

**SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND  
ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **FEBRUARY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held at **7.05 pm** in the  
**Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre,  
Sedgefield, on  
**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

**Present**            **Cllr. Alf Walton (Vice-Chairman) and**  
Cllrs. David Brown, Mark Cant, Mel Carr, Lynne Dentith, Chris Lines, Ian  
Sutherland, Dudley Waters

**Officer**            Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

**1.        Apologies**

Cllrs Vanessa Carmichael, Tim Jeanes, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson and  
Gloria Wills

**2.        Declaration of interest**

None.

**3.        Matters of Information**

**3.1.    Equality Act 2010:**

When received Cllr Rebecca Hagan's Equality Act 2010 presentation will be  
given to the Policy & Records Management Working Group for  
consideration as part of their work on policy review as well as shared with  
those Cllrs who were not present at the original presentation.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**3.2. Fireworks Display 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015:**

A meeting with Scott and Adam Hillary of Reaction Fireworks on-site in the grounds at Ceddesfeld Hall has been arranged for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 2pm. The Clerk confirmed that all members of the Fireworks Working Group will be invited to attend this meeting if they wish.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**3.3. Grants/Projects Update Report:**

A specification in relation to tree stumps near the Church Wall in St Edmund's Churchyard has now been prepared and will be discussed under Item 5.5 of the Environment Committee.

Mrs Angela Simpson has continued to search for potential funders for the final phase of the Church Wall refurbishment but as yet nothing has been identified. This matter will be considered by the Estates Working Group on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.4. Section 106 Money in relation to Thurlow Grange:**

An Open Spaces Working Group meeting is scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and will consider this matter further and bring an appropriate recommendation back to a future Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.5. SCA Lease / Ceddesfeld Hall:**

This matter will now revert back to the P&R Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

**To close this matter.**

**3.6. Consideration of New Year's Eve Fireworks:**

The Clerk has written to Mrs Freda Dovaston. No response has been received as yet. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed of Mrs Dovaston's reply.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**3.7. Durham Local Food Business Network:**

Cllr Alf Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson have supplied to the Durham Local Food Business Network details of the Town Council's allotments so this can be included in their public information regarding all allotment and community growing sites around the County.

Following the last Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting Cllr Alf Walton had emailed all Cllrs with the latest position regarding the Council's allotments waiting list.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and close this matter.**

**3.8. Farmers' Market Plans for 2015:**

Mr Roger Clubley has identified that the Town Council purchased 12 gazebo weights on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2011 from Venture Industries Ltd. These weights cost £25 each. All 12 gazebo weights have now been located.

In the next few months the Development Trust hopes to be able to obtain purpose designed market stalls. At this point the Trust expect to stop using the Council's gazebos. Until this point the Farmers' Market expect to be able to manage with the 12 existing gazebo weights.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and close this matter.**

#### **4. Public Participation**

The Chairman, Cllr Alf Walton closed the meeting for the public to give their views and comments.

Mrs Julia Bowles stated that whilst she is confident all Cllrs have got the best interests of Sedgefield at heart it is important to stress the Sedgefield Plan is already a long way down the line and offers the best form of protection for the Town regardless of the County Durham Plan. The Sedgefield Plan should be about what the community want. CPRE and the Durham Groups are working hard on reducing the overall housing numbers for County Durham and this could have a significant difference.

The meeting was then re-opened.

#### **5. Skerne Landscape Partnership Proposal – Presentation by Ms Helen Ryde, 3 Rivers Local Nature Partnership**

Ms Josephine Ellis, DCC Spatial Policy Officer, gave a presentation regarding the Skerne Landscape Partnership Proposal entitled Bright Water. Bright Water is a Landscape Partnership Project for the River Skerne catchment. The project has developed over the last 8 months following initial discussions between the Environment Agency and Durham Wildlife Trust and currently covers the whole Skerne catchment, which extends from Trimdon in County Durham to Darlington. The development process has demonstrated that there is a wealth of natural, cultural and built heritage within the catchment of the River Skerne and significant potential to conserve and enhance that heritage, making it more accessible to local people and better known across the region. The Heritage Lottery Fund, funders of the Landscape Partnership Scheme, has been consulted and they agree that the area has potential and have suggested that a stage 1 development bid be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2015.

Cllr Ian Sutherland commented that he had seen this presentation before and as a result had viewed the catchment map accompanying the project. Only half of Sedgefield was included in this which excluded the Grade 2 listed gardens of Ceddesfeld Hall. Ms Ellis noted this comment and would feed back into the project.

Cllr Dudley Waters stated that in his experience of such projects it was important to show a strong link to education and educational benefits. Again, Ms Ellis noted this

comment.

Cllr Alf Walton asked if the project organisers would be speaking to local landowners to ensure their views were taken into consideration. Ms Ellis confirmed that this would be the case.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Ms Ellis to forward to the Clerk for dissemination to all Cllrs details of feedback required in relation to this project, on either an individual Cllr basis or collective Council basis (or ideally both), by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.**

**6. How To Identify and Apply for Grant Funding – Presentation by Mrs Angela Simpson**

Mrs Angela Simpson, Community Development Officer gave a presentation explaining how to identify and apply for grant funding. Over the last 10 years the Town Council has played a key role in securing £400,000 of grant funding on behalf of numerous groups within the Town. Sedgefield is not classified as a deprived area and therefore is not eligible for a significant amount of funding. However, the Town does have a number of notable strengths including a significant number of active voluntary groups, its heritage and its horticulture. Mrs Simpson gave an example of a current funding project being submitted under the umbrella of the Sedgefield In Bloom Group in relation to the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. Mrs Simpson stressed the important of knowing in advance what projects the Council and other groups would like funding for.

Cllr Chris Lines congratulated Mrs Simpson on her work and asked whether the Town Council should have a strategy for such work. Cllrs were in agreement of this so long as it did not take Mrs Simpson away from undertaking work on behalf of community groups in the Town. The Clerk confirmed that the purpose of a strategy would be the opposite of this, i.e. it would be to build further upon the successes already secured.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Work to commence on scoping and drafting a Town Council Grant**

## **Funding Policy.**

### **7. Reports**

#### **7.1 Grants/Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson**

The latest Grants/Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Mrs Simpson pointed out that Parish Hall IT refurbishment work is due to start soon and that an Energy Services Consultant had visited the Parish Hall and Council Offices that day in relation to the Warm Up North initiative.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

#### **7.2 Summer Coach Trip Report by Mrs Angela Simpson**

Prior to the meeting a report had been circulated to all by Mrs Angela Simpson.

**RESOLVED:**

**Mrs Angela Simpson to determine the venue for the Council's Summer coach trip and to notify the Cllrs of this decision.**

#### **7.3 Replacement Gazebo Cases Report by Mrs Angela Simpson**

Prior to the meeting a report had been circulated to all by Mrs Angela Simpson. Cllr Alf Walton queried why one sample bag had not been purchased as previously agreed at the Committee. Cllr Dudley Waters stated that a larger bag was needed based upon the feedback from Mr Roger Clubley and other regular users. Mrs Simpson explained that no larger bags are available. Cllr Ian Sutherland knew of a potential supplier and offered to work with Mrs Simpson to progress this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

**Mrs Angela Simpson and Cllr Ian Sutherland to seek larger replacement gazebo bags and report back to the Committee.**

### **8. Correspondence**

#### **8.1. Sedgefield In Bloom (minutes of meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the Sedgefield

In Bloom minutes of their meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**8.2. Sedgefield 700+ (minutes of meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the Sedgefield 700+ minutes of their meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**8.3. Mr Steve Grady – Request to hire grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall:**

The Clerk reported that Mr Steve Grady had requested the Town Council's permission to hire the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016 in order to have a marque for his wedding reception. The Clerk confirmed that Mr Grady has already booked Ceddesfeld Hall. Based upon guest numbers this would be classed as a medium scale event.

**RESOLVED:**

**Mr Grady to be given permission for this event and the Clerk to follow the Council's procedure for processing this request.**

**8.4. DCC Chairman's Medal Nomination – Mr Howard Smith:**

The Clerk reported that notification had been received from Mrs Victoria Richardson, PA to the Chairman of DCC and the Mayor of Durham, informing the Town Council that on this occasion our nomination of Mr Howard Smith for a DCC Chairman's Medal had been unsuccessful. The local AAP plan to hold an event at some point in order to recognize those who had been nominated. The Clerk has informed Mr Howard Smith.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**9. Financial Position**

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the Community Development and Engagement Committee**

**financial position.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.01p.m.