

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **September ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 21st September 2009.**

Present

Cllr. Ian Sutherland (Chairman)

Cllr. Norman Dunn (Vice-Chairman) and

Cllrs. A. Blakemore, M. Brown, H. Clifford-Brown, S. Hannan, J. Robinson, S. Sutherland, D. Waters

Officer

L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. D. Brown, T. Jeanes, M. Robinson, M. Garrod

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Allotment Land: Winterton Hospital

The Clerk reported that Northumberland Water have now provided a quotation for the price of the supply of water in the region of £5,000. In addition it was pointed out that there needs to be fencing and the allotment layout needs to be completed. The Clerk informed Members that Angela Simpson, Community Development Officer has currently being looking at submitting bids for monies and it was suggested that the County Durham Foundation may be an appropriate funder.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

3.2 Fence: Golden Lion

The Chairman, Cllr. Ian Sutherland reported that the fence has been removed. A letter has been received from DCC indicating that the new owner may wish to have flower tubs provided

by the Town Council as agreed – the owner to monitor the situation and contact the Town Council accordingly.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

3.3 Bus Shelters: Old Community Hospital

The Clerk informed Members that the ownership of the two bus shelters near to the Old Community Hospital site has not been established.

RECOMMENDED

To write again to DCC stating that the Town Council do not have responsibility for them

3.4 Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds

The Chairman, Cllr. Ian Sutherland reported that the Friends of Ceddesfeld are now meeting on a regular basis.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

4. Reports

4.1 Sedgefield in Bloom

The Chair, Cllr. Ian Sutherland reported that the last meeting had been held on an afternoon and that the numbers attending had increased significantly. Cllr. John Robinson said he would ascertain if Sedgefield had been put forward to the National competition for 2010 following our success in winning the Gold Cup and Medal in the 2009 Small Country Town Category.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

4.2 Walkabout Action Plan Aug 09

a) Access 25 North End

b) Horse Chestnut Tree – 40 North End

The Clerk had circulated a detailed list of the issues raised from the walkabout on Monday 10th August.

All of the issues were considered briefly and are currently being dealt with by the appropriate persons.

In particular it was pointed out that decisions need taking on: -

a) Access to 25 North End

The Clerk had circulated details of the costings for works to patch / re-surface this area of land.

RECOMMENDED

To accept the cost of £252 from DCC to micro asphalt surface – a total area of 63 square metres for a cost of £252. It was pointed out that this will not be done until the April / May 2010 and that the Clerk will inform the owner of the action to

be taken.

RECOMMENDED

To approve the actions as above

b) Horse Chestnut Tree – 40 North End

The Clerk had circulated information from Rodger Lowe and from Beeclear Drainage Solutions who the owner of 40 North End – Mrs. Alderson had employed to look at the drains. In the circumstances it was felt that this should be passed to the Town Council's insurers – Zurich to progress this.

4.3 Church Parking

The Chairman, Cllr. Ian Sutherland informed Members that this had been discussed at the previous Monthly meeting when it had been for the Church and the Town Council to hold small laminated notices for Church Parking Only signs.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

4.4 Paths Partnership

The Clerk reported that she had met with the Community Development Officer – Angela Simpson and Elaine Field from DCC – Public Rights of Way Officer to discuss the footpath running from East End to North End. The Clerk reported that the Community Service has now completed the work in removing the weeds and tidying this area up and that Ms Field is seeking funding through DCC to repair the patches in need of some repair.

In addition Ms Field has organized a public open meeting in October in the Parish Hall for everyone interested in re-establishing the Paths Partnership Group in Sedgefield.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

4.5 National Garden Scheme

The Clerk had circulated a brief report regarding the National Garden Open Day and recommending that the Town Council underpin the NGS in Sedgefield and organize on a bi-annual basis whilst the Hidden Garden Scheme would operate on the alternate year.

RECOMMENDED

The Town Council to underpin the NGS in Sedgefield on a bi-annual basis and the Hidden Garden Scheme to operate on the alternate year. Both to be organized by the Sedgefield in Bloom committee.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Fence: East End

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

5.2 Bus Shelter: Thorpe Larches

The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with the insurance assessors following the damage to the bus shelter at Thorpe Larches by a vehicle earlier in the year. The loss adjusters had agreed in principle that the Town Council should receive £2,500 for the damage. The Clerk had also obtained details of replacement bus shelters – Adshel at a cost of £2,500 and a hard wood one from Little Thorpe at £6,500. As a result the Clerk had written to Mrs. Evans – owner of the property where the existing bus shelter stands informing her that it was most likely that the existing wooden bus shelter would be replaced by the new Adshel type. A letter has now been received from Mrs. Evans stating that both she and her husband are not happy about the replacement shelter and suggesting a site meeting to progress this issue. DCC Cllr. John Robinson said he would investigate if there could be a top up amount from DCC to provide a wooden bus shelter and it was agreed to wait for this information before taking any further action.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To await information from Cllr. John Robinson**
- ii) The Clerk to inform Mrs. Evans of progress to date**

5.3 Burials on a Monday: Ferryhill TC

A letter has been received from Ferryhill Town Council informing Members that as from July any burials booked at Sedgefield Cemetery on a Monday would be charged at double the price. This is due to the Health and Safety aspect in that graves can no longer be dug on a Friday and left over the weekend. As a result of receive the letter the Clerk had written to all undertakers informing them that the Town Council are unable to guarantee burials on a Monday and whilst every effort will be made to comply with the wishes of the family concerned the Town Council will only be able to confirm arrangements as and when burials are requested.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To approve the actions of the Clerk**

5.4 Proposed Diversion of Bridleway No 33 at Foxtan Farm

Information was received about the proposals to divert the bridleway No 33 at Foxtan Farm, Sedgefield.

RECOMMENDED

To offer no objections to this

5.5 Weed spraying in Sedgefield

A letter has been received from Durham County Council confirming that the second weed spraying was taking place in August.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To write to thank DCC for their action and ask that this be repeated in the**

spring of each year, particularly in view of the Northumbria in Bloom competition

5.6 Charges for Household Waste: DCC

Information has been received from DCC re charges for household waste which are now being charged at £10 per pick up following local government reorganization.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

5.7 West Park Lane

An email has been received from Mrs. Mildred Howell of West Park Lane expressing concerns about the activity due to the Fire Station and Dentists over the weekend.

DCC Cllr. John Robinson informed Members he was arranging for officers from the Fire Brigade to attend a meeting of the Town Council to give information on the new Community Fire Station.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and respond accordingly to Mrs. Howell

5.8 Land Beacon Avenue

Mrs. Hartshorn of Beacon Avenue has expressed concern about an area of land on Beacon Estate on which there are large trees and which the land has not been registered as being in the ownership of any particular body and seeking further information on this.

It was pointed out that the Town Council have no additional information on this, however, it was felt that the land originally would be left in the ownership of the developers but could have been sold on from that.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and reply to Mrs. Hartshorn saying that unfortunately the Town Council is unable to help in this instance

5.9 Church View

A letter has been received from Mrs. Dexter of Church View, Sedgefield expressing concern about the paving stones in front of her property.

RECOMMENDED

To inspect the area and report back to the next meeting

6. Litter Bin Request

Members discussed requests for additional litterbins on the following locations: -

- a) Next to the new bus shelter on Stockton Road (Thurlow Road side)
- b) Cut from East End through to Orchard Estate
- c) Along the footpath from the Council Offices to The Lane

RECOMMENDED

To contact DCC and ask if it is possible for additional litter bins to be placed in the vicinity of

the above locations

7. Landscape and Character Assessment

The Clerk informed Members that Chris Myers had attended the last Sedgefield Together meeting to talk about the Local Development Framework and the preparation and implementation of the Green Infrastructure Strategy. This would be further discussed and taken forward at the Sedgefield Together Partnership meeting on Monday 28th September.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

8. Bus Shelter: Thorpe Larches

As discussed earlier.

9. Broken Glass – Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds

The Clerk reported that Norman Willis is now working an additional two hours each week to clear Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds of litter/rubbish and glass.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

10. Headstone: Sedgefield Cemetery

Prices have now been received to

- a) Lay down the Burdon Memorial Plot B1171 at a cost of £276
- b) To re-fix to comply with current fixing regulations at a cost of £431

RECOMMENDED

To lay down the memorial in line with Town Council regulations and excavate so that the face of the memorial is visible but level with the surrounding turf so as not to create a tripping hazard at a cost of £276

11. Pot Holes – Front Street

Cllr. May Brown said that several residents had expressed concern about the surface of areas in front of Theakstons and the Chinese etc on Front Street. It was pointed out that this area is not Town Council land or adopted DCC land and it is assumed it belongs to the owners of the properties.

RECOMMENDED

To write to the owners suggesting that they take necessary action to improve this area

12. Cemetery Footpaths

The Chairman, Cllr. Ian Sutherland informed Members that following the walkabout it had

been suggested that the area of footpath from the gates to the water taps be re-surfaced and some large scale pruning to take place to the trees etc. The Clerk confirmed that tree surgeons / firms and footpath repair firms have all been contacted and prices for both re-surfacing and tree works will be brought to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information

13. Holly Tree: Winterton Cemetery

Cllr. John Robinson said that he had been approached by Veterans requesting the removal of the holly tree on the Winterton Cemetery. He said this could be carried out using his Members allowance from DCC but that written permission is needed from the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED

The Town Council to agree to the removal of the holly tree from Winterton Cemetery

14. Kerb Stones

Cllr. May Brown said she had been approached by residents re the need for additional dropped kerb stones on the outskirts of Sedgefield so as to allow wheelchair access to Hardwick Country Park.

RECOMMENDED

To ask Keith Jameson, DCC if this can be looked at and if he can give advice

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.