

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES

Minutes of the proceedings of the **SEPTEMBER POLICY & RESOURCES** of the **Council** held following the Monthly meeting in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 8th September 2008**.

MINUTES

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

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. L. Goddard, J. Robinson, S. Hannan, R. Taylor

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr. Norman Dunn Item 4.7 East Park Access

3. Matters of Information

3.1 BSF

The Clerk informed Members that a meeting is to be held the next morning with Yvonne Edwards from the BSF team.

3.2 Sedgefield Together

The Clerk informed Members that the closing date for registering an interest is Friday and that these will be discussed at the meeting at 6.15 pm next Monday evening.

4. Reports

4.1 BSF

Cllr. Dudley Waters said that a couple of meetings have been held over the past few weeks however the next meeting to discuss the community usage is tomorrow morning at 9 am.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

4.2 Parish Hall Users

The Clerk gave a brief report on the meeting the previous week which had been held with the Parish Hall Users Groups. Various issues had been raised. These included: -

a) Additional Handrail into the main hall

It had been pointed out that an additional handrail would obstruct moving the furniture from the Hall to the bar area and in addition advice from Access Lifts indicated that placing another handrail nearer the lift could result in Health and Safety problems with people being trapped between the lift and the rail itself.

RESOLVED

To take no further action on this

b) Storage of Tables

The storage of the tables had been discussed, however the Clerk said she had met with Mrs. Flanagan from the WI together with Stephen Roper and they had agreed that the large tables could be stored horizontally at the rear of the cupboard thereby easing access for the remainder of the tables.

c) Chairs

Cllr. Tim Jeanes said that one of the chairs had been broken and there were concerns about the quality of such. The Clerk said that all Members of the Town Council, User Organizations and residents had all had the opportunity to look at the chairs before they were purchased.

4.3 Audit 07/08

The Clerk had circulated a report following the receipt of the Annual Return from the External Auditors. There were no issues raised by BDO, other than the suggestion that the fidelity guarantee be increased from £150,000. As a result the Clerk recommended an increase to £250,000.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information and the completed audit return**
- ii) To increase the fidelity insurance to £250,000**

4.4 Land Front Street

A report on the meeting held 17th July to discuss improvements/refurbishment to the land outside 50 Front Street had been received.

RECOMMENDED

The Clerk said she was still awaiting a second quote from Mr. Katakya to replace the grass with York stone.

RESOLVED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To await the second quote from Mr. Katakya**

4.5 Stage Lights/Sound – Policy/Protocol

The Clerk had prepared a Stage Lights and Sound Policy/Protocol which had been circulated.

RESOLVED

Members to approve this and it to be circulated to all users

4.6 Chain Saw Training

The Clerk said that she had been asked to obtain details for Chain Saw Training which she had now done. The costs are approximately £575 per person plus a further £200 for safety clothing.

RESOLVED

Not to take any further action at this time

4.7 Access East Park

Cllr. Norman Dunn declared an interest and took no part in the discussions on this.

The Clerk had circulated a report re the above. Over the past few months there have been issues about the access to East Park from Hardwick Road. DCC have confirmed that this is not an official public right of way and is not included in the definitive rights of way map.

However, there is evidence it has been used over the years for access to East Park and beyond. The access strip is not owned by DCC but was retained by Ramsden Estates and they now indicate they wish to sell this at a cost of £10,000 plus costs to either STC or the two adjacent properties.

RESOLVED

After much discussion it was agreed that the Town Council would not purchase this area of land.

5. Financial Matters

5.1 Monthly Accounts

RESOLVED

The monthly accounts as had been circulated were approved for payment

5.2 Asbestos Survey Prices

The Clerk informed Members that two tenders have now been received.

RESOLVED

To defer these until building works actually take place at Ceddesfeld Hall

5.3 Donations / Grants: Section 137

5.3.1 South Durham Amateur Boxing Club

A request had been received from the above for a donation.

RESOLVED

Not to give a donation at this time

5.3.2 Vitalise

A request had been received from the above for a donation.

RESOLVED

Not to give a donation at this time

6. Training

None

7. Parish Hall

The Chairman, Cllr. Tim Jeanes gave a brief update on progress with the Parish Hall. He said most of the works have been completed although Mr. Peter Hannant will be carrying out some minor electrical works in the next couple of weeks.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

8. Fletcher Room

In the absence of Cllr. John Robinson this was deferred until the October P & R committee meeting.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Station Road Field: N. Holmes

A letter has been received from Mr. Neil Holmes regarding the registration of the Station Road field as village green.

RESOLVED

To invite Mr. Holmes to a meeting to discuss the implications of the registration

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at p.m.