heritage Centre.

### **RECOMMENDED**

**To discuss this at a future meeting**

## **10. Christmas tree Lights**

The Clerk reported that the new Christmas Tree lights will be put on the mature trees later in the week, however, it had been suggested that the Town Council purchase new lights for the stand alone Christmas tree. She had obtained costs from Blachere who had recommended at least six strands of lights at approximately £100 per strand. After

deliberation Members agreed that they should be a single colour i.e. blue, however the Clerk said that she would need to check stores and supply.

**RECOMMENDED**

**To go ahead and purchase new lights for the Christmas tree, preferably single colour but Members recognize that there may be problems with supply**

**11. Planning Application re Barclays Bank: Replacement ATM and Creation of Disabled Access**

The application was discussed. Members objected to the application on the grounds that the proposals were excessive and the problem of the height of the ATM could be resolved by lowering it.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9 pm.