

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **April ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council**
held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre,
Sedgefield, on **Monday 18th April 2011.**

Present Cllr. Ian Sutherland (Chairman)
Cllr. Norman Dunn (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllrs. P. Bodo, A. Blakemore, D. Brown, H. Clifford-Brown, T. Jeanes, M. Robinson, S.
Sutherland and D. Waters

1. Apologies

Lesley Swinbank (Town Clerk)

Cllrs. S. Hannan, M. Brown, J. Robinson, R. Taylor, S. Green

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr. Bodo regarding item 8 as Chair of Round Table.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Tree: 40 North End

The Clerk reported that no further information has been received from Zurich or Solicitors or Mrs. Alderson.

RECOMMENDED

a) To receive the information

b) (To check with JR re quote to Durham Foundation)

3.2 Cemetery

3.3 Gardening Personnel

Members were advised that the new gardener Mr. Roy Cairns had commenced duty.

4. Reports

4.1 Sedgefield in Bloom

The report of the meeting on 9th March had been circulated. In addition the Chairman, Cllr. Ian Sutherland gave a brief report on the meeting held on the 13th April and of the impending Northumbria in Bloom judges spring visit the following day.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

4.2 Ceddesfeld Hall Gardens

Information has been received from Friends of Ceddesfeld Hall Gardens which had been circulated to all Members. This included the management plan for the grounds and supporting statement.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and to thank the Friends for the work done and work planned for the future.

5 Correspondence

5.1 Tree works – Mitford Court

The Clerk had circulated the costings from Premier Tree Services for the works to the trees to the rear of Mitford Court. In addition the Clerk reported that letters have been written to the relevant residents of Mitford Court with a site plan and seeking confirmation that the costs of £950 + VAT would be split between the Town Council paying 50% and the residents together paying 50%. This confirmation is required before the formal planning application for the tree works is submitted.

a) RECOMMENDED

b) To apply for planning permission to undertake the work

c) To confirm that the residents are willing to pay 50% of the cost

d) To receive payment for proposed works from residents

e) To undertake the work once permissions and funds secured

In addition a price of £680 + VAT has been received re trees adjacent to Durham Road. This includes felling and grinding two trees and crown lifting others.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and carry out this work immediately

5.2 Cemetery: Mr. & Mrs. Raw

A letter from Mr. and Mrs. Raw regarding their grave in Sedgefield Cemetery had been circulated. This was as a result of the letter sent by the Town Council informing them that STC is unable to offer new double depth graves and offered instead two side by side graves in a different area. Mr. and Mrs. Raw have commented that they specifically want to be buried at the original plot and state that they have the right to be buried in the grave as described in the Deed of Grant issued in 1983. As a result they refuse to accept an alternative side by side double grave and propose to be buried as originally planned.

RECOMMENDED

a) To receive the information

b) To seek further legal guidance.

c) To respond to Mr. and Mrs. Raw apologizing, but that in 28 years things have changed which could not have been foreseen in 1983. Whilst they have purchased a grant of exclusive right of burial for grave number B804 the Town Council is

unable to dig a double depth grave and may well not be able to help them in the future when they need to use the plot. However, burial of cremated remains should not pose a problem.

- d) To ask how they would intend to go ahead, as indicated in their letter.

6. Village Bus Shelter

Several repairs had been undertaken on bus shelters due to damage.

RECOMMENDED

To consider reporting any future incidents to the police as criminal damage with a view to making an insurance claim to offset repair costs.

7. Replacement Tractor

The Chairman advised members of 2 tractors which had been offered to the council, the first for a second hand one with 300 hours use at a cost of £9,000 and second for a smaller new one, but larger than the existing tractor, at a cost of £8,500. Payment spread over 3 years had been offered. It was intended to view the items with S. Young to check suitability.

RECOMMENDED

A full report to go to Council at the next P & R Meeting.

8. Ceddesfeld Park – Round Table hire for Royal Wedding

Round Table had written in to council seeking a waiver of the £100 grounds hire, or contribution from council towards the event. The current financial regulations and council policies restricted consideration as the request had been received too late to be included on an agenda. Whilst members appreciated the effort and organization undertaken by Round Table and supported the celebration event open to the whole village, it was difficult to progress this further.

RECOMMENDED

- a) **The request be forwarded for consideration at the next P&R Committee**
- b) **P & R be asked to revisit the policy on donations, with a view to increasing the limit currently standing at £5**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.12p.m.