

# SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **SEPTEMBER  
MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in  
the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre,  
Sedgefield, on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2008.**

## MINUTES

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

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

### 1. **Apologies**

Cllrs. Lynne Goddard, John Robinson, R. Taylor  
Sgt. Brian O'Connor

### 2. **Declaration of interest**

Cllr. S. Hannan – Planning Applications

### 3. **Police Report**

The Chairman, Cllr. Tim Jeanes welcomed PC Keith Todd who proceeded to give the report.  
He was thanked by the Chairman.

#### **RESOLVED**

- i)        **To accept the report**
- ii)      **To ask Durham County Council Highways re the legality of the yellow lines  
at the Racecourse**

### 4. **Minutes and Reports**

#### **4.1        Minutes of the Special Meeting held Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008**

The Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the meeting held the previous week and informed  
Members that these will be circulated for the next meeting.

#### **4.2        Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

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

#### **4.3        Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

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

**4.4 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

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

**4.5 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008**

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

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

**5. Matters of Information**

There were no matters of information.

**6. Dates of Meetings**

**These had been circulated.**

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the dates**

**7 Other Reports**

**7.1 NEP**

A report from the Community Development Officer Mrs. Angela Simpson had been circulated in regard of a meeting to discuss the Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme. This meeting had been held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July and had been attended by Andrew Megginson (SBC), Cllr. John Robinson (SBC), Cllrs. Maxine Robinson, Norman Dunn, Ian Sutherland (STC) and Angela Simpson (STC).

The meeting discussed areas to direct NEP funding and these included Sedgefield Town Council Heritage Centre which would include: -

- Youth Drop In Facility and a Public Toilet
- Turning Circle Repairs

Mr. Megginson had advised that it would be acceptable to fund a specific amount, however, there would be problems in ensuring that planning permission etc would be obtained and the project completed before the end of March 2009.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**7.2 Meeting Town and Parish Councils with Chief Executive SBC**

The Clerk gave a verbal report on the meeting which she had attended with other Sedgefield Town and Parish Clerks together with the Chief Executive, Mr. Brian Allen.

At this meeting the local Area Partnerships had been discussed together with the forthcoming presentations and the naming of the new Unitary.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**7.3 Health and Safety Seminar**

The Clerk had circulated a written report on the Seminar which had been held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July and which the Clerk had attended at Peterlee.

**RESOLVED**

- i) To accept the recommendations of the report: -**
  - a) To establish a review inspection**
  - b) Daily (weekly inspections by a Member using a tick sheet – the Clerk informed Members that Cllr. Dunn had volunteered for this)**
  - c) To carry out risk assessments at each play area**

**7.4 Boundary Committee Consultation**

The Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting she had attended at County Hall on 29<sup>th</sup> July with the Boundary Committee. The report gave details of the process of the review and consultation.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**7.5 Sedgefield Together**

The Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August to discuss the Sedgefield Together proposals. The Clerk confirmed that she had now written to all the groups/organizations inviting them to express an interest and that the closing date for this is 12<sup>th</sup> September. It is then intended that Members will consider the replies on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September before the Community Development committee with the intention of holding the first meeting in mid-October.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**7.6 Council Offices**

The Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> August and attended by Chris Donaghy, Cllr, Maxine Robinson and Lesley Swinbank.

This discussed projects for the SBC Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme.

**RESOLVED**

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) In principle the Town Council to agree to carrying out the internal works to the Advice and Information Centre as part of the NEP subject to Cllr. John Robinson's approval**

**7.7 Unitary Authority Workstream**

The Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August which she had attended at County Council with Anne Armstrong (DCC) and Steve Ragg (CDALC). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the new Charter for the Towns and Parish Councils with the new Unitary.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**RESOLVED**

**To accept the reports and recommendations therein.**

**8. Chair's Announcements**

The Chair, Cllr. Tim Jeanes gave a brief report on the events which he had attended over the past couple of months. These included:-

Great Aycliffe At Home

The Northumbria in Bloom Judging at the Dun Cow – the Chairman expressed his thanks to the NIB team who have worked very hard for the village

Peterlee At Home

His own Mayor's At Home

Seaham Carnival

Billingham Folklore Festival

Great Aycliffe Show

Entertaining the Chernobyl Children at Ceddesfeld Hall

Sedgefield Show

Peterlee Charity Night

Northumbria in Bloom Awards – the Chairman said he was delighted that Sedgefield had been awarded the Best Small Country Town and his thanks to all particularly Mr. Stephen Young for the work in achieving this trophy.

**RESOLVED**

**i) To receive the report**

**ii) The Clerk to insure the Northumbria in Bloom trophy**

**9. Correspondence**

**9.1 Zurich Insurance**

A letter has been received from Zurich confirming that the Potters Shop extension work that has been done is now in order and that this does not raise any issues. Copy agreed supplied has been lodged with the Policy papers.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.2 LBVTV**

A letter of thanks has been received from the above for the help with the information road

show.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.3 Unitary Authority Electoral Review – The Boundary Committee**

Information has been received from the Boundary Committee giving information as to the consultation currently on the number of Councillors for the new Unitary Authority.

The Clerk reminded Members that at the Special Meeting the previous week the Town Council had agreed to a number of 100 councillors for the new Unitary. This information has been sent to the Boundary committee.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.4 Transfer of Housing Stock - SBC**

Information has been received from Sedgefield Borough Council confirming that the housing stock from Sedgefield Borough will be transferred to the Sedgefield Borough Homes – which is a new Housing Association.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.5 Durham Association News – July 08**

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information**

**9.6 NALC-Standards Issues**

Information has been received from NALC requesting the Town Council's views on issues relating to the Code of Conduct.

**RESOLVED**

- i) Sedgefield Town Council favours a local determination regime over a national one**
- ii) Sedgefield Town Council consider that they are currently sufficiently informed by the Standards Board about the new determination regime and the process**
- iii) The Town Council were asked about indemnifying their Members from legal costs arising from defending an allegation in respect of breaching the Code**

**RESOLVED**

**The Clerk to obtain costs of taking this new indemnation**

**10. Ceddesfeld Hall Refurbishment**

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Pat Buckley-Atkins (Chairman, SCA) and Peter Hinde (Vice-Chairman, SCA) who proceeded to give a presentation regarding proposals for the

refurbishment of Ceddesfeld Hall. The Chairman pointed out that this meeting was to receive information only and costings and other issues will be discussed by the Town Council at a later date.

The refurbishment includes:-

- a) Refurbishing the Lounge
- b) Refurbishing the Kitchen
- c) Installing a lift from basement to attic and external fire escape from attics to ground floor
- d) Refurbishing the toilets
- e) Reconfiguring the attic area

Costs are in the region of £430,000 however funding is being sought from SBC Local Improvement Programme, Heritage Lottery and other minor funders. The benefits will be a fully accessible community building which will be retained in economic usage and will be maintained to a high standard.

SBC LIP are considering the application on 27<sup>th</sup> September and it is hoped will release funding for the plans to be completed and the kitchen to be replaced.

**11. Planning Policy and Protocol Amendments**      *(To be circulated on evening)*

This was deferred to the October meeting.

**12. Public Participation**

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

The meeting was then re-opened.

**13. Current Planning Applications**

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

In addition the Clerk gave the following information: -

a) Holiday Park

The Clerk informed Members that the appeal for the Holiday Park by Theakstons Estates had been dismissed. However, she pointed out that the Inspector had indicated that the main issues centred around the cabins and that this could leave the way open for another application if the applicant so wishes.

b) Eastwell Close

The Clerk said that an application had been received that day for 6 houses at Eastwell Close. This will be discussed at the Environment committee meeting next Monday evening when full notice will have been given of this

c) Planning for Real

The initial consultation at the Parish Hall has taken place and the model will be moving to Ceddesfeld Hall on Friday when residents have the opportunity to give their ideas etc.

**RESOLVED**

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

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.