

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 13th January 2014**

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

Officer L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Minutes and Reports

a) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 9th December 2013

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AB, GW)

b) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 9th December 2013

These were confirmed as a correct record. (GW, LD)

c) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 9th December 2013

These were confirmed as a correct record. (Mel Carr, VC)

d) Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 9th December 2013

These were confirmed as a correct record. (VC, Mel Carr)

e) Minutes of the Special P & R: 6th January 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record. (GW, AB)

RESOLVED: To accept all of the minutes as above and recommendations contained therein

4. Matters of Information

4.1 Mobile Home: Spring Lane

The Clerk informed Members that she had e-mailed DCC again and was awaiting a response.

4.2 Hardwick Park

The Clerk said she had written again to English Heritage and was awaiting a response.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

5. Dates of Meetings

These had been circulated.

The dates included the dates for the Annual Town Meeting on May 6th and the annual General Meeting on Monday May 13th.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

6. Police Report

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. Alex Clarke to the meeting who proceeded to give the Police Report on incidents over the past month.

Sgt. Clarke answered all questions and was thanked for attending by the Chairman.

7. Hardwick Park: Events and other

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Simon Heeney, DCC Officer at Hardwick Park.

The Chairman informed Members that the Town Council had been contacted by Sarah Fortune DCC Officer from Hardwick offering to come to a meeting to talk about and answer questions on Hardwick Park and events. Unfortunately Mrs. Fortune had not been able to attend and Mr. Heeney had come along in her place.

Mr. Heeney gave details including: -

- a) Hardwick Park is second most popular attraction in Durham after the Cathedral
- b) Various events and fund-raising
- c) Locally organized events including Park Run etc.
- d) New Play Area which is very popular
- e) Biggest difficulty facing Hardwick Park is the budget cuts – currently £160,000 this year. This led to the Parking costs etc.
- f) Some issues including the East Park access. The recommendation from Highways was to introduce the new access from the Park roundabout at a cost of £38,000.
- g) The use of East Park for parking for Hardwick Live also contributed to fund raising to offset the £160,000 budget cut.

Other projects included:

- a) New Flower Beds
- b) Various improvements to the Park

Mr. Heeney offered to work with the Town Council and other local groups.

Mr. Heeney answered all questions including issues around double yellow lines at the entrance, noise issues at Hardwick Live, use of East Park over two days.

Cllr. Gloria Wills suggested using the Temple Field rather than East Park for Hardwick Live. Mr. Heeney assured Members that there are discussions with Hardwick Hall for the 2014 event.

Cllr. Ian Sutherland asked that the Town Council be informed of all large scale events.

Mr. Heeney was thanked for attending by the Chairman.

8. Public Participation

- a) Mrs. Julia Bowles (Chairman of Residents' Forum) said a meeting had been held with Hardwick Hall re the 2014 Hardwick Live event and the Residents' Forum are awaiting further information.
- b) Mrs. Bowles also asked about Community Right to Bid – which the Town Council are discussing at the P&R committee.
- c) Mrs. Bowles and Mr. Howard Smith commented on issues re the Black Lion and asked this to be forwarded to the Police.
- d) Mrs. Ellen Guest (Youth Worker) expressed great concern about the current consultation re Youth Worker Provision in this area and the massive impact if Mrs. Guest is not re-appointed for the Sedgefield Area.
- e) Freda Dovaston who presented a petition re ending the New Year's Eve Firework display and asked that this be re-considered.

9. New Town Clerk Interview Panel

In the absence of Cllr. John Robinson this item was not discussed.

RESOLVED

To ask Cllr. John Robinson to forward the issues he wishes to raise to the personnel committee.

10. Recording Apologies and Attendance

Cllr. Rebecca Hagan expressed concern about recording attendance in the Sedgefield Extra as part of the Annual Report in May.

RESOLVED

- i) **Cllr. Rebecca Hagan to prepare a paper with suggestions to discuss at a future personnel committee.**
- ii) **The Clerk to seek legal advice on the situation.**

11. Internal Reports

11.1 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported he had been very involved with the Neighbourhood Plan and in particular the website.

The survey has now been circulated.

Cllr. Ian Sutherland expressed concern that the Town Council had not seen the questionnaire before publication. It was suggested he raise this with the steering group.

11.2 Mayor's Report

Details of recent events that the Mayor has attended recently: -

Report for December 2013 January 2014

December

- Sedgefield Town Council Annual Ecumenical Carol Service at St Edmunds. The children from Hardwick and Sedgefield primary schools participated.
- Shildon Town Council Civic Carol Service at Civic Centre. Lead by Major Linda Watson (Salvation Army) with carols by St Joseph's RC Primary School Coundon
- Chilton Town Council Civic Carol Service at St Aidan's. Attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Co. Durham, Sue Snowdon, with the children from Chilton Primary school choir, Steel Pans and Ferryhill Town Band performing.
- Spennymoor Town Council Civic Carol Service at the Town Hall. St Charles R C Primary School and Sunderland Monkwearmouth Young Peoples Band took part.
- Hartlepool Borough Council, Carol Service at the Council Chamber. Carols by Hartlepool Borough Choir
- Great Aycliffe Town Council Civic Carol Service at St Clare's. The children of the Shine Choir, the Marie Clare Choir and the Mothers Union took part.

January 2014

- Sedgefield Community Association, Christmas Evening at Ceddesfeld Hall
- Butterwick Hospice 30 years Celebration Service held at St Cuthbert's RC church, Stockton. Taking part were the Archbishop of York, Dr. John Sentamu, Billingham Silver Band, Tees Valley Youth Choir, Teesside High Primary school, St Francis Church Youth Flag Flyers and many others.

In addition the Clerk gave details of the forthcoming Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance on Friday March 7th at Hardwick Hall, and encouraged everyone to buy tickets.

12. External Reports

None.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Sedgefield Library Garage: DCC

A letter has been received from DCC re the sale of the above.

RESOLVED

To take no action.

13.2 Royal Garden Parties 2014

An invitation has been received from CDALC re nominations to attend a Royal Garden Party.

RESOLVED

To nominate Cllr. Dudley Waters.

13.3 Youth Provision

A letter has been received from Mrs. Ellen Guest on behalf of the Duke of Edinburgh Youth Group requesting the Town Council to re-visit the provision of a Youth facility for Sedgefield.

RESOLVED

To discuss next week at the Community Development and Engagement Committee.

14. Applications

14.1 Current Applications

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

RESOLVED

The comments are as attached and are to be forwarded to DCC.

15. To set the precept for 2014 / 2015 as per recommendation of the Special Meeting on Monday 6th January 2014

RESOLVED

To set a precept of £231,454 which represents a Council Tax of £127.60 on a Band D property. This represents a reduction of £965 on the previous precept and a zero increase in the council tax.

16. Cuts in youth provision

The Chairman said this is of concern and with a cut in Youth Provision will have a detrimental impact in Sedgefield.

Cllr. Lynne Dentith suggested establishing a working party to look at the overall issues.

Cllr. Rebecca Hagan gave full support to Mrs. Guest and said a Youth facility is needed and that funding needs to be discussed.

Cllr. Gloria Wills suggested that a partnership would be beneficial in moving this forward.

Cllr. Ian Sutherland said it was essential to write to DCC supporting Mrs. Guest's work in the Sedgefield area.

RESOLVED

i) To receive the information

ii) To discuss at January Community Development and Engagement committee

iii) This to be raised at the next AAP Board meeting by Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Dudley Waters and Mel Carr.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.23 pm.