

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

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held at **7 pm** in the
Council Offices, Advice & Information Centre,
Sedgefield, on
Monday 16th March 2015.

Present **Cllr. Alf Walton (Vice-Chairman) and**
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Mark Cant, Mel Carr, Ian Sutherland, Dudley Waters
and Gloria Wills

Officer Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs David Brown, Vanessa Carmichael, Lynne Dentith, Rebecca Hagan, Tim
Janes, Chris Lines, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

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 2015 (31st October):

Cllr Alf Walton reported that earlier that day he along with the Clerk and Cllrs Dudley Waters, Allan Blakemore and Mel Carr had met with Adam and Scott Hillary of Reaction Fireworks. The meeting had taken place within the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall to discuss the 2014 Fireworks Event. It had been agreed that the grounds of Ceddesfeld do not provide enough flexibility to ensure that any future event will go ahead regardless of the weather conditions as there is no scope to move the crowd. Setting the fireworks off from the opposite side of the Lake is not a possibility due to the closeness of the houses on that side. It was felt that when considering the attendance figures at last year's event plus the number of people who were turned away that there is now an opportunity to instead grow the event elsewhere with the option of the Cricket Club (and possibly the Rugby Club) being explored for the 2015 event on 31st October 2015. Regardless of location this event must be taken forward with DCC's Safety Advisory Group (SAG). As a courtesy the Clerk had contacted the Chair of the Cricket Club to make them aware this matter was to be discussed at this meeting. In principle the Cricket Club would be supportive of such an event so long as the Cricket Square was protected, however, further more detailed discussions would be required. Cllr Allan Blakemore reminded Cllrs that the Rugby Club is a separate entity to the Cricket Club and the Clerk confirmed that until this matter had been considered by Cllrs and it was determined if/how the Rugby Club would be involved/impacted no approach had yet been made to them.

Cllr Ian Sutherland expressed his concern that until a commercial company had become involved in this event there had never been any problem with the event taking place in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall and felt the Town Council were being dictated to by an outside organization. He requested the Town Council seek a second opinion regarding the viability of the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. Cllr Allan Blakemore stated that if a future incident occurred at Ceddesfeld when concerns had been expressed regarding the site he was unsure how this would affect insurance. Cllr Ian Sutherland expressed concerns that the Cricket Club site would allow people to watch the event without having to pay.

Cllr Mark Cant suggested the Sedgefield Showfield may be considered as a

possible option for the event in the future. Cllr Alf Walton reported that this site had been considered for last year, however, following discussions with Cllr David Brown there are covenants and stipulations governing the field which mean it is not an option for the Town Council's event.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council to seek a second opinion on the viability of the grounds of Ceddesfeld for the 2015 event and the Cricket Club site. Feedback from this to be considered by the Fireworks Working Group with a recommendation being brought back to a future Community Development & Engagement Committee as soon as possible.

3.3. Section 106 Money in Relation to Thurlow Grange:

An Open Spaces Working Group meeting took place on 24th February 2015 and work is now to be undertaken to prepare a recommendation for a future Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.4. 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.

3.5. Skerne Landscape Partnership Proposal:

The Clerk has circulated 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 31st March 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6. How To Identify and Apply For Grant Funding:

Mrs Angela Simpson has been tasked to draft a Town Council Grant Funding Strategy to presentation at a future Community Development & Engagement Committee. Mrs Simpson is to keep Cllrs informed of this work. Cllr Mark Cant suggested that it would be more appropriate to set a deadline for seeing the first draft of this Strategy.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Simpson be tasked to present a first draft of a Grant Funding Strategy to the May 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting.

3.7. Replacement Gazebo Cases:

Cllr Ian Sutherland has now supplied contact details to Mrs Angela Simpson who is now liaising with a company in order to progress the issue of potential replacement gazebo cases. Mrs Simpson to keep Cllrs informed of this work.

Cllr Allan Blakemore suggested that Mrs Angela Simpson liaise with Mr Roger Clubley of the Sedgefield Development Trust to determine whether it would be possible to submit an appropriate funding bid under the name of the Trust to cover the cost of replacement gazebo cases. If the Trust already have funding applications submitted then it was agreed by Cllrs that another Group within the Town should be identified and worked within order to seek grant funding.

RESOLVED:

Mrs Angela Simpson to be tasked to take this matter forward and to report back with progress to the Community Development & Engagement Committee.

3.8. Request to Hire Grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall:

Mr Grady has been given permission in principle to hire the grounds and has been issued with a hire application form and payment request.

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. Members of the public present did not have views or comments to make. The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Grants / Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

The latest Grants/Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson had been circulate to all prior to the meeting. The Clerk pointed out that in addition to the information contained in this report Ms Jane Bellis from the APP had made the Clerk aware of new Locality Funding which was being made available for Neighbourhood Planning. Initial investigations by Mrs Angela Simpson had found the Town Council was eligible to apply for this funding and an application will be drafted and submitted later this week.

Cllr Alf Walton requested further information regarding the Stanley Smith Horticulture funding request being submitted by the Sedgefield In Bloom Group. Cllr Ian Sutherland reported that the Bloom Group will soon be officially writing to the Town Council explaining this application. This application relates to the historic renovation of the area of ground at Ceddesfeld opposite the doors of the Hall in the car park area. The area is entirely overgrown with ivy and an application has been submitted to create a sympathetic garden area reflecting the history of the Hall. The Bloom Group will also be liaising with the Local History Group as part of this project.

Cllr Gloria Wills expressed concern that funding applications are being submitted without being brought to the Community Development & Engagement Committee first. The Clerk explained this is one of the reasons why the Council needs to have a Grant Funding Strategy which details appropriate protocols agreed by Council. Cllr Wills voiced her concern that often funding applications are determined by individual groups rather than coming through the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and until the Grant Funding Strategy is finalised no further funding applications be submitted without being brought to the Community Development & Engagement Committee for approval first (with the exception of the Localities Grant Funding Application).

5.2. Sowers & Growers Report by Cllr Alf Walton

The Clerk circulated to all copies of a Sowers & Growers Report by Cllr Alf Walton. This detailed the newly formed community group which now had a constituted Committee to work in partnership with the Town Council. It was proposed in this report that the Town Council hold a financial account on behalf of the Group in a similar way to that currently done for the Sedgefield In Bloom Group. It was agreed by Cllrs this was a good idea. Cllrs welcomed the news that allotment holders at both sites wanted to work together. Cllr Ian Sutherland reported that at the recent Inaugural Northumbria In Bloom meeting which he had attended it had been announced that a similar award was being introduced for allotments. Cllrs expressed interest in this news and it was agreed that Cllrs Ian Sutherland and Alf Walton meet to share information which can then be disseminated to the Sowers & Growers Group.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and a recommendation to hold a financial account on behalf of the Sedgefield Sowers & Growers be taken to the April 2015 P&R Committee.

6. Correspondence

6.1. Sedgefield In Bloom (minutes of meeting held on 4th March 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sedgefield In Bloom meeting held on 4th March 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and in future Sedgefield In Bloom/Sedgefield Sowers and Growers minutes to be presented to the Environment Committee.

6.2. Sedgefield 700+ (minutes of meeting held on 11th March 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sedgefield 700+ meeting held on 11th March 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.3. Foodbank – Sedgefield (update from Mr Michael King dated 12th March 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of an update from Mr Michael King regarding the foodbank in Sedgefield.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and this item to be placed on the April 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee agenda for discussion once Cllrs have considered Mr King's update.

6.4. Willowdene Care Home Worldwide Tea Party Invitation:

The Clerk circulated to all copies of an invitation to attend a Worldwide Tea Party at Willowdene Care Home on 18th March 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Financial Position:

RESOLVED:

To approve the Community Development and Engagement Committee Financial Position.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.37p.m.