

# SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **APRIL MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2008.**

**Present**                    **Cllr. Dudley Waters (Chairman)**

Cllrs. D. Brown, M. Brown, H. Clifford-Brown, N. Dunn, S. Hannan, T. Jeanes,  
I. Sutherland, S. Sutherland

**Officer**                    Lesley Swinbank (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. M. Garrod, J. Robinson, M. Robinson, A. Blakemore, R. Taylor  
Brian O'Connor

**2. Declaration of interest**

Cllr. D. Brown – Planning  
Cllr. D. Waters – Correspondence SCA

**3. Police Report**

There was no report.

**4. Minutes and Reports**

**4.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

These were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair. (IS, SH)

**4.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

These were confirmed as a correct record (IS, SS)

**4.3 Minutes of the Environment meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

These were confirmed as a correct record (SS, TJ)

**4.4 Minutes of the Community Development meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

These were confirmed as a correct record (DB, MB)

**RESOLVED**

**To accept all of the minutes as above and recommendations contained therein.**

**5. Matters of Information**

None

**6. Dates of Meetings**

The dates of the meeting for the following month had been circulated.

The Chairman, Cllr. Dudley Waters informed Members that Cllr. Maxine Robinson and the Clerk were driving to the NALC conference immediately following the Monthly meeting in May. He therefore suggested that the meetings begin earlier so as to allow them to leave as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the dates with the following amendment - the AGM of the Town Council to begin at 6.30 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> May with the Monthly and P&R following.**

**7. Other Reports**

**7.1 Parish Hall**

The Clerk gave a detailed verbal report on progress with the Parish Hall. In particular Members were informed that the proposed opening for the Public to view the Hall has been delayed from this week until 30<sup>th</sup> April. Difficulties have been encountered with the heating contractors in particular, however, Cllr. Tim Jeanes reminded Members that due to the additional funding that was received from both LIP and the Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme it had been possible to carry out additional works and enhancements which again have led to a delay in the works.

Cllr. David Brown said that he had been in contact with SBC who had not received the information for his Neighbourhood Enhancement Fund from the Council Offices. The Clerk pointed out that the monies can only be accessed and paid upon their receipt of the invoice and this was underway.

The Chairman again thanked Cllr. Tim Jeanes and Mr. Mort Spalding for the many hours they are spending on the project.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**7.2 Planning: Holiday Park**

The Chairman suggested this be deferred until correspondence item re the letter from the Planning Consultant Mr. David Stovell.

### 7.3 **Quality Status Re-accreditation**

The Clerk had circulated a report giving details on the re-accreditation for Quality Status and outlining the criteria. However, the Clerk informed Members that she had been informed earlier in the day that there is now an issue over the electoral mandate with CLG and as a result the new criteria will not be announced until July.

#### **RESOLVED**

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **STC to apply for re-accreditation of Quality Status as soon as details have been finalized from NALC**

### 7.4 **Planning Portal**

The Clerk informed Members that she had been invited by CLG to attend a meeting in London on Thursday of this week to discuss the new planning portal with particular reference to inclusion of the link to HSE. This is as a result of the Clerk speaking at a recent seminar in Durham following the HSE regulations as appertaining to the Parish Hall refurbishment.

#### **RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

## **8. Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman, Councillor Dudley Waters gave a brief report and said he had attended the following Civic functions at: -

- a) Social – Hartlepool
- b) Civic Dance – SBC
- c) Social – Heighington
- d) Social – Seaham

Meetings attended: -

- a) Unitary Presentation – Shotton Hall with the Clerk
- b) Planning Consultant with Residents' Forum
- c) Residents and Hardwick Hall – re Hardwick Hall noise

Presented Trophies at the Easter Egg Hunt

Met judges with Northumbria in Bloom Competition

## **9. Correspondence**

### **9.1 Durham Diocesan Registry: Faculty**

A response has now been received from Durham Diocese together with a copy of the faculty in regard of the work to the Church wall and the Pottery. The faculty indemnifies both the Parochial

Church Council and the Town Council against any future claim for liability.

In addition the Clerk said she was seeking legal advice on the Town Council's responsibility re the Church wall and was awaiting a reply from NALC.

**9.2 SBC: Potential Transfer of Land**

A response has been received from Sedgefield Borough Council regarding the Town Council's request relating to the potential transfer of two parcels of land – Station Road field and the car park. SBC have indicated they will reply once this has been discussed with Members and Officers at SBC.

**RESOLVED**

**To await further information from SBC**

**9.3 Sedgefield Charities Annual Report**

The Clerk had circulated the Annual Report for the Charities and the Education Foundation.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.4 Police Community Consultative Group**

Information regarding the meeting at Ceddesfeld Hall on 20<sup>th</sup> April had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.5 Royal Mail: location of post box**

A response has now been received from the Royal Mail in regard of the location of the post box outside the Post Office. The Royal Mail have indicated that they are happy that the box is located in a sensible place and have no plans to re-site it.

**RESOLVED**

i) **To receive the information**

ii) **To send a copy of the letter to the Residents' Forum**

iii) **To seek advice re the parking on the double yellow lines near the post box from the Highways authority**

**9.6 Durham County Council: Primary Strategy for Change**

Information has been received from Durham County Council seeking the Council's views on their primary strategy for change which is a document outlining their ambitions for primary education over the next 15 years.

**RESOLVED**

i) **To receive the information**

ii) **The Clerk to compile a suitable response and circulate it before sending this on to Durham County Council**

**9.7 The Planning Inspectorate: Appeal by Theakston Farms**

A letter has been received from David Stovell copied from the Planning Inspectorate seeking confirmation that the Town Council and the Residents' Forum will be submitting a joint statement re the above. The Chairman, Cllr. Dudley Waters gave a brief report on the meeting which he, Cllrs. May Brown, Norman Dunn, Maxine Robinson and the Clerk had attended together with representatives of the Residents' Forum and Mr. Stovell to discuss how STC should proceed with the appeal. In addition Cllr. May Brown gave a detailed report on the Residents' Forum Working Group meetings which she had attended on Thursday evenings.

It was pointed out that the Statement of Intent must be with the Planning Inspectorate by the 28<sup>th</sup> April and that the Residents' Forum were seeking assurances from the Town Council that the Council would employ a barrister to represent both (together with the Civic Trust) as it would appear that Sedgefield Borough Council are not willing to work together with the Town Council and local groups. The cost of the barrister was indicated at between £3000 and £5000.

**RESOLVED**

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) The Town Council in principle to appoint a barrister to act on their behalf together with the Residents' Forum and the Civic Trust subject to cost.**
- iii) A Special Meeting to be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April to confirm this action**
- iv) The Clerk to arrange a meeting with David Stovell to move this forwards as soon as possible**

**This was carried unanimously**

**9.8 SCA: Improvements Ceddesfeld Hall**

Cllr. Dudley Waters declared an interest and took no part in the discussions.

A letter has been received from the SCA Chairman, Mrs. Pat Buckley-Atkins raising a number of issues. In particular their proposals for the building and possible Town Council financial involvement.

**RESOLVED**

**A working group of Councillors I. Sutherland, N. Dunn, T. Jeanes, D. Brown, M. Brown and the Clerk to meet with representatives from SCA next Monday evening 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7 pm.**

**It was agreed that SCA should provide a copy of their audited accounts for this meeting.**

**9.9 Open Day Event**

The Clerk circulated details of an Open Day Event to be held at County Hall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May in the morning.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**10. Public Participation**

The Chair, Cllr. Dudley Waters closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

The meeting was then re-opened.

**11. Parish Hall**

The Clerk informed Members that a Preview for a small number of invited guests and Members of the Town Council for the Hall will be held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**12. Annual Meeting – Annual Report, Agenda, Details of Meeting**

The Clerk circulated the draft agenda and annual report. Members were asked to be notified of any suggested amendments to the annual report as soon as possible. In addition it was agreed that the report from the principle authority should only include a report from the existing SBC Members.

**13. Current Planning Applications**

The schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**The comments as attached have been forwarded to SBC.**

**In addition information regarding the following were received:-**

- a) Erection of 1 no. dwelling Appeal: The Larches, Thorpe Larches**
- b) Retrospective Use of land for off road Recreational Motor Sports: Low Hardwick Farm**
- c) Draft Windlestone Hall Supplementary Planning Document**

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

The Chairman, Cllr. Dudley Waters thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8 pm.