

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 14th September, 2009.**

Present **Cllr. Sheila Sutherland (Chairman)**
 Cllr. John Robinson (Vice-Chairman)
 Cllrs. A. Blakemore, D. Brown, M. Brown, H. Clifford-Brown, N. Dunn, M.
 Robinson, I. Sutherland

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. S. Hannan, T. Jeanes, D. Waters

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Police Report

There was no Police report.

In addition the Clerk informed Members that she had read that the Police no longer require the use of the Council Offices as their base whilst the Police Station is being refurbished.

4. Minutes and Reports

4.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 13th July 2009

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

4.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 13th July 2009

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

4.3 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 20th July 2009

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

4.4 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 20th July 2009

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

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

5. Matters of Information

5.1 High Street

Concerns were again expressed about the shop frontages on High Street.

RESOLVED

To invite Bill Katakay (Conservation Area Officer) together with Mr. Phil Smith to come to the October meeting

5.2 Church Parking

The Clerk confirmed that she had met with Reverend Michael Gobbett to discuss the issues about the Church parking signs and as a result had produced small laminated notices which indicate that the person parking is on Church business. These have been numbered and will be on a sign in/sign out system from the Church and Council Offices.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To implement the new sign system for the Church Parking for a trial period of 6 months and review after that time**

6. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated.

The Clerk said she was unable to attend the October Monthly meeting of the Town Council and said that it could either be held on the Tuesday evening the 13th October or that someone else would be able to take the minutes etc.

RESOLVED

**To hold the October Monthly and P&R committee meetings on Tuesday 13th October.
The Clerk said that she would ensure that a notice to this effect was in the notice board.**

7. Other Reports

7.1 Planning Portal Equipment

The Clerk demonstrated use of the Planning Portal to Members via the use of the CDALC projector and laptop. This enabled everyone to look at the current planning applications on a screen at the meeting. In addition discussions took place on how the Town Council is informed of planning applications. The cost of a projector and equipment has been obtained. Cllr. Allan Blakemore informed Members that he could provide from DCC on long-term loan a large plasma screen into which a laptop could be connected rather than the purchase of a new projector.

In addition the Clerk suggested it would be beneficial for Members of the Town Council and all residents if there is a system in place by which access to the planning applications and other Freedom of Information published information together with the cemetery burial information is easily available for anyone to access in the Council Offices. This would need a projector/plasma screen and additional laptop with wireless facility.

RESOLVED

To set up the new screen in the council offices for the next meeting and review procedures at that time

7.2 Larger local Councils

The Clerk, Lesley Swinbank, gave details of the meeting which she had attended with Cllr. Dudley Waters in July at Spennymoor Town Council offices which was attended by the Larger Local Councils of the County. She said this had been very informative and the next meeting is in a fortnight's time at Shildon.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.3 Minutes of AAP Board Meeting 29th July 2009

These had been circulated. Some concern continues to be expressed about the current processes of the board particularly in electing the Chair and Vice-Chairman etc.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and monitor the situation

7.4 Sedgefield Together Steering Group July Minutes

To be discussed at the Community Development meeting.

7.5 Local Democracy Week

Details of this National Campaign had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To contact the schools and ask if they are taking part in this and if the Town Council can be of any assistance

7.6 LGR – Update and Progress

The Clerk had circulated the report from CDALC in addition to the Clerk's report on the meeting she had attended re the Charter. Great concern was expressed about the new procedures being implemented from DCC without consultation with the town and parish councils and in particular the lack of workings to do with the Charter.

RESOLVED

To put forward a resolution to the CDALC AGM in October

STC urge the County Council to actively reconfirm their commitment to the Charter and also to include and involve the town and parish councils in all DCC bodies.

7.7 CDALC: Minutes of Exec Meeting – 3rd June 09

These had been circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8. Chair's Announcements

Before giving the Chairman's announcements the Chairman, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland congratulated Councillors John and Maxine Robinson on becoming grandparents in the last few weeks. She then gave a report on what she had attended.

- 22nd July The Mayor and Consort attended Sedgefield Primary School, Rectory Row, to present the end of year prizes.
- 25th July They attended the Civic Service of Mayor of Newton Aycliffe, Mary Dalton, at St Clare's Church, Newton Aycliffe.
- 26th July They attended Seaham Carnival as guests of Mayor Jennifer Bell.
- 31st July They attended a Barbeque at County Hall Morpeth as guests of Mayor David Woodard.
- 4th August They attended a concert in the Arc, Stockton, which was part of the Billingham Folk Festival as guests of Mayor Paul Kirton of Stockton.
- 8th August They attended Sedgefield Show where they judged the Scarecrow Competition, the Trade Stands and the Mounted Fancy Dress. In the afternoon they presented all the prizes. The Sedgefield Harriers took the Mayor's stand and raised £36 and enrolled several new junior members.
- 15th August They attended the "Young at Heart "event in Ceddesfeld Hall where they ran the Bingo and Raffle and raised £130 for the Mayor's Charity.
- 28th August They attended a Charity Evening in Shildon Civic Hall as the guests of Mayor Gareth Howe.
- 5th September They attended Peterlee Show as the guests of Mayor Chris Metcalf.
- 13th September They attended the Civic Service at St David's Church, Tudhoe, as guests of the Mayor of Spennymoor, Sarah Armstrong.
- 13th September They attended the Welcome Dinner for the Hamminkeln Twinning visitors and on behalf of STC presented a framed print of Sedgefield to Burgermeister Herr Schlierf.
- 14th September They attended the Northumbria in Bloom Presentation of Awards in Durham where Sedgefield received a Gold Medal and the Cup for Best Small Town. Hardwick Park received a Silver Medal for a Conservation Project.

9. Correspondence

9.1 East Durham Rural Corridor AAP Update and First Board Meeting

Information had been circulated

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.2 Durham Association News (July)

Information had been circulated

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.3 National Grid: Overhead Electricity Transmission Line

Information had been circulated

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.4 DCC: Secondary School Admission Criteria

Information had been circulated

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.5 Representation: CAB Board

Information had been received from the CAB Board seeking confirmation of attendance from the Town Council on the Board.

RESOLVED

Cllr. Helen Clifford-Brown be nominated as the representative on the CAB Board. Cllr. Clifford-Brown to inform the office if she is unable to attend any meetings of the CAB and the Clerk will then endeavor to find a replacement for that evening

9.6 Transfer Request Station Road Playing Field

A letter has now been received from DCC stating that DCC no longer wish to transfer the Station Road playing field to the Town Council.

RESOLVED

To write to DCC requesting additional information on the decision taken for the transfer request including at which meeting this had been agreed and which Members had been present

9.7 Health and Wellbeing in Sedgefield: NHS

Information had been received.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.8 Inquiry Racecourse: Motor Sports: Low Hardwick Farm, Sedgefield

Members had been informed that the inquiry for the above is taking place this week at the Racecourse. Members were reminded that the Council had offered no objections to the

original application.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.9 Sustainable Communities

An email has been received from Steve Shaw re More Powers for Parish and Town Councils and requesting the Town Council write and email to their MP asking they sign the early day motion number 1545 in support of the Sustainable Communities Act amendment bill.

RESOLVED

To write to the MP as suggested above and also write to NALC asking they also press for this to be supported

9.10 Health and Wellbeing in Sedgefield Locality: Draft for Consultation

Information has been received.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

10. Public Participation

The Chair, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland 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.

Temporary Wind Monitoring Mast at Spring Lane, Sedgefield

The Clerk informed Members that she had not been present when this had been discussed at the July Community Development committee meeting however after contacting all Members by email a letter had been sent to DCC, Planning objecting on the grounds of the detrimental effect on the landscape and the need for an overall strategy on wind turbines for the County.

12. Local Development Framework

The Clerk, Lesley Swinbank gave a brief report on the Sedgefield Together meeting which Chris Myers had attended and said that the Local Development Framework is now being progressed by DCC.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

13. Youth Facility

This was deferred until October.

14. Access to east Park from Matfen Court

Cllr. Norman Dunn raised the issue of access to Hardwick Park from the Wallington Drive estate.

RESOLVED

To write to Durham County Council to ask if they will look at this area with the view to providing an access in this area

15. Nominated Charity Trustee

A letter has been received from the Charity Trustees seeking the Town Council's nominee as a trustee of the Sedgefield District in Need Relief Charity.

RESOLVED

Cllr John Robinson was re-nominated

16. Nominations for positions on the Executive Committee: CDALC

RESOLVED

To nominate: -

Helen Goodman - President

Cllr. John Robinson – Vice-President

Cllr. Maxine Robinson – Treasurer

Mr. Andrew Bailey - Honorary Auditor

17. Residents' Forum – Request for Information

The action points from the Residents' Forum had been received and were discussed.

The Clerk circulated the responses on behalf of the Town Council and DCC Cllr. John Robinson said he would provide the additional information.

RESOLVED

To accept the information and await the response from DCC Cllr. John Robinson before responding to the Forum

18. Attendance at Meetings

The Clerk informed Members that Councillors Maire Garrood and Lynne Goddard have not attended any meetings of the Town Council since March 2009. Accordingly their attendance at a meeting in September is necessary or prior acceptance of a reason for their absence by

the Council is needed otherwise this will result in both being disqualified from the Council. It was suggested that a three month extension be given to both Cllr. Garrood and Cllr. Goddard and the Clerk said she would take legal advice on this and report back to the next Monthly meeting.

The Chairman, Cllr. Sutherland thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.