

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held following the Community Development and Engagement committee in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgfield, on **Monday 17th March 2014.**

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

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

Apologies

Cllrs. Rebecca Hagan, Chris Lines, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

None

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments. The meeting was then re-opened.

4.1 Station Road

Mrs. Scott asked about Northumbrian Water surveying the drains and asked that they be asked again to dye test the surface water drains.

4.2 Housing

Mrs. Julia Bowles Chairman of the Residents' Forum said that it was very clear from the recent Neighbourhood Plan that residents wish to retain the rural aspect of Sedgfield. Mrs. Bowles then read out the wording on the proposed petition re the application for housing at Eden Drive.

5. Mr. Stephen Young Gardening Supervisor

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Stephen Young the Gardening Supervisor to the meeting.

This was discussed in conjunction with the written report which the Clerk had prepared on the site

meeting in the Cemetery which had been held on 4th March and attended by Cllr. Mel Carr, Chairman of Environment, Cllrs. Alf Walton, Dudley Waters, Allan Blakemore and Ian Sutherland to discuss the recycling bays.

Mr. Young thanked the Council for inviting him and said he was seeking clarification on the work the council wanted to do in the Cemetery.

The meeting discussed the recycling, need for screening around the recycling bays and also fencing etc.

RECOMMENDED

- i. **Two additional bays to be installed in line with the existing using funding obtained by Sedgefield in Bloom.**
- ii. **The area to be screened – hedging to be purchased once the new bays are in situ.**
- iii. **All possible material to be recycled.**
- iv. **The branches to be chipped and used by the Gardening Supervisor**
- v. **The composting plants to be turned and once rotted down to be transferred to a second bay for use.**
- vi. **One bay to be used for soil etc. from graves and which will then need to be used to back fill and level graves and even up other areas as needed.**
- vii. **If necessary a skip to be brought in once the area is tidied to take away any additional rubble / rubbish.**
- viii. **To plant a hedge from West to East across the top of the Cemetery on the boundary fence.**
- ix. **To obtain prices for metal fencing for the 45 metres along the Northern boundary of the Cemetery to the Lane**
- x. **A Working Party to be established to look at the future requirements for land etc. for the Cemetery. This to report back to the June Environment committee.**

6. Reports

6.1 Sedgefield in Bloom

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

6.2 Station Road Flooding

The Chairman Cllr. Mel Carr gave a resume of correspondence and information to date re the above. In addition a response has been received from Northumbrian Water which had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

- i. **To receive the information.**
- ii. **To arrange a further site meeting and invite a representative of Northumbrian**

Water.

- iii. **To discuss the field at a future Monthly meeting.**

6.3 Composting Bays at Cemetery

This was discussed in conjunction with the report from Mr. Stephen Young at Item 5.

6.4 Allotments 5 Year Plan

The Clerk had prepared a report re the above.

RECOMMENDED

The Allotments Champion Cllr. Alf Walton to undertake a report and in addition the Working Party which is to be established to look at the Cemetery matters will also consider matters re the allotments.

6.5 Grass cutting tenders

This had been deferred from the P&R Committee and delegated to the Chairs/ Vice Chairs of P&R and Environment who had met immediately before the meetings that evening.

Two tenders had been received from C. walker and Altogether Greener. The quotes had been very close but it was suggested to accept the quote from C. E. Walker.

RECOMMENDED

To accept the quote from C. E. Walker.

7. Correspondence

7.1 Sedgefield in Bloom: Watering

A letter has been received from Sedgefield in Bloom in respect of re-charge for watering.

RECOMMENDED

The Town Council to levy a charge of £100 to the Bloom for watering the additional plants, tubs etc. which Sedgefield in Bloom have provided.

7.2 Improvements to the Turning Circle: DCC

The Clerk had circulated a letter from Mrs. Judith Miller the Conservation Area Officer outlining suggestions and a specification for the replacement of the existing cobbles on the Turning Circle. The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr said he had contacted Mrs. Miller for further details on these.

RECOMMENDED

- i. **To establish a Working Party.**
- ii. **The Chairman Cllr. Mel Carr to invite contractors and he and the Working Party to draw up a specification which can be used to invite tenders to replace the existing cobbles and ensure a smoother more accessible surface.**

7.3 Bloom Plaque

A request has been received from Sedgefield in Bloom to have a plaque on the Parish Hall re Sedgefield in Bloom achievements.

It was pointed out that Sedgefield in Bloom will pay for the plaque etc.

RECOMMENDED

To approve the request.

7.4 Mediaeval Fayre Committee

A letter has been received from the Mediaeval Fayre committee re use of the Greens for the Fayre in May and also a request that the Town Council arrange for a skip and litter picking etc.

RECOMMENDED

To write back to the Mediaeval Fayre Committee agreeing to the £100 cost for the hire of the village green for the day but point out that whilst the Town Council is happy to arrange for the litter picking and skip there will be a £600 limit on this and that the Mediaeval Fayre committee would need to agree to pay any excess.

8. Financial Position

Revised figures had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

9. Compost / Wood Chipping

The Clerk said she had invited three tenders however only one had been received.

Cllr. Gloria Wills said she had the name of a further contractor.

RECOMMENDED

The Clerk to obtain a price from the second contractor. The decision on the tender to be then delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the P & R and Environment committees.

10. Estimate: Repairs to Church Wall

The Clerk had circulated a costing from Mr. Neil Kearton the Contractor who has carried out the works to date on the Church Wall. This is for the final section of the wall.

RECOMMENDED

- i. To obtain a further estimate for the work.**
- ii. To seek a further grant for the final stretch of the wall through the Friends of St Edmund's.**

11. Advertising on Roundabouts

Cllr. Alf Walton informed Members that he had enquired about advertising on the roundabouts which DCC are inviting businesses to sponsor.

RECOMMENDED

To write to Durham County Council asking information on their policy on the monies that are being raised by this advertising and in addition if they would consider enhancing the existing roundabouts in Sedgfield using some of the monies raised.

12. Entrance Signs

Cllr. Ian Sutherland said that in the past the Town Council and Sedgfield in Bloom have requested that a plate be added to the existing Sedgfield signs on the approach roads to Sedgfield re winning Gold in the National Britain in Bloom. This had been turned down by Durham County Council however Cllr. Sutherland said it would be acceptable that a bracket could be fixed to the tubs at the entrance signs with wording to the effect of Sedgfield in Bloom Gold Winners.

RECOMMENDED

To seek agreement in principle from Durham County Council for the above.

13. Car Boot Sale

This had been added to the agenda by Cllr. Rebecca Hagan. However in Cllr. Hagan's absence Cllr. Mark Cant asked that the Council write to Sedgfield Racecourse and request they ensure the litter is picked up after each of the car boot sales.

RECOMMENDED

This was agreed and the Clerk will write to the Racecourse.

14. Water Tank: Cost of Water Tank

The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr reminded Members that the Council is seeking prices to install a water tank which will gravity feed the water bowser. A price has now been received of £40 for the tank and £200 for the framework.

RECOMMENDED

To accept the price.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.