

# **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 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2011**

**Present**                    **Cllr. A. Blakemore (Chair) and**  
Cllrs. P. Bodo, D. Brown, M. Brown, N. Dunn, T. Jeanes, I. Sutherland, S. Sutherland, D. Waters

**Officer**                    L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. J. Robinson, M. Robinson, S. Hannan  
Sgt Brian O'Connor, Mrs. Helen Letts (Harbinson House)

**2. Declaration of interest**

None

**3. Police Report**

No report

**4. Minutes and Reports**

**4.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

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

**4.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

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

**4.3 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

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

**4.4 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

These were confirmed as a correct record. (MB, PB)

**4.5 Minutes of the Special Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2011**

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

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

**Members were reminded of the Public Meeting on Wednesday evening re the**

**Consultation on the Town Plan. As a result the response from STC will be agreed at the Special Meeting next Monday evening.**

## **5. Matters of Information**

- 5.1** The Clerk informed Members that she had received apologies from Mrs. Helen Letts who had asked if she could come along to the July meeting.

It was suggested that since Mrs. Letts had given a very comprehensive presentation at the Sedgefield Together Open Event the previous week, a further presentation would now not be needed.

**RESOLVED**

**To thank Mrs. Letts for her presentation the previous week and invite her to a Town Council meeting at a later date.**

- 5.2 AAP**

The Clerk informed Members that Jane Bellis and Colin Steele had not been able to attend the Community Development meeting in May. However Ms Bellis had attended and answered questions on the AAP at the Local Council Committee and as such it is now unnecessary for her to attend the meeting on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

**RESOLVED**

**To invite Jane Bellis and the new Chairman to a meeting later in the year after the scrutiny process is completed.**

## **6. Dates of Meetings**

These had been circulated.

## **7. Other Reports**

- 7.1 LLC Meeting**

The Clerk gave a brief report on the meeting which was attended by Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, John Robinson and herself at Murton. This focused on the new County Durham Plan and in particular Wind Farms. As direct result a meeting has been arranged with Phil Wilson MP and the Minister. Cllr. John Robinson is attending on behalf of the Town Council.

The next meeting is in August at Ceddesfeld Hall – and lunch will be provided by STC.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

- 7.2 AGM & Minutes EDRC Local Council Committee**

These had been circulated. Cllr. Dudley Waters was re-elected as Chair and is now also a representative on the AAP Board.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

### **7.3 Localism**

Information had been circulated.

In particular the Clerk informed Members that she had attended a further seminar which had discussed Neighbourhood Planning in more detail. The main points of this appear to emphasise the need for any new plans to be in line with the overall strategic county plans – and suggested a small article on this be included in the next Sedgefield Extra.

A full report on this and other issues to be discussed in July.

#### **RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to write a brief article on Neighbourhood Planning for the next Sedgefield Extra.**

### **7.4 Report from AAP**

Cllr Allan Blakemore gave the report on the last meeting.

#### **RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

### **7.5 Recommendations on the New Electoral Arrangements**

A report had been circulated. In particular the relevance to Sedgefield is that the existing DCC wards of Sedgefield and Bishop Middleham will be replaced by Sedgefield and Fishburn

#### **RESOLVED**

**To accept the recommendations**

### **7.6 Standards in Public Life**

The Clerk circulated information re replacement. The Clerk pointed out that CDALC are looking to decide whether each Council should adopt their own code – however there is merit in there being a uniform approval across the County and that a motion could be put to the County Durham AGM of presenting a model code for the County which would ensure all Members are measured by the same 'Yardstick'.

#### **RESOLVED**

**To await further information**

## **8. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair, Cllr. Allan Blakemore reported that he had attended: -

11<sup>th</sup> May Twinning Soiree at Cllr Jeanes home

31<sup>st</sup> May Judged Woodland Bingo

6<sup>th</sup> June Civic Service at Sedgefield

## **9. Correspondence**

### **9.1 Licensing Searchable Register: CDALC**

Information had been circulated

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.2 Butterwick Moor/Haswell Moor Wind Farm Opening Event**

Information had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

- a) **To receive the information**
- b) **Cllr Dudley Waters to attend.**

**9.3 Policing Priorities**

The Police Authority have confirmed that their priorities for the forthcoming year are:-

- a) Tackling anti-social behaviour
- b) Reducing the impact caused by drug and alcohol abuse on people and communities
- c) Protecting vulnerable people from harm

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

**9.4 Overview and Scrutiny Review of Area Action Partnerships – Questionnaire**

Information had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To answer as follows: -**

- a) **Concern re pre agreed decisions including election of Chairman**
- b) **Delegation of major decisions to sub- groups without overall board ratification**
- c) **Too much and often repeated unnecessary information which often masks the important issues**
- d) **Unlike other 13 Boards all money has been directed into one large project whereas all other AAP's spread funding around**

**9.5 NALC: Legal Briefing**

Information had been circulated regarding a Councillor's individual responsibility to register with Data Protection at ICO.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

**9.6 DCC: Response re STC comments on Planning**

A response has been received re DCC not publicizing comments from STC.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the letter but seek confirmation that DCC are receiving comments from STC.**

**10. Public Participation**

The Chair, Cllr. Allan Blakemore 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 are as attached and are to be forwarded to DCC.**

**12. Residents' Forum – Request for Information**

The Residents' Forum has requested information on the attendance of Members at meetings. Cllr. David Brown informed Members that Dogs on leads and parking on pavements had also been raised at the recent meeting of the Forum.

**RESOLVED**

- i) To respond that the attendance records are available in the offices and the minutes are in the publication scheme and available on the website and in the offices.**
- ii) To consider publicizing the statistics re attendance within the Annual Report**

**13. Current Consultation Documents: -**

**a) Bereavement Services**

**RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to respond accordingly.**

**b) Review of Audit Arrangements**

Information had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To respond to the consultation as below: -**

**Sedgefield Town Council have now considered the above and the Consultation Paper was discussed by Members at their meeting held on June 13<sup>th</sup> 2011 when the Council resolved to submit the following comments:-**

- a. In regard of the 4 principles - localism & decentralisation, transparency, lower audit fees, high standards - Sedgefield Town Council feels that the proposals would not achieve these**

- b. **The proposals would not improve either the efficiency or effectiveness of the current arrangements**
- c. **Concern was expressed regarding the practicalities and appropriateness of the proposed role for county or unitary authorities**

**c) Relaxation of Planning Rules**

Information had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**14. Freedom of Information Request**

A Freedom of Information request has been received from Mrs. Gloria Wills re information relating to the 2009/10 accounts.

The Clerk informed Members that the relevant information will be forwarded to Mrs. Wills.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.