

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held at 7 pm in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 17th March 2008**.

MINUTES

- Present** **Cllr. T. Jeanes (Acting Chairman)**
Cllrs. A. Blakemore, D. Brown, M. Brown, N. Dunn, L. Goddard, S. Sutherland,
M. Robinson, J. Robinson
- Officer** L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

The Chairman, Cllr. Tim Jeanes welcomed newly co-opted Councillor May Brown to the Town Council.

The Clerk informed Members that she had written to Cllr. Maire Garrod regarding her non-attendance at meetings. Subsequently she had spoken to Cllr. Garrod in the presence of the Chairman Cllr. Dudley Waters when Cllr. Garrod had asked for an official leave of absence which the Clerk was now putting forward to Members.

RESOLVED

To Accept Cllr. Garrod's leave of absence for a further two months until the Annual meeting in May when it would be reviewed at that time if necessary.

- 1. Apologies**
Cllrs. S. Hannan, M. Garrod, I. Sutherland

- 2. Declaration of interest**
None

- 3. Matters of Information**
3.1 EON

The Clerk informed Members that she had written to EON regarding a presentation at a

Council meeting and was awaiting a response.

RECOMMENDED

To contact EON again if no response is heard within the next couple of weeks.

3.2 Church Grounds

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon which is being attended by County Councillor John Robinson, David Warburton (DCC), Bill Katakay (SBC) and Andrew Megginson (SBC).

RECOMMENDED

To await the report from the meeting

3.3 Grass cutting

The Clerk informed Members that she had spoken to Mr. Walker about the additional verges to be cut when he had confirmed that he would take care not to cut over the wild orchids.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

4. Reports

4.1 Sedgefield in Bloom

The Secretary of the Bloom committee, Cllr. Maxine Robinson gave a verbal report on the Sedgefield in Bloom meeting which had occurred immediately prior to this committee.

The spring judging will be Wednesday 9th April beginning at 10 am from Ceddesfeld Hall.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Hardwick Park: DCC

A letter has been received from Andy Niven Durham County Council advising Members that fishing will not be permitted in the lake at Hardwick Country Park.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

6. Trees: Old Cemetery - Price

A price of £430 has now been received from Premier Trees for the two tree reduction works – 15 – 20 feet reduction in the Old Cemetery.

RECOMMENDED

To accept the price and request that Premier Trees carries out the works as soon as possible.

In addition it was suggested that the Gardening Supervisor be asked to trim round the bases of the trees in the Old Cemetery and the Bloom committee offered their assistance with this if required.

9. Holiday Park

Information has been received from the Residents' Forum regarding their meeting on Thursday 20th March to discuss the approach to the appeal. The Clerk said she had contacted SBC re a coordinated approach for this and was still awaiting a response. Members discussed using the Planning Consultant and it was agreed that the Clerk would obtain a cost and this would be emailed to all Members. However, it was generally agreed that it was essential to use a Planning Consultant to represent the Town Council at the appeal.

RECOMMENDED

- i) The Clerk to contact the Planning Consultant Mr. David Stovell to inform him that an appeal is now going ahead and to ask for a price for representing the Town Council at this**
- ii) To respond to the Residents' Forum in that the Town Council have in principle agreed to use a Planning Consultant and are awaiting information from him.**

10. Parish Hall – Neighbourhood Enhancement Fund and contributions to the Parish Hall

Cllr. John Robinson suggested that Members should receive information re the Neighbourhood Enhancement Fund projects and contributions to the Parish Hall. The Clerk gave a detailed account of the application already made to Neighbourhood Enhancement and which has been approved by SBC. This includes new velvet curtains for the front of the stage, a fire curtain for the rear and additional tabs. The second application through Councillor Brown's funding is for stage flooring, the stage proscenium enhancements and sound equipment. The Clerk stressed that all of these are for all the community. Cllr. Maxine Robinson then gave details of the application re equipment for the mobile movies and equipment for conferencing including lap top/power point, computer link and games for young people.

It was agreed that in principle these are very much welcomed by the Town Council for the improvement of the Parish Hall facility and it will be beneficial for Members to visit the Parish Hall before it is officially opened to see the overall improvements and the above in particular.

11. Official Opening Parish Hall

The Clerk said that it had been generally agreed to postpone the original opening of the Parish Hall from the 10th April to the 17th however there are concerns that there could still be delays with this. She suggested that a letter now be written to all the users, notice board, Residents' Forum etc stating that the opening of the Parish Hall will be 1st May, however if it is at all possible users will be able to have access earlier than that date.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and confirm the Clerk's actions as above

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8 pm.