

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY MONTHLY MEETING**
of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice &
Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 13th July, 2009.**

Present **Cllr. Sheila Sutherland (Chair)**
 Cllr. John Robinson (Vice-Chair) – apologies for lateness and
Cllrs. A. Blakemore, H. Clifford-Brown, N. Dunn, T. Jeanes, M. Robinson, D.
Waters & D. Brown (apologies for lateness)

Officers Apologies received from L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk), M. Robinson clerked the
meeting. Also present from Durham County Council Planning Regeneration &
Economic Development Department were Mr. D. Walker and Mr. C. Myers.

1. Apologies

Cllrs. I. Sutherland, M. Brown, M. Garood, S. Hannan, R. Taylor

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Wind Farm Presentation

Cllr. Sutherland welcomed DCC Officers David Walker and Chris Myers to the meeting. There followed a presentation by the officers about wind farms, current policy, how an application will be handled, the planning process as well as the current work being undertaken by DCC to help in determining any applications when the time comes. It was noted that in the new authority not all of the policies are in place to deal with such applications and that the Authority is working towards seeking for the EON application to be dealt with as part of an overall desire for the area.

In essence in determining such applications, the Regional Spatial Strategy and key policies, the Local Plan (currently under review as it has been in existence since 1996) and updated parts, and Planning Policy Guidance are taken into account. Additionally, housing, traffic and transport routes, landscape, ecology, ornithology will be considered as well as the local aviation and military responses to the application.

In determining the application the key considerations will include the landscape and visual impact of the application. Also under consideration is the cumulative effect, considering the anticipation of further wind farm applications being received. It is for this reason that DCC is

seeking to use the Arab Report as a material consideration in determining the application.

Members were asked a number of questions which resulted in the following further information being presented.

- a. Regardless of the number of any objections received, the application must be judged on its planning merit. It must meet the necessary criteria and be considered on its visual and planning merit and any letters of support / objections should consider these elements.
- b. The views of surrounding communities are considered and the application is not seen in isolation, moreover that a strategy is being considered for future developments, including those in neighbouring authorities. (Cllr. D. Brown joined meeting here).
- c. Meeting the national targets for such developments for 2010 and 2020 were a consideration, but locally these had been met for 2010 and consideration of the wider scheme, together with joint dialogue between other local authorities was seen as important if a comprehensive strategy is to be developed.
- d. Mr. Myers advised that he would provide feedback to the Clerk and asked if there were any issues which the council wished DCC to consider as it compiles the Local Development Framework – these to be forwarded in due course, but finding a place for young people to meet and have as a youth facility and condition of some properties within the village were raised.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Myers were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting at 7.35pm.

Cllr. J. Robinson joined the meeting.

4. Police Report

a. Local Area

The Chair, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland welcomed Sgt. Brian O'Connor who proceeded to give the Police report. Sgt. O'Connor then answered all questions from Members. He advised that the two main things of note was the installation of a CCTV system into the Sedgefield Primary School which it was hoped would prove useful; and the improvement in management of parking at the car boot fairs.

b. Northern Area Report – remains the same as previously noted.

5. Minutes and Reports

5.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 8th June 2009

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

5.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 8th June 2009

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

5.3 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 15th June 2009

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

5.4 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 15th June 2009.

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

RESOLVED

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

6. Matters of Information

6.1 Projector cost noted as £391. Cost of an appropriate A3 printer as yet unknown.

RESOLVED

To await the cost of the printer then consider whether to purchase the projector only, or both pieces of equipment.

7. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated. Town walk-about noted as being on 10th August at 6.30pm. Cllr Blakemore tendered his apologies for this.

8. Other Reports – There were no other reports presented.

9. Chair's Announcements

The Chair, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland reported that she had attended numerous events including:-
Children's Tub Planting

Rectory Row School 100 years celebrations and school Prize Giving

STC Civic Service (which had been excellent)

Ferryhill and Darlington's Mayor at home and Spennymoor Mayoral Charity.

She reminded members of the Town Council events including the Quiz on October 30th.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Durham Constabulary: Policing Issues

Information welcomed and received.

10.2 Larger Local Councils Forum: CDALC

Information from the above had been received.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and to appoint Cllr D. Waters and Cllr J. Robinson as well as the Clerk to attend the meetings

10.3 Co. Durham Local Development Framework

Information received on the beginning of the process for Bishop Auckland, Peterlee, Spennymoor and Easington.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and to ask when Sedgefield process will begin

10.4 Sedgefield & District Citizens Advice Bureau

Information received seeking Board Director representation, or member organization status.

RESOLVED

To provide a representative as a Director of the Board and advise that the meetings coincide with the Town Council meeting and ask if this could be reviewed in order that our member could attend.

10.5 Sedgefield Village Residents Forum

Letters received noting a letter sent to local MP and advised to the Monitoring Officer, also other letters pertaining to the contents of this letter. An additional letter was circulated on the evening.

RESOLVED

- 1. To discuss this further at the Environment meeting.**
- 2. To receive the letters and information therein and to defer the final letter to the next Town Council meeting. Also noted to include access to the BSF works to the same meeting.**

10.6 AAP Board Distribution -

Information of members received

RESOLVED

To receive the information

10.7 Parking St. Edmund's Church -

A request for a sign for those on church business has been received from St.

Edmund's Church.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to meet with Reverend Gobbett

10.8 DCC A1 Wind Farm

Information had been provided by officers earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED

To review previously notified objections and make further objections regarding the plans as required to ensure all areas raised in previous discussions are included.

10.9 Notification of Planning Applications

Response to concerns over the current means of accessing planning application submissions received.

RESOLVED

To monitor accessibility to planning applications.

10.1 AAP DCC

0

A response to naming of AAP had been received.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

10.1 NALC Local Council Awards 2009

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Nominations invited for various awards.

RESOLVED

To submit nominations for both the Town Council and Clerk

11. Public Participation

The Chair, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

The meeting was then re-opened.

12. Current Planning Applications

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated and further applications considered as follows:-

- a. **7/2009/0157/DM - EON Wind Farm**

RESOLVED

- i. **To reinforce the importance of the application not being considered in isolation and encouraging dialogue with local authorities close by.**
- ii. **To forward further information seeking to protect the landscape, express concern over the visible impact, asking to consider the cumulative effect of previous and future similar applications so close in a small area of significant importance, protection of the Carrs, the need to consider other plans in neighbouring local authority areas, as well as concern over shadow flicker.**

- b. **7/2009/0207/DM – Siting of residential caravan.**

RESOLVED

To ask that agricultural need principles apply and if successful, that good screening is provided to the site

- c. **7/2009/0211/DM – 45 Whitehouse Drive 2 storey extension & porch.**

RESOLVED

To accept the plans – no objections

- d. **7/2008/0521/DM – 2 The Lane – Notification of refusal of application – received.**

- e. **Cllr Brown advised members of the Low Hardwick Quad Bikes planning hearing to be held at DCC. Cllr Robinson asked for consistency in the approach to these hearings in that they are held locally so local people can attend.**

RESOLVED

To write to DCC to ask that the hearing be held locally

- f. **Issues over shop frontages in the Conservation Area were raised**

RESOLVED

To invite Mr. Katakya to the next meeting

13. Residents' Forum – Request for Information

This was deferred to the next Town Council meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm.

