

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

Minutes of the proceedings of the **DECEMBER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held at **7 pm** in the
Council Offices, Advice & Information Centre,
Sedgefield, on
Monday 15th December 2014.

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

Officer Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Vanessa Carmichael, Dudley Waters and Gloria Wills.

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Bowling Club:

The Bowling Club have now submitted their planning application and this has now been considered by the Environment Committee on 17th November 2014.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.2 Equality Act 2010:

Rather than forward Cllr Hagan's presentation to all Cllrs it will be given to the Policy & Records Management Working Group for consideration as part of their

work on policy review. Cllr Hagan to supply her presentation to the Clerk for her to then share with those Cllrs not present at the original presentation.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3 Youth Working Group:

The first meeting of this Group took place on Monday 1st December 2014. Recommendations will be brought to future Community Development & Engagement Committee meetings.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.4 Public Participation:

In response to a question asked by Mrs Julia Bowles of the Residents Forum, the Clerk had written to DCC's County Archaeologist requesting what is to be done as a result of recent finds following digging in Sedgefield. Mr David Mason, Principal Archaeologist of DCC, reported that current investigations were being carried out to provide information about any archaeology on the site prior to the determination of a planning application. Information recovered so far suggested prehistoric enclosure containing what are probably the foundation slots for timber roundhouse(s), possibly multi-period. Should planning permission be granted DCC would ensure some form of public/schools access in the form of Open Day(s).

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.5 Fireworks Display 2014 / 2015:

The Clerk reported that she is now in discussions with Mr Scott Hillary of Reaction Fireworks to make him aware of the recommendations agreed by Cllrs at the last Community Development & Engagement Meeting for the Fireworks Display on Saturday 31st October 2015. A site meeting within the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall will be arranged for early in the New Year between Reaction Fireworks, the Clerk and representatives of the Fireworks Working Group. At this point information will

be brought back to the Community Development & Engagement Committee in the form of a Progress Report by the Fireworks Working Group.

Cllr Ian Sutherland asked when New Year's Eve Fireworks 2015 would be considered by the Council. The Clerk explained that it had been agreed by Cllrs this matter would be discussed at the next Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting in January 2015 and this had been promoted to the public via the recent article in the Sedgefield News.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation

The Vice Chairman, Cllr. Alf Walton, closed the meeting for public participation, however, no members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Grants/Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

This report had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk highlighted page 3 which detailed the latest position with regards the funding application for the final phase of the Church Wall's restoration. This grant application had been declined by CDCF on the basis that the application "supports the advancement of religion/faith". This decision was challenged as the application did not relate to religious advancement but instead to the health and safety plus historic preservation of an important building. At this point it was discovered that the only funders who would consider this particular project were Premier Waste Landfill and they had gone bankrupt 6 months ago (after the Council's previous funded application). CDCF do not regard this as a community project and therefore the wind farms would not provide funding. Cllr David Brown reminded Cllrs that the Church Wall is the responsibility of the Town Council and that as all other sections of the wall have now been refurbished it is important that the entire wall is completed.

Cllr Ian Sutherland expressed concerns regarding several tree stumps near to an area of already refurbished Church Wall which could be pressing against

the structure. He recommended that specialist advice is sought for the removal of such stumps. Cllr Sutherland also made Cllrs aware that Sedgefield In Bloom are currently working on submitting two grant applications. One is to refurbish the grounds at the front of Ceddesfeld Hall and once the application is at an appropriate stage it will be brought to the Town Council for endorsement. The other application relates to the refurbishment and siting of the old gate to Hardwick Park.

The Clerk reported that whilst Cllrs have said how useful the new Grant Funding Report is she asked if Cllrs would find it useful to have a presentation from Mrs Angela Simpson detailing the different types of funding available, how funding is identified and an explanation of how applications are compiled and submitted. All Cllrs felt this would be extremely beneficial. The Clerk also recommended that Cllrs regularly consider what projects they may require grant funding for so that work can be done proactively on such applications. Again this was agreed and it was felt this matter should be discussed with Mrs Simpson as part of her future presentation.

RESOLVED:

- i) Mrs Angela Simpson be asked to identify and approach other potential funders for the completion of the final phase of the Church Wall's refurbishment and if none can be found this work to be factored into the 2015/16 Council budget to ensure the Church Wall is refurbished in entirety.**
- ii) The Clerk to seek specialist advice regarding tree stumps near to the Church Wall in order to develop a specification to obtain quotations for consideration at a future Environment Committee meeting.**
- iii) Mrs Angela Simpson be invited to attend the February 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting to give a presentation on how grant funding is identified, applied for and spent.**

5.2 Snow Party Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a report which had been prepared by Mrs Angela Simpson summarizing the recent Snow Party held on Saturday 29th November 2014. A debrief meeting will be held in January 2015 to identify

lessons learned from this event.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.3 Farmers' Market Latest Progress Report by Mr Roger Clubley

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a report which had been prepared by Mr Roger Clubley of the Sedgefield Development Trust Ltd. This report detailed the progress of the Farmers' Market in the first nine months of operations since transfer of responsibility from the Town Council to the Development Trust. The Clerk explained that Mr Clubley would be attending the Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting in January 2015 in order to answer Cllrs questions on this report and to also explain in more detail the plans for the market in 2015.

Cllrs Ian Sutherland and Alf Walton questioned the issue of charging for Village Green hire. The Clerk confirmed that advice had been sought from DCC's Village Greens expert and this matter was due to be considered by the Open Spaces Group at their next meeting (date to be determined upon receipt of evidence file from Ivy Row/Station Road Residents Alliance). A subsequent report will be brought back to the Environment Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.4 Section 106 Money in Relation To Thurlow Grange Report by Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a report to all detailing the Section 106 money totaling £10,500 which is available in relation to land at Thurlow Grange, Sedgefield with a stipulation of being for provision or improvement of open space or play facilities off-site. The report detailed how such money can be accessed. Now the Town Council needs to determine potential projects for such money. Cllr Lynne Dentith reminded Cllrs that whatever project is chosen careful thought and consideration should be given to any potential on-going maintenance costs which may be incurred by the Town Council as a result.

RESOLVED:

The Open Spaces Working Group to identify ways in which this money could be used and to bring a Recommendations Paper back to a future Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting prior to any discussion with County Councillors.

5.5 Sedgefield Mediaeval Fayre 2015 Report by Cllr John Robinson

Prior to the meeting a report had been circulated by Cllr John Robinson on behalf of the SCA requesting the Town Council's permission to use the Village Greens for Sedgefield's 45th Mediaeval Fayre to be held on Saturday 16th May 2015.

RESOLVED:

To allow the Mediaeval Fayre to use the Village Greens on Saturday 16th May 2015.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Sedgefield 700+ Group (minutes of meeting held 12th November 2014)

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a copy of the minutes of the Sedgefield 700+ meeting held on 12th November 2014.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.2 Sedgefield In Bloom (minutes of meeting held on 3rd December 2014)

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a copy of the minutes of the Sedgefield In Bloom meeting held on 3rd December 2014.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.3 DCC Chairman's Medal

Cllr Ian Sutherland reported that nominations are now being sought for DCC's Chairman's Medal which is presented to individuals and groups to recognize significant achievement and outstanding effort in all walks of life. Cllr Sutherland proposed the Town Council nominate Mr Howard Smith for his significant contribution to the Sedgefield In Bloom Group over the last 3 years which is reflected in the success achieved by the Group in this time. Cllr David Brown seconded this proposal.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council to nominate Mr Howard Smith for a DCC Chairman's Award with the Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork.

7. Financial Position

RESOLVED:

To approve the CD&E Committee Financial position.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.22p.m.