

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES

Minutes of the proceedings of the **NOVEMBER POLICY & RESOURCES** of the **Council** held in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 12th November 2007**

Present **Cllr. David Brown** **(Acting-Chairman)**
Cllrs. D. Waters, T. Jeanes, I. Sutherland, R. Taylor, H. Clifford-Brown, S. Sutherland, N. Dunn, S. Hannan, A. Blakemore

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. J. Robinson, M. Robinson, L. Goddard, M. Garrood, J. Wayman

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Council Offices, Alterations

The Clerk informed Members that it was intended to go ahead and submit another application for LIP funding although this would not be until after the major works to the Parish Hall are completed and the LIP funding been drawn down for that scheme.

3.2 Sports Hall

The Clerk informed Members that Mr. Bill Hopps has confirmed he will be attending the November Community Development committee meeting to talk about facilities for the College as part of the new proposals for the school.

However, with regard to the outstanding loan on the Sports Hall – a letter has now been received from the Treasurer at Durham County Council (this was too late to be included in the papers). This informs Members that DCC have said they will not consider the repayment of the Town Council's outstanding loan until after the existing Sports Hall is demolished.

Concern was expressed by all Members about this. In particular there is an existing contract between DCC and STC for the Community use at the College and there is a need for discussions re the issues surrounding this i.e. BSF, Community Usage and the financial aspect.

RESOLVED

The Clerk to arrange a meeting with the appropriate portfolio holder and the Leader of the

County Council together with the County Councillor to discuss all of the issues as stated above. Once a date is confirmed the Clerk will email this to all Members for those who are able to attend.

3.3 Quality Councils Conference

The Clerk informed Members that two places have been accepted and paid for. It was agreed that this be an open invitation to all Members who wish to attend and in the event that none are available then the Community Development Officer, Angela Simpson be asked if she wishes to attend.

4. Reports

None

5. Financial Matters

5.1 Monthly Accounts

RESOLVED

The Monthly accounts as circulated were approved for payment.

5.2 Donations / Grants

None had been received

5.3 Preliminary Budget 2008/2009

The Clerk said these would be circulated for the December meeting.

5.4 2007/08 Pay Awards

The agreement has now been reached on the rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2007. The new rates amount to a 2.475% increase.

RESOLVED

To accept the new rates as payable from 1st April 2007

6. Training

6.1 Community Development University Course

The Clerk informed Members that Angela Simpson, Community Development Officer had attended four sessions. This is a one year course which Members had agreed that Mrs. Simpson should participate in. However, Mrs. Simpson had advised the Clerk that the learning facilities and substance had not been as expected and as such she had withdrawn from the course. The Clerk informed Members that this was a new experimental course and it may be beneficial to re-consider in future years when it has become more established.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

6.2 Engagement Event

Information on a Training Engagement Event re the Planning portal has been received from DCC. This is to take place on Wednesday 13th January.

RESOLVED

Someone to attend from the Town Council

6.3 CTP Training

Community Engagement Training Session

Information on the Community Engagement Training Session on 14th February has been received.

RESOLVED

Angela Simpson, Community Development Officer and Cllr. Maxine Robinson to attend

6.4 Training the Trainer Training

The Clerk said that the CTP is also organizing “Train the Trainer” sessions – at no cost to Town Council’s for those Members and Officers who wish to participate. However, there is the expectation following this that all participants will facilitate future training sessions for the CTP. In particular, Cllr. Maxine Robinson had been enrolled on “Advanced Train the Trainer” in London in December and the Clerk at the “Master Train the Trainer” in January – again in London.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

7. Correspondence

7.1 Bus Shelters: Former Sedgefield Community Hospital site

A letter has been received from Steve Teasdale, SBC regarding the Council's request for refurbishment of bus shelters near the former Community Hospital site to be included in Section 106 agreements. The letter points out that SBC have granted permission in June with no requirement for a Section 106 agreement because the Town Council did not ask for this. The Clerk informed Members she had already replied to this letter attaching two letters dated June 2006 and July 2006 from herself to the Planning Department, SBC asking for refurbishment of all bus shelters be included in discussions with all developers as part of the 106 agreement.

RESOLVED

To receive the information and await a response

7.2 CDALC: New Chairman/Vice-Chairman

A letter has been received from Steve Ragg at the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) encouraging local councils to apply for Quality Status. It was pointed out that Sedgefield already has Quality Status and has already produced the Parish Plan.

RESOLVED

To receive the information

**8. Response to letter to Mrs. Gloria Wills re Holiday Park/Code of Conduct
THIS WAS DISCUSSED UNDER EXEMPT INFORMATION.**

The Clerk reminded Members that a copy letter had been received from Mrs. Gloria Wills with the original to Cllr. Jim Wayman regarding the Holiday Park and issues surrounding the Code of Conduct. It had been agreed that the Clerk would take advice on a response which has now been done and a suggested reply was agreed by Members.

RESOLVED

To send the response as agreed to Mrs. Wills

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm. .