

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present **Cllr. Sheila Sutherland (Chairman) and**
Cllrs. D. Brown, M. Brown, I. Sutherland, R. Taylor

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. J. Robinson, D. Waters, S. Hannan, M. Robinson, A. Blakemore, T. Jeanes
Sgt Brian O'Connor

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Police Report

The Clerk said that apologies had been received from Sgt. Brian O'Connor who was attending another meeting that evening – however the crime figures had been sent through and these were circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

4. Minutes and Reports

4.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 14th September 2009

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

4.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 14th September 2009

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

4.3 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 21st September 2009

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

4.4 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 21st
September 2009

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

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

5. Matters of Information

5.1 Planning Applications

The Clerk reported that the new plasma screen had been provided by Cllr. Allan Blakemore courtesy of Sedgefield Borough Council on extended long-term loan. There is a need now for an additional computer i.e. lap top or stand alone to ensure public access to the planning portal, the publication scheme including all minutes, agendas etc and in addition the Clerk said that it was hoped that it would soon be arranged to enable people wishing to access the Cemetery records.

RESOLVED

To purchase a lap top which must be secured to prevent it being taken away

5.2 Attendance at meetings

This to be discussed as an agenda item

6. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated.

The Clerk drew Members attention to the December cycle of meetings and suggested that these be held on the same evening as the Monthly i.e. Monday 14th December and this be followed by the usual wine and mince pies at Ceddesfeld Hall.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Larger Local Councils

The minutes of the meeting of the Larger Local Councils forum held 24th July had been circulated. In addition the Clerk gave a brief verbal report on the subsequent meeting which had been held in Shildon on 25th September and which she and Cllr. Dudley Waters attended on behalf of the Town Council. In particular concerns continue to be expressed about the AAP boards and also ongoing problems with LGR.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.2 Report on AAP Board Meeting

Cllrs. May Brown and David Brown gave a report on the meeting of the AAP Board held 16th September. Again concerns were expressed about inconsistencies of the role of the Boards – however it was agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.3 Sedgefield Together Partnership

The Clerk, Lesley Swinbank gave a verbal report on the recent Open meeting of the full partnership which was held in the Parish Hall. This had been attended by representatives of Health, Community Groups, Police, Churches, Education and the evening had been very productive in discussing the results of the questionnaire. The Clerk said that the policies discussed on that evening will now be taken forward by the Sedgefield Together Steering Group and formalized as part of the amended Town Plan

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.4 106 Monies

The Clerk had circulated a report on the meeting held Monday 21st September at County Hall which was attended by Cllrs. Dudley Waters, John Robinson and herself on behalf of the Town Council together with Simon Henig (Leader DCC), Stuart Timmiss (Head of Planning, DCC), and Cllr. Brian Stephens (Portfolio, DCC).

The meeting had discussed a variety of issues including the caravan/holiday Park and Neville Drive/Cunningham Court. It was confirmed that there are no 106 monies for the holiday park whilst the £46,000 currently being ring fenced for Neville Drive is being considered for purchasing woodland adjacent to that development and providing additional facilities. The Clerk pointed out at the meeting and (has written on several occasions to SBC/DCC) suggesting that the money would benefit most by improving the Mitford Court woodland by providing a cycle track, improving the footpaths and installing seating and some play equipment.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and await further details from Mr. Timmiss

8. Chair's Announcements

The Chair, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland reported that she had attended

15 th September	The Mayor and Consort attended the Twinning Cheese and Wine evening.
16 th September	The Mayor attended the NELD Ladies Lunch at Hardwick Hall.
22 nd September	The Mayor and her Consort Councillor May Brown attended two plays in the Sedgefield Drama Festival at the Parish Hall as the guests of Sedgefield Players.
26 th September	The Mayor and Consort attended the Awards Evening of the Sedgefield Drama Festival and presented many of the certificates and trophies.
29 th September	The Mayor and Consort attended the Charity Evening at Chilton working Men's Club as guests of Mayor Councillor Len Potts

and his Consort Councillor Christine Potts.

- 2nd October The Mayor and Consort attended the Mayor of Spennymoor's Charity Night as the guests of Mayor Councillor Sarah Armstrong and her Consort Councillor Agnes Armstrong.
- 5th October The Mayor and Consort attended the Civic Trust Awards and presented many of the certificates and trophies.
- 8th October The Mayor and Consort attended the Mayor of Newton Aycliffe's Charity Evening as guests of Mayor Councillor Mary Dalton and her Consort Reg Dalton.

9. Correspondence

9.1 City of Culture Bid 2013

The CDALC Executive have given its support to Durham County Council City of Culture Bid 2013 and are asking individual Parish and Town Councils who wish to lend their support to this bid. The Clerk said she had circulated all Members and there was full support for this.

RESOLVED

To confirm the Town Council's support for the City of Culture Bid 2013

9.2 Electoral Review of County Durham

Information re the Electoral Review from the Boundary Commission has been received and circulated to all Members. There are no direct implications for Sedgefield Town Council.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.3 Nomination Form for LLCC 2009

Information re nominations for the four directly elected positions on the NALC Larger Local Councils Committee 2009 – 2011 had been circulated. Nominations must be received by NALC by Thursday 15th October. STC wish to nominate Cllr. John Robinson and the Clerk said she would contact Cllr. Robinson to ensure he still wished to stand.

RESOLVED

The Town Council to nominate Cllr. John Robinson

9.4 Friends of Hardwick

A letter of thanks - thanking the Town Council and the friendly staff at the Council Offices for the use of the Parish Hall over the past ten years has been received from Friends of Hardwick.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

9.5 Winterton Park: Play Equipment - DCC

A letter has been received from Ian Armstrong, Countryside Officer at Durham County Council

informing the Council that the request for additional play equipment using Section 106 monies at Winterton Park has now been passed onto Andrew Farnie.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and to write again now to Mr. Farnie re the additional Play Equipment

9.6 Durham Association News (Sep 09)

The Durham Association News has now been received from CDALC.

9.7 Proposed Wind Energy Development at Foxton Lane, Nr Sedgefield

Information has now been received from Wind Prospect re the proposed Wind Energy Development on Foxton Lane, Sedgefield. Public meetings are to be held in Ceddesfeld Hall in Sedgefield on 20th October between 2 pm and 7 pm.

RESOLVED

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **To write to Simon Henig with a copy to Phil Wilson regarding the promised Durham County Council strategy on Wind Farms**

9.8 Sedgefield Development Trust

A letter has been received from Sedgefield Development Trust in response to the letter sent from the Town Council re the article in the Sedgefield News in the September 2009 edition. Mr. Fitzpatrick re-states that the Trust wishes to work in harmony with the Town Council for the benefit of the community. However, he also requests that the addendum of the Town Council's letter be passed to Sedgefield News for publication.

RESOLVED

To respond that the Town Council hope to continue with the good relationship now forming with the Development Trust but decline the offer to add the addendum to the next issue of the News.

9.9 Local Development Framework – Preparation of Statement of Community Involvement

Information has been received from DCC regarding the above.

RESOLVED

To respond that the Town Council wish to be involved in all of the preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement.

10. Attendance at meetings

It was noted that Cllrs. M. Garrood and L. Goddard have now failed to attend any meetings of the Town Council since March 2009. The Clerk confirmed that letters had been written to both in August reminding them that they must attend within the statutory 6 month period and had also taken advice re extending the period of non attendance for 3 months.

In the light of no apologies / reasons for absence being received –and in pursuance of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85(1) and (2) both Cllrs. L. Goddard and M. Garrood cease to qualify as members of the Town Council.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To inform DCC – and subsequently declare the vacancies**
- iii) To write to Cllrs. L. Goddard and M. Garrood thanking them for their contribution to the Town Council**

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.

RESOLVED

The comments are as attached and are to be forwarded to DCC

13. Youth Facility

Deferred until the Community Development committee meeting the following week.

14. Local Councils Charter

The Clerk reminded Members that the original draft charter had been approved by the Town Council some months ago. However, the Clerk understood that although this draft had also been approved by the cabinet at DCC there had been several issues raised by DCC Chief Officers and as a result a revised draft had now been produced. Moreover, the Clerk had attended a meeting on 9th October at Barnard Castle with the Clerks working party when some concerns were expressed about this revised draft. In addition Anne Armstrong from DCC had been present at that meeting the previous week and was taking back these concerns to DCC. In the meantime however, the Clerk, Lesley Swinbank stressed the need to accept in principle the draft before members with the proviso that the Clerks through CDALC work towards including improved terms for the towns and parish councils.

The Clerk reminded Members that Sedgefield Town Council has placed a resolution on the CDALC AGM for the 31st October stressing the need for DCC to re-commit to this charter and

also to include representation from towns and parish councils onto their major committees. (Such terms are been suggested for inclusion in the revised draft charter).

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To approve in principle the existing draft charter with the proviso of working towards improved terms**
- iii) Cllr. Ian Sutherland to move the resolution at the CDALC AGM. The Clerk confirmed that either Shildon or Aycliffe would second this resolution.**

15. Residents' Forum – Request for Information

The Clerk reported that the minutes have not been received; however the Chairman of the Forum Mrs. Julia Bowles had confirmed that there were no issues for the Town Council.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm.