

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JUNE MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 9th June, 2008.**

Present **Cllr. Tim Jeanes (Chair)**
Cllr. Sheila Sutherland (Vice-Chair) and
Cllrs. A Blakemore, D, Brown, M, Brown, H. Clifford-Brown, N. Dunn, M. Garrod, S. Hannan, M. Robinson, I. Sutherland, D. Waters

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. R. Taylor, J. Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr. D. Brown - Planning

3. Police Report

The Chair, Cllr. Tim Jeanes welcomed Sgt. Brian O'Connor to the meeting. Sgt. O'Connor then proceeded to give the Police report. He was thanked for attending by the Chairman.

RESOLVED

To write a letter to the Police seeking further details of the incident reportedly to have occurred on Saturday 7th June on the Cross Hill.

4. Minutes and Reports

4.1 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held Monday 12th May 2008

These were accepted and will be confirmed at the Annual meeting 2009.

4.2 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held Monday 19th May 2008

These were confirmed as a correct record. (IS, DW)

4.3 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 19th May 2008.

These were confirmed as a correct record. (DW, MR)

4.4 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 19th May 2008.

These were confirmed as a correct record. (MR, DW)

4.5 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Wednesday 28th May 2008.

These were confirmed as a correct record. (SH, MR)

4.6 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Wednesday 28th May 2008.

These were confirmed as a correct record. (MR, SH)

RESOLVED: To accept all of the minutes as above and recommendations contained therein

5. Matters of Information

None

6. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the dates

7 Other Reports

7.1 Planning Policy & Protocol

The Clerk had reviewed and circulated a draft Planning Policy and Protocol. This included the Planning policy as written in 2001 and in addition included additional policy to deal with incidences such as employing Planning Consultants, Planning Solicitors etc.

In particular: -

In those cases where the SBC Officers recommend approval – against the STC's decision – the Town Council will consider if they wish to take individual action via Planning Consultant and Barrister etc. However this will only be in exceptional circumstances and subject to stringent financial limitations agreed on each individual case.

Policy

In those cases where the recommendation and decision by the Planning Authority are to oppose an application- in agreement with the STC decision, then STC will not take further action – referring the planning authority to act on behalf of all.

There was some debate re the policy on affordable housing.

RESOLVED

Members to consider amendments to the Planning Policy and Protocol and bring these to the July Monthly meeting

7.2 Quality Council Re-accreditation

The Clerk had circulated a report giving details of the meeting she attended in London on Wednesday 16th April on behalf of the Durham County Training Partnership. The Seminar was to discuss the launch of the Quality Council Revised Scheme and the new Cilca qualification for Officers.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.3 SDLCC

Cllr. Dudley Waters gave a brief report on the meeting which he and the Clerk attended on Thursday 29th May.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.4 NALC Conference

The Clerk had circulated a comprehensive report on the recent NALC Annual Conference which was held in Eastbourne. (The Clerk attended as the RDO for NALC, all expenses being met by NALC. The Clerk was also able to attend sessions of importance and relevance to STC). In particular the Clerk stressed the importance of STC looking to revise the Town Plan.

RESOLVED

- i) To use the SBC Community Appraisal as the first step in revising the Sedgefield Town Plan**
- ii) To then establish a working party to take this forward and bring back proposals to Council on producing the new Plan**

7.5 LGR: Engagement & Participation

The Clerk circulated a report on the Larger Local Council Forum for Durham. The Clerk informed Members she had attended several meetings of the new group whose remit is to identify areas of interest relevant to local councils and the new unitary authority. In particular a number of discussion areas have been established and the Clerk has been nominated to represent the local councils in Durham on the work stream discussing and implementing charters.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To allow the Clerk to continue to attend the meetings of the working party and the appropriate unitary work stream**

7.6 Holiday Park

The Clerk gave a brief report on the current situation with the Inquiry for the Holiday Park. Two meetings have been held with Neil Robson in Newcastle. These were primarily to discuss the proofs of evidence which the Residents' team have written. In addition the Clerk informed Members that she had also written a proof of evidence on behalf of the Town Council. The Clerk stressed the Residents' team had put in a substantial amount of work and time in compiling the

proofs and asked that thanks be recorded to them.

In addition the Inquiry dates while staying the same overall – the running order has now been altered and this will allow the Clerk to attend on Tuesday 15th July when objectors will be heard. The Clerk also informed Members that whilst Cllr. Rita Taylor originally had being asked to attend at the beginning of the Inquiry to introduce the Town Council and the Town Council's Planning Consultant, Mr. Robson suggested that it would be more appropriate for someone from the Town Council to be there throughout the Inquiry. As a result, Cllr. May Brown had agreed to do this.

Some concern was expressed about the Planning Consultants submitting his proof and the Clerk reminded Members that the deadline for this is 10th June; however she said that she was aware that Mr. Robson and Mr. Stovell were in direct contact and assumed that this would now be sorted.

8. Chair's Announcements

The Chairman, Cllr. Tim Jeanes gave details of the events he had attended including: -

- i) First Year Anniversary of DIDO (Days in Days Out) and he had judged the fancy hats
- ii) The Rotary Gala Dinner at Sedgefield Racecourse and presented the awards
- iii) Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Civic Service

9. Correspondence

9.1 Local Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure: SBC

Information has been received from Stockton Borough Council re the Local Code of Conduct and Complaints Process.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.2 Primary Strategy for Change: DCC

Information has been received from DCC together with the final draft for the primary strategy for change for Primary Education. The Clerk pointed out that all comments must be submitted by Thursday 12th June. However, she said that whilst she had been able to complete the initial consultation on behalf of the Council she did not feel qualified to comment on the draft and suggested that if any Members who have background interest in education would be prepared to forward their comments for submission to DCC.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.3 NHS Health Centres: PCT

Information has been received from County Durham & Darlington Primary Care Trust. This

gives information and details of consultation meetings.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.4 Primary Care Trust: Health Centre Procurement Formal Consultation

Information and consultation forms have been received re new health centres. In addition a meeting will be held on Thursday 16th June at County Hall.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.5 Parish Hall: Mr. Spalding

A letter has been received from Mr. Mort Spalding thanking the Council for the presentations as made to him for his work with the Parish Hall.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

In addition the Chairman, Cllr. Tim Jeanes said that a letter of thanks has now gone to Monwar at the Ministers Indian Restaurant thanking him for his very kind donation of the wall lights for the Parish Hall.

10. Public Participation

The Chair, Cllr. Tim Jeanes closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

The meeting was then re-opened.

11. Current Planning Applications

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

RESOLVED

The comments as attached have been forwarded to SBC.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.58 pm.