

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JANUARY ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held following the Community Development and Engagement committee in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 20th January 2014**.

Present **Cllr. Mel Carr (Chairman) and**
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Lynne Dentith, Rebecca Hagan, Tim Jeanes, Chris Lines, John Robinson, Ian Sutherland, Alf Walton, Gloria Wills

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Mark Cant, Maxine Robinson, Dudley Waters

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

Both on agenda

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

5.2 Flooding: Station Road Field

Mrs. Scott informed Members that Northumbrian Water Company had dye tested the foul water drains on the houses and said it would be necessary to do a surface water drains test. The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Public Toilets

The Clerk had circulated a report on the current situation of the Public Toilets together with a report from October 2001.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information
- ii) To establish a working party to take forward long-term plan for all council

buildings / estate.

5.2 Turning Circle

A report from Cllr. Ian Sutherland had been circulated. This identifies the problems with the cobbles / sets.

Cllr. David Brown said that it was important that any improvements include wheelchair accessibility.

Cllr. Alf Walton also stressed the need for improvements.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr informed members that he and the Clerk are meeting with Mrs. Judith Miller (DCC Conservation Area Officer) on Wednesday morning at 10 am and that all Members are welcome to attend the meeting. It is hoped at that time to discuss the situation with a view to a long-term solution for the problem.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To await a report from the meeting with Mrs. Miller**
- iii) To seek a price from Neil Kearton (church wall contractor) and ask him to carry out immediate repairs to the cobbles using a lime mortar.**

6. Correspondence

6.1 Managing the Forest Estate

Information has been received from DCC re the above.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To ask that notice is given as to when DCC are beginning the work.**

6.2 Church Turning Circle: St. Edmund's DCC

A letter has been received from the Church in respect of the above.

RECOMMENDED

To respond with information as per item 5.2.

6.3 Tree Works: 30 Mitford Court

The Clerk had circulated a price for works for two trees to the rear of 30 Mitford Court.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) Cllr. Ian Sutherland to work with the Clerk to look at the situation and put in an application for any necessary works.**

6.4 Speedvisors: DCC

The Clerk informed Members that the grant application for the Speedvisors to the County Durham Community Fund had been turned down.

RECOMMENDED

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **To pass this on to the Residents' Forum**

6.5 Durham County Council Tree Management Policy Consultation

The Clerk had circulated details re the above.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

7. Residents Only Parking Permits

Cllr. Gloria Wills said she had been approached by residents experiencing problems with parking on West End particularly near the Scout Hut.

Cllr. Mel Carr read out details of information he had received previously about parking permits.

This was then discussed thoroughly.

RECOMMENDED

Members agreed that whilst sympathetic to the parking problem in various areas of Sedgefield unfortunately they felt they could take no further action on this.

8. Financial Position: Environment committee

Information re the above had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

9. Estimate for Supply of Garden Rotavator

Cllr. Alf Walton reported that since the last meeting he had looked into the purchase of a garden Rotavator from a variety of outlets. However taking into account price, discount and decibel output he suggested that members consider the Honda at a cost of £535.

RECOMMENDED

To purchase the Honda at £535 from Ripon Farm Services.

It was confirmed that this Rotavator is for the use of the town council staff only however there is scope for the town council to rotavate allotments before a re-letting as and when necessary.

10. Station Road Flooding

Information had been received from Northumbrian Water Authority informing Members that they were dye testing and CCTV surveying the drains in December. The Clerk said she had spoken to NWA that day and they had confirmed that the dye tests had shown there were no problems and whilst the CCTV survey indicated that there was some problem with some of the drains in the field these were at a distance from the problem area but would be

included in their programme of works.

The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Northumbrian Water for a written report on this. In addition Cllr. Gloria Wills said it was important to request a further freedom of information enquiry regarding the geotechnical survey which was done for the Ivy Row development. Cllr. John Robinson said he had written to Northumbrian Water as a County Councillor in respect of issues raised about overall problems with the drains in Sedgefield.

Cllr. John Robinson said he would pass on a copy of his letter to Northumbrian Water to the Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

- i) To receive the information**
- ii) To make a further Freedom of Information Request to DCC in respect of the geotechnical survey for the Ivy Row development**
- iii) To await the response to Cllr. John Robinson from Northumbrian Water re the other drains in Sedgefield.**

11. Allotments

The Clerk circulated an email from the Police Sergeant Alex Clarke in respect of signage, paint marking etc. for around the allotments. The cost of this would be £150.

RECOMMENDED

To thank Sgt. Clerk but not to take this any further.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.40 p.m.