

SEDGEFIELD 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 12th January 2015.**

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

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Dudley Waters, John Robinson and Maxine Robinson.
County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon (DCC).
Sgt Alex Clarke.

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 8 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (AB / IS).

b) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 8 December 2014

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

c) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Monday 15 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (AW / Mark Cant).

d) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 15 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (Mel Carr / AW).

e) Minutes of the Finance Working Group meetings held 3 and 17 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (GW / Mel Carr) (GW / Mel Carr).

f) Minutes of the Personnel committee meeting held Tuesday 16 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (LD / AB).

g) Minutes of Youth Working Group Monday 1 December 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record (CL / JA).

Cllrs Tim Jeanes and David Brown joined the meeting.

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

4. Matters of Information

4.1. Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans:

The Clerk reported Ms Susan Porter (DCC Senior Planning Enforcement Officer – South West Area) had confirmed that a planning application in relation to the above site had been submitted to DCC before Christmas and, as at 7th January 2015, this had been validated for processing. This planning application has now been published (DM/14/03813/FPA) on the DCC list and will be considered under agenda item 12.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and close this matter.

4.2. Public Participation:

The Clerk reported that in response to Mrs Julia Bowles concerns regarding the state of the front of the old Bells Store/Sainsbury's store discussions had taken place with Ms Hilary Sperring of DCC's Planning Department. Ms Sperring had confirmed that the advertising application (DM/14/00252/AD) for this store had been approved in May 2014 and the applicant had 5 years for this and then the shop has to be returned to how it was to the satisfaction of the local planning authority.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) The Clerk to write to the Store Owners asking them for an update and making them aware of residents concerns regarding the current state of the shop's frontage.**

4.3. Presentation of Sedgfield Plan to Town Council:

This meeting took place on Monday 5th January 2015 with a further Special Town Council meeting scheduled for 19th January 2015 at 6.30pm in the Council Offices. An agenda and updated draft Sedgfield Plan will be circulated to all Cllrs in advance of this meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and close this matter.

4.4. Current Planning Applications:

Comments made on planning applications considered during the December Monthly Meeting had been submitted to DCC Planning Officers.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates for meetings taking place in January 2015 and events scheduled for March – October 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed Cllrs that since these dates had been circulated the following additional meetings had been scheduled:

- Estates Working Group meeting – Thursday 15th January 2015, 10am, Council Offices and then Sedgefield Cemetery
- Special Town Council meeting to consider the Draft Sedgefield Plan – Monday 19th January 2015, 6.30pm, Council Offices

The Clerk also reminded Cllrs about the Mayor's Civic Dinner and Dance at Hardwick Hall Hotel on Friday 6th March 2015 and distributed invitations to those present.

RESOLVED;

To receive this information.

6. Police Report

PC John Seymour read out the Police Report which covered the period 8th December 2014 – 12th January 2015. PC Seymour stated that during the last month the Sedgefield area had experienced a significant rise in crime with 23 incidents of reported crime being reported. The figures included 12 non-dwelling burglaries comprising 9 garage burglaries on the Winterton Estate, 1 garage burglary in Maple Grove (23rd December 2014 when Christmas presents were stolen), a shed burglary in Cunningham Court (31st December 2014 when a cordless screwdriver and electric drill were taken) and a caravan break-in at Rye Close Farm, Ricknall Lane, Newton Aycliffe (nothing stolen).

With regard to the Winterton burglaries. In the early hours of Monday 5th January 2015, a resident

on the Winterton Estate observed two suspects breaking into garages. The police were contacted and responded quickly. The suspects attempted to flee the scene but only succeeded in crashing the getaway vehicle and both were arrested nearby. Jamie Tindall (26 years) and Daisy Oliver (21 years) both from the Middlesbrough area were jointly charged with 4 garage burglaries. Tindall was also charged with dangerous driving and having no insurance. Both were given bail conditions which included 'not to enter County Durham & Darlington'. They will appear before Newton Aycliffe Magistrates Court on 5th February 2015. Police would like to thank all the residents who assisted with the investigation particularly the original witness who showed great presence of mind throughout the incident.

In the early hours of Sunday 21st December 2014, a series of garage burglaries were reported on the Winterton Estate. There were no witnesses and the thieves made off with pedal cycles, golf clubs and golf clothing. As a result of a previous arrest Police are now pursuing very strong lines of enquiry and a further update will be given to the Council at the next meeting.

Other incidents were:

- 3 instances of criminal damage. The first on the evening of 4th January 2015 when unknown persons caused damage to the power lines at Bleach House Bank at Stillington. The second when there was repeat damage caused to a vehicle in Wykes Close, Sedgefield. The Police are working closely with the victim to identify the person responsible. The third whereby damage was caused to fencing/metal gates on land at Shotton Farm, Sedgefield when it is believed that persons on a quad bike may have been poaching.
- 2 instances of commercial theft whereby one drive-off offence occurred at Bradbury Services (solved) and another from Sainsbury's which the Police are continuing to investigate.
- 3 instances of assault. The first was a minor assault reported in The Lane, Sedgefield on 8th December 2014 when a local man was arrested but released without charge as there was insufficient evidence to proceed. The second where police are investigating an assault which occurred on Boxing Day at the Black Lion Public House. The third on 9th January 2015 when an incident occurred on the A1M which resulted in a male from West Yorkshire being arrested and charged with drink driving, aggravated vehicle taking and dangerous driving plus assaulting another motorist.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 23% on the same time last year with nearly one out of every two crimes being solved (46% detection rate for year to date).

101 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in December 2014 compared with 112 in December 2013 (a reduction of 10%). 47 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in December 2014 compared to 58 in December 2013 (a reduction of 19%).

The PACT have focused their attentions on parking and congestion problems at the entrance to Sedgefield Industrial Estate and it is felt that because of the actions taken there was not a repeat of the previous year's concerns.

The next PACT meeting will take place on 10th February 2015 commencing at 7pm in the Fletcher Room in the Parish Hall.

Cllr Alf Walton asked PC Seymour why Winterton Estate appeared to have been targeted. PC Seymour explained that lots of investigations had been undertaken and it appears that type and design of garage door were relatively easy to compromise.

Cllr Ian Sutherland asked for an update on the previous month's incidents at Queens Drive. PC Seymour reported that someone is now in custody for burglaries with a similar MO in the surrounding area. This person is due to be questioned with regards to the Queens Drive incidents very soon.

Cllrs Alf Walton and Mel Carr asked if there had been any further problems of anti-social behavior in Wykes Close. PC Seymour reported that problems in this area had reduced partly to the Police maintaining a visible presence in this area. However, one car which was being targeted appears to have been done so in relation to other matters which are being investigated.

Cllr David Brown highlighted the crime does not necessarily respect borders. PC Seymour assured Cllrs that Durham Constabulary maintains close operational links with neighbouring forces.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Public Participation

The Chairman closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

Mrs Jean Easson asked what materials were going to be used on the Church Turning Circle to replace those currently being taken up. Cllr Mel Carr showed Mrs Easson the sample sets of

materials which are available for public viewing in the Town Council Offices. Cllr Chris Lines explained to Mrs Easson that the Council has gone through a very robust and comprehensive tendering process to ensure the best possible materials and end result are achieved. An explanatory article had appeared in the last edition of the Sedgefield Extra and a further one will appear in the next edition.

The meeting was then re-opened.

8. Internal Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that over the past month he had:

- Attended the leaving presentation for Miss Josie Doolan;
- Hosted a table at the Northern Echo Local Heros Awards which celebrated grass roots sport.
- Attended a NETPark meeting on 16th December 2014 with representatives from other neighbouring Parish Councils. During this meeting Cllr Lines had mentioned the Sedgefield Day and NETPark representatives gave a positive response to their potential involvement.
- Attended defibrillator training.

**RESOLVED:
To receive this information.**

8.2 Mayor's Report

Details were circulated of the following events recently attended by the Mayor:

December 2014:

9 th	Mayor of Durham's Civic Carol Service at St Nicholas Church
10 th	Meeting with East Durham Rural Corridor AAP and Cllrs
10 th	Seaham Ecumenical Civic Carole Service at St John's Church
11 th	Christmas Carol Service at County Hall, Durham
11 th	Sedgefield Town Council Ecumenical Carol Service at St Edmund's
11 th	Award of Honorary Freeman to Councillor Ian Sutherland at Ceddesfeld Hall
12 th	WI Farmers Market Christmas Event at Parish Hall
12 th	Greater Willington Town Council Civic Carol Service and tree lighting

12 th	Ferryhill Town Council Charity Night at the Greyhound
13 th	St Edmund's Christmas coffee morning
14 th	Spennymoor Town Council Civic Carol Service at Town Hall
15 th	DIDO Christmas Party at Parish Hall
15 th	Chilton Town Council Civic Carol Service at St John's Church
18 th	Sedgefield in Bloom Christmas Lunch at Dun Cow
21 st	Darlington Mayor's Civic Festival at St Michael's Church, Heighington
23 rd	Hartlepool Mayor's Christmas Carol Service in Council Chamber

With regards to the Carol Service at St Edmund's in Sedgefield on 11th December Cllr Mel Carr gave praise to the performances of the children from Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary Schools. Letters of thanks had been sent.

January 2015:

11 th	Butterwick Hospice Ecumenical Service at St Joseph's Church, Norton
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RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. External Reports

9.1 Report from DCC Members (JR / RL)

No DCC Members were present to give a verbal report and no written report had been supplied. Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding the lack of regular updates from DCC Members despite requests for these in writing if Members were unable to attend in person.

RESOLVED:

To remove this Standing Item from future Monthly Meeting agendas and to inform DCC Members that they are welcome to give reports at future Monthly Meetings, however, they should liaise with the Clerk as necessary to ensure they are placed on the agenda when they wish to do so.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Sedgefield Plan Steering Group Minutes (16th December 2014)

Prior to the meeting copies of the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group minutes of the

meeting held on 16th December 2014 had been circulated to all Cllrs.

Cllr Ian Sutherland reported that since the Town Council's Special Meeting on 5th January 2015 to consider the draft Sedgefield Plan, he and Mrs Sheila Sutherland had met with Mr David Bowles to ensure the Bowling Club is appropriately referenced in the amended Plan.

Cllr Allan Blakemore requested an itemized breakdown of the budget and expenditure to date in relation to the Sedgefield Plan. The Clerk explained that she has prepared such a breakdown, however, she has also following the Town Council's Special meeting requested an urgent meeting with Mr David Bowles to determine what work is required in order to bring the plan to a finalized pre-submission draft. Cllr Gloria Wills also raised concerns regarding the recent Basic Conditions as it was unclear by whom this work had been authorized. It was acknowledged by all that whilst any referendum costs would be paid by DCC that any prior public consultation costs would need to be paid by the Town Council and therefore a financial review of this project was timely.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) The Clerk to meet with Mr Bowles to prepare a financial position statement for the Sedgefield Plan and detail the work/potential costs still to be undertaken/incurred.**

10.2 Bridging Grant Offer Letter (email dated 19th December 2014)

Prior to the Clerk had circulated to all an email dated 19th December 2014 confirming that Sedgefield Town Council had been awarded £850 in a Bridging Grant for its remaining work on the Sedgefield Plan. The Clerk reported that she has worked with Mr Tony Guest and completed the necessary Funding Acceptance paperwork.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10.3 Sedgefield Infrastructure Note For Sedgefield Town Council (email dated 23rd December 2014):

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs copies of an email from Mr Peter Ollivere, DCC Principal Spatial Policy Officer, via Mr David Bowes, containing an infrastructure note

in relation to Sedgefield.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10.4 Letter of Thanks from Mr Brian Whitehead

The Clerk read out a letter from Mr Brian Whitehead thanking the Council for his leaving gift and note of thanks in recognition for his many years of IT service.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10.5 Letter from Mrs Julia Bowles, Residents Forum (dated 6th January 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a letter from Mrs Julia Bowles as Chair of the Sedgefield Village Residents Forum informing the Council that due to lack of volunteers the Forum has now closed. Forum members had agreed that remaining funds, less Parish Hall hire and photocopying costs, be given to the Town Council for the Neighbourhood Plan budget.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) A letter of thanks be sent to Mrs Bowles and all other Forum volunteers in recognition of their hard work over many years.

11. Planning: New Large Scale Development

Cllr Chris Lines reported that the Inspector's Interim Report on the County Durham Plan Examination in Public findings to date is still awaiting. Latest reports suggest this may be available at the end of January 2015. When it is made available it will be considered by the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

12. Current Planning Applications

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting. Each application was then considered and the following comments made (Note: number refers to the number on the circulated list):

- 1 Cllrs did not have any objections regarding this Planning Application.
- 2 Cllrs expressed concerns regarding the gas build-up and emissions in the event of any breakdowns at this proposed anaerobic digestion scheme facility which, depending upon wind direction, could impact upon Sedgefield. It was agreed that the Council seek assurance that the conditions stated in relation to this application will be put in place and monitored so as to ensure that Sedgefield is not adversely affected by emissions. It was also agreed the Council would seek written clarification as to whether this proposed facility is for usage exclusively by the farm in question or whether it is the intention to transport materials in from elsewhere.
- 3 Not considered as this is outside of Sedgefield Town Council's boundary and does not impact.
- 4 Cllrs did not have any objections regarding this Planning Application.
- 5 Not considered as this is outside of Sedgefield Town Council's boundary and does not impact.
- 6 Cllrs did not have any objections regarding this Planning Application.
- 7 Not considered as this is outside of Sedgefield Town Council's boundary and does not impact.
- 8 Cllrs did not have any objections regarding this Planning Application. However, it was agreed advice would be requested from DCC's Conservation Officer as to how they determine their decisions on properties within the Sedgefield Conservation Area as there appears to be conflicting decisions being made and the Town Council wishes to ensure the character and design of the village is retained as much as possible.

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs details of planning applications 9 and 10 which had just been published by DCC earlier that day. It was agreed that Cllrs would consider these at the start of the next Environment Committee meeting on 19th January 2015.

- i) **RESOLVED** The comments on planning applications 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8 to be submitted to DCC Planners.
- ii) **Planning applications 9 and 10 to be considered at the start of the Environment Committee meeting scheduled for 19th January 2015.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.