

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 9th November, 2009.**

Present **Cllr. John Robinson (Acting-Chairman)**

Cllrs. A. Blakemore, M. Brown, N. Dunn, S. Hannan, M. Robinson, D. Waters, T. Jeanes

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. D. Brown, I. Sutherland, S. Sutherland, R. Taylor

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Police Report

a) Local

The Chair, Cllr. John Robinson welcomed Sgt. Brian O'Connor who proceeded to give the Police report. Sgt. O'Connor then answered all questions from Members and was thanked by the Chairman before leaving the meeting

b) Northern Region

Information and report has been received from the Northern Region.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

4. Minutes and Reports

4.1 Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Tuesday 13th October 2009

These were deferred for approval as there were insufficient members present who had been present at the previous Monthly meeting.

4.2 Minutes of the P&R committee held Tuesday 13th October 2009

These were deferred for approval as there were insufficient members present who had been present at the previous P&R committee meeting.

4.3 Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 19th October 2009

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

4.4 Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 19th October 2009

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

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

5. Matters of Information

5.1 Two Vacancies

The Clerk reported that the statutory notices had been displayed on 15th October on the Town Council notice board and had also been advertised by the Sedgefield News. The deadline for request for an election had been Wednesday 4th November and DCC had confirmed no election had been requested. As a result there will be a notice in the next edition of the Sedgefield Extra (due for publication for distribution the following week) giving notice that the Town Council will co-opt two new members for the Town Council in January and that information / application pack will be available from the Town Council offices from Monday 16th November. This information is also being placed on the web-site and in the notice board.

RESOLVED

To hold a special meeting the first week in January to discuss the applications for co-option in order that a formal co-option can be made at the January Monthly meeting

5.2 Fire Station Meeting

The Chair, Cllr. John Robinson informed Members that the fire brigade have confirmed that they will attend a meeting with the Town Council and the local residents to discuss the proposals for the fire station.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To arrange the meeting at 6.30 pm on Monday 16th November**
- iii) Cllr. John Robinson to inform the fire brigade and local residents**

6. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated.

Members were reminded that the December cycle of meetings will all be held on the same evening – Monday 14th December and be followed by light refreshments at Ceddesfeld Hall.

7. Other Reports

7.1 Larger Local Councils

Cllr. Dudley Waters gave a brief report on the Larger Local Councils meeting which had been held recently in Shildon. He said that everyone present had expressed their disappointment

and were highly critical of some of the procedures now being followed by the new Unitary Authority.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.2 AAP Board Meeting

Cllr. John Robinson gave a brief report on the recent AAP Board meeting and also informed Members of the work of the three task groups: - Transport, Youth and Community Groups. In addition he reported that the AAP Board had received bids for funding for a variety of projects and in particular one had been submitted by Sedgefield Town Council for a youth shelter. The Clerk informed Members that this application had been made at very short notice due to the timescale of the AAP Board but as a result of a meeting of members of the Town Council with Monster Play Equipment. This meeting had focused on play equipment in Sedgefield and also youth shelters and as a result a bid was made immediately to the AAP.

RESOLVED

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **To affirm the actions of the Clerk in sending in a bid for a youth shelter**

7.3 Sedgefield Together Partnership

Cllr. Sue Hannan (Chairman of Sedgefield Together) gave a brief report on the recent Sedgefield Together Steering Group meeting which had discussed the findings, action plan etc. following the consultations and open meeting in September.

The Clerk informed Members that the power point presentation of the results is now available on the website and in addition information will be forwarded to the Sedgefield Together Partnership Virtual network. It was suggested that the November meeting be postponed in order to give the Clerk time to compile a draft copy of the Town Plan which will incorporate the results – a date and time of the next Steering Group meeting to be circulated once arranged.

7.4 Veterans

Cllr. John Robinson gave a verbal report, having been informed by the Veterans that they are holding repatriation services on the village green for service personnel from Afghanistan.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7.5 Bus Shelters: Meeting with DCC

The Chairman, Cllr. John Robinson reported on the recent meeting with officers from Durham County Council re the brick bus shelters near the old community/general hospital. Cllr. Robinson confirmed that DCC are to knock down two of the existing shelters near to Winterton Cottages and replace with Adshel shelters which the Town Council will then take

over and maintain and in addition demolish the two near the old community hospital and replace them as and when necessary.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8. Chair's Announcements

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr. John Robinson said that the Mayor's Quiz had been held recently in Ceddesfeld Hall and had raised over £400 – which is a record and on behalf of the Mayor, Cllr. Sheila Sutherland, he thanked everyone who had helped in every way.

In addition the Chairman spoke re the Remembrance Service the previous day and thanked Michael King, Pam Royle and her mother and also Richard Smith the buglar who had not been well at the event.

9. Correspondence

9.1 S106 Monies – Cunningham Court

The Clerk had circulated an email from Andrew Farnie re Section 106 monies in respect of Cunningham Court, Sedgefield. This confirmed that £45,850 is attributed to the site, but that failure to apply the monies towards the identified scheme results in repayment of the contribution to the developer. Members expressed great concern that these monies could be lost to Sedgefield and that there had been no consultation with residents, the Town Council or Borough Councillors on the proposed works as suggested by SBC to procure an area of woodland adjacent to the application site. No information had been provided by the old SBC and Members confirmed that an alternative suggestion of making environmental improvements to the Mitford Court woodland (which is owned by the Town Council) had been made to Mr. John Lochen and Mr. Rodger Lowe at a meeting held in the Council Offices in the spring of 2009 and before Sedgefield Borough Council ceased to exist. It was felt that the SBC staff involved at that time cannot be absolved from responsibility.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) The Clerk to write to Stuart Timmiss (Durham County Council Planning) expressing Members feelings that no consultation had taken place with residents, town councillors or borough councillors and that the staff involved cannot be absolved from responsibility if this money is subsequently lost.**

9.2 CAVOS Christmas Celebration Event

The Clerk informed Members that the Town Council had received an invite to the CAVOS Christmas Celebration Event at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on Wednesday 16th December – 7 – 10.30 pm. Anyone wishing to go should contact the office.

9.3 Consultation and Development of Travel Schemes across the County

The Clerk informed Members that she had received information re consultation and development of travel schemes across the County together with a questionnaire. If people would like to look at the questionnaire and complete it and send it in, information is available in the office.

9.4 Visit County Durham Invitation

An invitation has been received to attend the County Durham Industry Autumn conference to be held Tuesday 17th November at the Durham Centre, Belmont Industrial Estate in Durham. Anyone who wishes to attend should contact the office.

10. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. John Robinson 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 Clerk informed Members that the official request for information had not as yet been received from the Residents' Forum following their meeting the previous week, however, the Chairman of the Residents' Forum Mrs. Julia Bowles had raised several questions over the procedures for declaring the two vacancies on the Town Council. The Clerk reiterated that the notices are statutory notices received from DCC. They were placed in the notice board on the 15th October and she had been informed by John Stubbs (DCC) that the closing date for a request for an election was 4th November. The information had also been advertised in Sedgefield News.

RESOLVED

To respond to the Residents' Forum with this information

Cllr. Allan Blakemore said he had attended the recent Residents' Forum meeting where it had been suggested that the residents should work more closely with the Town Council.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) The Town Council are very happy to work with the Residents' Forum as they are with all local groups in Sedgefield**

13. Shop Frontages: Conservation Area: Mr. Bill Katakay: Conservation Area Officer

The Clerk reminded Members that she had been asked to invite Bill Katakay to the monthly meeting to talk about the shop frontages in the conservation area. Mr. Phil Smith had also written in a comprehensive response which was discussed at the last meeting of the town council which outlined his intentions and the proposed works. The Clerk had subsequently re-invited Mr. Katakay to come along to the Environment committee the following week and was awaiting a response from him.

14. Councillor Vacancies

As discussed above.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10 pm.