

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JUNE ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council**
held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre,
Sedgefield, on **Monday 16th June 2008.**

Present **Cllr. Ian Sutherland (Chairman)**
 Cllr. Norman Dunn (Vice-Chairman) and
 Cllrs. T. Jeanes, D. Waters, S. Hannan, M. Robinson, A. Blakemore, M.
 Garrod, M. Brown

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies**

Cllrs. D. Brown, S. Sutherland, J. Robinson

2. **Declaration of interest**

None

3. **Matters of Information**

3.1 **Fence: Property close to Golden Lion**

The Clerk reported that DCC are coordinating a meeting with the owner of the property to discuss the removal of the fence.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and await the outcome

3.2 **Bus Shelters: Old Community Hospital**

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Stephen Roper (Martin Contracts) indicating that the bus shelters at the Old Community Hospital are in a deteriorating state and not fit for purpose. The Clerk also said she was aware of changes in the management/ownership of the Care Principles site and that she was aware that Cllr. John Robinson was looking to organize a meeting with whoever is appropriate from the Company.

Concern was expressed about the state of the bus shelters and the issues surrounding ownership of the bus shelters were discussed.

RECOMMENDED

The Clerk to write to Sedgefield Borough Council and to NHS Estates with the information of the state the bus shelters are currently in

4. Reports

4.1 Garden of Remembrance

The site meeting to look at the proposal for the Garden of Remembrance was held prior to this committee meeting. Members looked at options for extending the Garden of Remembrance and the proposal to extend by 15m x 10m to the North of the existing area was agreed. In addition there will now only be two types of plaques allowed in the new area: -

1. 30cm x 30cm and including a vase
2. Similar size but on a small incline of 10cm also including a vase

The Clerk is to write to the undertakers pointing out the new regulations.

RECOMMENDED

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **To accept Mr. Young's quotation to clear the rubbish away at the Cemetery and also to extend the Garden of Remembrance etc. - total cost of all works £1380**

5 Correspondence

5.1 Bus Shelters: Old General Hospital site

This was discussed as part of the Matters of Information Bus Shelters: Old Community Hospital.

5.2 Location of Post Box: DCC

A letter has been received from Durham County Council (DCC) regarding the location of the Post Box on Front Street.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

5.3 Hardwick Country Park: DCC

A response has now been received from Andy Niven at DCC confirming that the Town Council will be able to have a pre-view visit to the new Visitor Centre at Hardwick Country Park in September/October.

In addition Mr. Niven responded to the question of the "blocking off" of the footpath access from Hardwick Road onto the Parkland. He confirmed that the access is neither owned by DCC nor shown as a public right of way on the definitive map but that it is the property of the Hardwick Estate and their agent Mr. Philip Scrope.

The Clerk informed Members that she had written to Mr. Scrope seeking clarification about the access etc and was awaiting a reply.

Concern was also raised about the fencing off of areas of land of East Park by the owners of some of the houses on Hardwick Road. The Clerk informed Members that she had written to DCC seeking clarity over this.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and await the responses

5.4 **Sedgefield Cemetery: Mr. Craggs**

A letter has been received from Mr. Craggs expressing his concern about the state of the Butterwick Road Cemetery. In addition Cllr. May Brown said she had had some complaints from residents also about the Cemetery.

By coincidence a site meeting in the Cemetery had been held prior to this meeting. Members who had visited the Cemetery felt that in general the Cemetery was tidy and confirmed that the cut grass is not picked up.

The Clerk informed Members that she had already written to Charlie Walker asking for more care to be taken with machines when grass cutting and that she had also spoken to the Gardening Supervisor Mr. Stephen Young on this matter.

RECOMMENDED

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **The Clerk to respond accordingly to Mr. Craggs**

6. **Community Toilets**

The Clerk reminded Members that she had been requested to write out to business premises asking if they would be interested in taking part in the Community Toilet scheme. To date only one reply has been received which wishes to take part – that being from Sedgefield Racecourse.

Members expressed their disappointment by the lack of enthusiasm about the scheme.

RECOMMENDED

To write to Aubergine and the Cross Hill asking if they would like to take part in the Community Toilet scheme for which they will be recompensed by £500 per year. The letters to be delivered by Councillor Dudley Waters

7. **Footpaths Rolling Programme**

The Clerk reminded Members that she had brought a report to Environment in 2007 together with a sheet to fill in problems with footpaths etc so that a Rolling Programme could be compiled. No responses had been received from Members. The Clerk therefore asked that the Members revisit the scheme and submit the necessary forms to the office. Those footpaths not in the ownership of the Town Council will be sent to the appropriate authorities and the Clerk will prioritize a footpath repair list into a Rolling Programme for the next 2 – 3 years.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and confirm actions as above

8. **Cemetery Railings**

A quotation has been received from Marfab for works to the Cemetery fence. The Chair, Cllr. Ian Sutherland said that the site visit had looked at the fence whilst on the visit earlier in the evening and it was felt that totally new railings will not be necessary but to carry on with short term repairs.

RECOMMENDED

To accept the price of £800 for a short term repair and the railings also to then be painted

9. Tree Survey for Information

The Clerk informed Members that Roger Lowe had written to ask if STC would be interested in having a tree survey completed before the new local Government Reorganization. He said he was able to offer the cost of £0.25 per tree (rather than £2.00) and this would include GIS Mapping.

The Clerk said that since this had not been an agenda item – it is now on the agenda for July P & R, however if Mr. Lowe needs a decision before that date she would email all Members to ask their opinion on this.

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