

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 9th March 2015.**

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

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Robinson, Maxine Robinson and Dudley Waters.

2. Declaration of interest

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a) Minutes of the Monthly meeting held Monday 9 February 2015

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

b) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 9 February 2015

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

c) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Monday 16 February 2015

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

d) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 16 February 2015

These were confirmed as a correct record (M Cant / M Carr).

e) Minutes of the Special Town Council meeting re Sedgefield Plan 16 February 2015

The Clerk highlighted to all Cllrs an error in the attendance detailed in these minutes. The

minutes showed that Cllr Rebecca Hagan had been present and there was no reference to Cllr Alf Walton. In fact Cllr Alf Walton had been present while Cllr Rebecca Hagan had not been present. With this amendment the minutes were confirmed as a correct record (CL / GW).

f) Minutes of the Finance Working Group 26th January 2015 and 26th February 2015

The minutes of the Finance Working Group 26th January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record (GW / IS).

The minutes of the Finance Working Group 26th February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record (GW / IS).

g) Minutes of the Estates Working Group 15 January 2015 and 3 February 2015:

The minutes of the Estates Working Group 15th January 2015 were confirmed as a correct record (AW / GW).

The minutes of the Estates Working Group 3rd February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record (AW / M Carr).

h) Minutes of the Open Spaces Working Group 24 February 2015:

The minutes of the Open Spaces Working Group 24th February 2015 were confirmed as a correct record (AW / M Carr).

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

4. Matters of Information

4.1. Minutes of the Monthly Meeting:

Planning applications have now been recorded along with the DCC Planning Application Reference Number and an actual description of the application. This format will now continue in future Monthly minutes.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.2. Finance Working Group Minutes 26th January 2015:

These minutes had been omitted from the February Committee packs but have been included in the March 2015 Committee packs (and were considered under agenda item 3f).

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.3. Estates Working Group Minutes 15th January 2015:

These minutes had been omitted from the February Committee packs but have been included in the March 2015 Committee packs (and were considered under agenda item 3g).

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.4. Planning Applications – Conservation Area Enquiry:

Mr Stephen Reed, DCC Development Manager, has contacted the Clerk in response to the Town Council's request for clarification as to how DCC Conservation Officers determine applications which fall within Sedgefield's Conservation Area. This enquiry included the offer for a DCC Officer to attend a Sedgefield Town Council meeting. Mr Reed has informed the Clerk that a response from DCC will be sent in the near future. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.5. Public Participation:

Council staff have liaised with Mrs Julia Bowles and tested the email system which found that no further problems had been encountered with email read receipts.

The Town Council's website issues have been resolved and the latest minutes have been included.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.6. Draft Sedgefield Plan Update Report:

This report had been considered at a Special Town Council meeting held on 16th February 2015 with copies having been posted to those Cllrs not present at the Monthly Meeting.

The Clerk had been due to meet with Ms Sandra Stephenson of DCC on 2nd March 2015

but this had been rescheduled to 9th March 2015 to progress a funding application from County Councillor John Robinson's Neighbourhood Budget for £3,000 of funding towards the Sedgefield Plan.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.7. Consultation: Regeneration and Environment Local Plan Publication Draft and CIL Preliminary Draft Charging Scheme – Stockton on Tees Borough Council:

Cllr John Robinson is to forward to the Clerk a copy of the comments he submitted in relation to this consultation. The Clerk to share Cllr John Robinson's comments with other Cllrs when received.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.8. Current Planning Applications:

All comments have been submitted to DCC Planners.

A letter of objection plus a request to call in the planning application in relation to the Hope Inn, Sedgefield has been submitted by the Clerk to DCC Planners (Note: Decision to call in was taken at the Environment Committee on 16th February 2015).

A formal letter of complaint has also been submitted by the Clerk to DCC regarding the length of time taken by DCC to investigate Spring Lane. See agenda item 9.3.

The Clerk has requested further details of the specific details of the discharge of conditions relating to DRC/15/00014 for an 86.45m high wind turbine. See agenda item 9.3.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates for meetings taking place in March 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting along with events scheduled for March – October 2015.

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a programme of the dates and times of Council meetings in 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Police Report

Sgt Alex Clarke gave his apologies and had submitted a Police report which was read out by the Clerk as follows:

During the period 9th February – 9th March 2015 the following crime took place:

Burglary – none over the past month.

Criminal Damage:

- On the morning of 5th March 2015, the front living room window of a property in The Lane, Sedgefield was damaged. A brick was thrown at the window and the person responsible made off in a vehicle. This is believed to be linked to another incident in Newton Aycliffe and police will be making arrests in due course.
- Overnight on 13th February 2015, a grey coloured Ford motor vehicle was damaged whilst parked in Kerr Crescent, Sedgefield. During the incident the driver's door sustained a large scratch.

Theft:

- Overnight on 4th March 2015, one section of metal fencing (6'x6') was taken from the grounds of the former St Luke's Church, St Luke's Crescent, Sedgefield.
- Between 2nd and 5th March 2015, the number plates from a Ford KA were taken from the vehicle whilst parked in Eden Drive. The stolen plates were subsequently used in a drive-off offence at the Total Service Station on the A689. Police are making further enquiries in relation to both offences.

Commercial Theft:

- In the early hours of 19th February 2015, 250ltrs of diesel were taken from an HGV whilst parked up at Bradbury.
- There have been two shoplifting offences at the Co-op (one detected and the other under investigation) and a number of sandbags were stolen from Sainsbury's – the thieves were traced and this offence has been detected.

Public Order:

On 2nd March 2015, a disturbance was reported at Turners of Sedgefield. A male from the Hartlepool area had turned up at the garage unhappy that his vehicle had been seized. The male produced a baseball bat and caused damage to a motor vehicle at that location. The male was

arrested and later charged with a public order offence and criminal damage.

Drugs:

There have been three crimes relating to drugs offences – all detected.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 20% on the same time last year with over one out of every two crimes being solved (52% detection rate for year to date).

118 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in February 2015 compared with 136 in February 2014 (a reduction of 13%). 59 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in February 2015 compared with 73 in February 2014 (a reduction of 19%).

The PACT focus is now youth nuisance in the village centre on Friday evenings. The next PACT meeting will take place on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room in the Parish Hall.

The following incidents of note were made:

Anti-social behavior has fallen over the last month and things have been noticeably quieter on a Friday evening (no reported ASB incidents of the last two Fridays). That said the local neighbourhood police team will continue with weekend patrols in the key locations.

During the next two weeks officers from the neighbourhood police team are hoping to conduct a local Farmwatch night of action. Local farms particularly south of Sedgefield have been having problems with trespassers in vehicles causing damage to gates, fencing and hedging. Police together with local farmers will patrol the area and should suspicious persons/vehicles be identified then police will challenge and investigate accordingly.

Cllr Gloria Wills commented that the recent damage caused by Travellers to fencing on Old Stockton Road had not been reported even though this matter had been reported to the Police. The Clerk replied that she had obtained an update from DCC in relation to this particular site and that this matter would be added to the end of this meeting's agenda for further discussion.

Cllr David Brown reported that recently he had been door knocked by a young person who had probationary problems. This person had been seen subsequently in the village. Cllr Lynne Dentith commented that she felt Sedgefield was being targeted by door to door sellers at the moment. Cllr Ian Sutherland reminded everyone of the importance of asking to see proper authorized street traders ID cards and suggested this matter be raised with the Probationary Service. The Clerk was asked to make Sgt Alex Clarke aware of these comments.

Cllr Gloria Wills informed Cllrs that over the festive season she had reported to the Police on two occasions that someone had been sleeping rough at the stables along Racecourse Road. Nothing had been stolen during these instances. It was suggested that Cllrs be alert to any future unusual behavior. Again, the Clerk was asked to make Sgt Alex Clarke aware of these comments.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles reported that door to door sellers have been discussed at the Neighbourhood Watch meetings. These sellers are from a charity and not the Probation Service. The Police are already aware of this situation. Mrs Bowles asked for an update on the situation with the state of the frontage of the former Sainsbury's store. The Clerk reported that she had written to the Store Owner of the old Sainsbury's Store asking for an update as to their plans for improving the state of the shop's frontage and making them aware the Council had received complaints from local residents. DCC Planners have stipulated that the Store Owner has a period of 5 years in which to now undertake the agreed work. Mrs Bowles made Cllrs aware that Mr Phil Wilson MP had recently participated in a debate in the House of Commons relating to the County Durham Plan. Mr Wilson's comments regarding future housing within his constituency had been unclear and Mrs Bowles had requested clarification from him and recommended that the Town Council do the same. Cllr Chris Lines explained that the County Durham Plan would be a matter discussed later in the meeting, however, for the benefit of all present he read out Mr Wilson's comments from the Hansard Transcript of the recent House of Commons debate. Early in the County Durham Plan drafting process Mr Wilson had spoken in the press appearing to support the Town Council's position of future development within the Town. Cllr Chris Lines stated that it would be sensible to write to Mr Wilson to clarify the Town Council's stated position and ask him to confirm his. Finally, Mrs Bowles reported that at a recent Durham City Trust meeting it had been stated that some groups who had submitted objections to the County Durham Plan had offered to meet with DCC to help overcome problems with the Plan, however, DCC have said no to such a meeting at this moment in time.

Mr Mort Spalding stated that he was present at the meeting to provide any clarification which may

be required when the Sedgefield Plan is discussed later in the Council meeting.

Mrs Janet Spalding reported that she was experiencing difficulty when using the DCC Planning portal to access applications within Sedgefield when using the general search function. Cllr Chris Lines reported he had also experienced similar problems when using the general search, however, when the specific planning application reference number is known there does not appear to be any issue. The Clerk will report this matter to DCC.

Mr Howard Smith expressed his concerns regarding the frequency of travellers setting up encampments on Old Stockton Road and the length of time at which they stay on site. Damage has been made to the fence in this area in such a way that it actually makes the site more easily accessible for any other travellers wishing to stay there. He expressed annoyance that with the modern number plate recognition systems in place that no action could be undertaken by DCC to trace the culprits.

Mrs Jean Easson reported that recently when travelling on the A689 there was a sizeable traffic jam which had actually been caused by trotters taking up both sides of the road. Mrs Easson asked if it was legal for such activity to take place. The Clerk will report this matter to Sgt Alex Clarke.

The meeting was then re-opened.

8. Internal Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that over the past month he had undertaken work in relation to:

- The Inspector's Interim Findings Report relating to the County Durham Plan;
- The on-going development of The Sedgefield Plan;
- The Annual Meeting of the Sedgefield Village Games;
- NETPark liaison.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

8.2 Mayor's Report

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

February 2015:

14 th	Shildon Mayor's Charity Valentines Night at Civic Hall
15 th	Durham County Council Civic Service at St Edmund's Church
20 th	Great Aycliffe Mayor's Charity Civic Ball
25 th	Seaham History Group in aid of Seaham Mayor's Charity

March 2015:

6 th	Sedgefield Town Council's Mayor's Civic Ball at Hardwick Hall
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Cllr Mel Carr expressed his thanks to all who assisted with the organization of his recent Civic Ball at the Hardwick and for the donations, sponsorships and attendance on the night. The evening was a great fund raising event. The Clerk reported that work is still underway to calculate the final figure raised but it is envisaged that over £2,500 will have been raised from this event. Cllrs expressed their thanks to Mrs Young, Mrs Rowsby and the Clerk for all their work in organizing this event.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. Correspondence

9.1 Sedgefield Plan Steering Group minutes (11th February 2015)

Prior to the meeting copies of the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2015 had been circulated to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9.2 Proposed Anaerobic Digestion Facility at Hope House Farm (email from Steve Barker 10th February 2015)

Prior to the meeting copies of an email from Steve Barker dated 10th February 2015 relating to the proposed anaerobic digestion facility at Hope House Farm had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllrs agreed this information had answered their earlier questions and agreed with Mr Barker's offer to have an attached condition not to accommodate any material generated from outside of the holding.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and request the attached condition.

9.3 Receipt of Formal Complaint – Spring Lane (letter from DCC 11th February 2015)

Prior to the meeting copies of two letters from DCC in response to the Town Council's formal complaint relating to Spring Lane had been circulated to all Cllrs. The first letter (dated 11th February 2015) acknowledged receipt of the Town Council's complaint and gave assurance a response would be given within 10 working days. The second letter (dated 24th February 2015) gave the DCC's response to the Town Council's formal complaint.

The Clerk reported that notification was received from DCC (letter dated 2nd March 2015) that the recently submitted planning application relating to this site has been withdrawn. DCC advised that no further action would be taken in respect of this application; its withdrawal would not prejudice any future applications which may be made. In addition, County Councillor John Robinson had forwarded to the Clerk an email he had received from Mr Steve Pilkington of DCC (dated 17th February 2015) stating that the applicants were in the process of moving off the site. At that time one caravan was still on site but should be removed by 22nd February 2015 and that Mr Pilkington would visit the site the following week to check. Mr Pilkington stated that it was likely that a planning application will come forward for an alternative development on the site.

Cllr David Brown reported that one static caravan remains on-site and there is no evidence of any action having been taken to clear the site. Cllrs David Brown, Mark Cant and Ian Sutherland expressed their dissatisfaction with DCC's response to this complaint. Cllr Alf Walton stated that the Town Council should request DCC undertake enforcement action at this site. All Cllrs agreed that the Town Council should submit to DCC a further complaint in relation to this matter escalating it to Stage 2 of DCC's formal complaints procedure requesting urgent action is undertaken to clear the site.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write a further complaint in relation to this matter escalating it to Stage 2 of DCC's formal complaints procedure.

9.4 Clarification regarding Discharge of Conditions regarding Planning Application DRC/15/00014 Wind Turbine

Prior to the meeting copies of an email, and attachments, from Peter Herbert of DCC dated 26th February 2015 had been circulated to all Cllrs. This email and attachments provided clarification regarding the conditions discharge application considered by the Council at its February 2015 Monthly Meeting. Cllr David Brown stated that he was pleased clarification had been obtained regarding these conditions.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9.5 Sedgefield Plan Steering Group minutes (25th February 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs copies of the minutes from the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group meeting held on 25th February 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9.6 NETPark Future Plans (Drop In Session 19th March 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs copies of an invitation poster inviting everyone to a drop in session at NETPark on 19th March 2015 between 2pm-7pm to find out more about NETPark's future plans. The event will include speakers from Business Durham, CPI and Durham University detailing their future plans to create jobs at NETPark. The Clerk reported that this information has also been circulated through the Residents Database.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9.7 North East Combined Authority (email dated 26th February 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of an email from Mr Steve Ragg dated 26th February 2015 which was supported by a number of attachments detailing the North East Combined Authority (NECA) which brings together seven north east councils on issues which affect the region, particularly prosperity and jobs. The NECA Leadership Board is keen to engage with partners and stakeholders in further developing their proposals and as such a number of meetings across the NECA area are planned. A workshop for residents and stakeholders in Durham has been arranged for 6.30-8.30pm on

Tuesday 17th March 2015 in the Durham Room, County Hall, Durham. Places are limited at this event.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and if Cllrs wish to attend they should book their place direct.

9.8 Hartlepool Borough Council: Notification of 8 week Public Consultation (dated 2nd March 2015):

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs copies of a letter from Hartlepool Borough Council dated 2nd March 2015 notifying the Town Council of an 8 week public consultation for the planning document relating to new dwellings outside of Development Limits SPD.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to discuss further at the Environment Committee on Monday 16th March 2015.

County Councillor Rachel Lumsdon joined the meeting.

10. County Durham Plan and Sedgefield Plan Update:

Cllr Chris Lines reported that since the last Special Town Council meeting held on 16th February 2015 to consider the Sedgefield Plan the Inspector's Interim Report regarding the County Durham Plan had been published. Copies of this Report had duly been circulated to all Cllrs for consideration and there had been extensive media coverage relating to this matter. Since this time some local businesses have worked with DCC to try and discredit the Inspector and to build a case for the County Durham Plan continuing to move forward. A debate took place in Parliament on 3rd May 2015 and copies of the Hansard transcript have been obtained. During this transcript a reference is made to DCC holding a meeting in March to progress the Plan. Cllr Chris Lines asked County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon if she was aware of this meeting, who it was with and for what purpose. County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon did not know the answer to these questions but offered to investigate and find out. During the parliamentary debate Penny Mordaunt MP (Parliamentary Under-Secretary, DCLG) expressed a wish for the County Durham Plan to be put back on track, but made it clear that the Inspector's Interim Report does not mean the County Durham Plan needs to be less ambitious but that it needs to be able to evidence these aspirations. DCC's formal response to the Inspector's Findings are not yet known.

Cllr Gloria Wills stated that the Inspector had a specific job to undertake which was governed by detailed criteria which he must follow. A detailed evidence base was an essential part of this with the sustainability appraisal being a key indicator.

Cllr Rebecca Hagan informed Cllrs that she had requested Mr Scott Wood (prospective Conservative MP) get additional information regarding this matter which she would share with Cllrs when received.

Cllr David Brown stated that it was important County Durham had a robust Plan. Any Neighbourhood Plan must then fit in with that and asked what the implications of this latest development were upon the Sedgefield Plan. Cllr Chris Lines replied that the Town Council can still proceed with the Sedgefield Plan because it can revert back to working with the previously adopted Local Plan and its policies.

County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon stated there is now an opportunity for Sedgefield to push forward with its key points in relation to the County Durham Plan and influence how the County Plan will move forward. For example, the issue of Stockton Road remaining open had been obtained by an agreement with DCC, however, this is an opportunity to try and get this issue removed entirely from the Plan. County Cllr Lumsdon made the offer that she is willing to work with others to try and progress this, and other matters, in the County Durham Plan. She stated this is in no way to detract from the progression of the Sedgefield Plan but is instead a parallel process. Cllr Chris Lines asked how such a process would work. County Cllr Lumsdon replied that no official process was in existence because this was an unprecedented situation, however, she is offering to volunteer to progress this in DCC and would feel happier if a group approach was used whereby members were asked to detail what they would like to change in the County Durham Plan. Cllr Chris Lines stated the Town Council had submitted written responses clearly detailing its objections at every stage of the County Durham Plan's development. Cllr Allan Blakemore expressed his concern that in order to undertake in-depth research into all changes requested in relation to the County Durham Plan would be an immense task and would not alter the methodology which was used that was also identified by the Inspector as being flawed. Cllr Gloria Wills stated that the Town Council does still have the Local Plan which was adopted in 1996 as a form of protection, albeit a weak safety net. However, any changes at this stage to the County Durham Plan would necessitate the need for a further public consultation exercise by DCC. Cllr Chris Lines informed County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon that the Town Council is pulling together a meeting of those who represented Sedgefield in the recent Examination In Public process. Cllr Lines extended an invitation to County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to attend and also offered to share with her the

letters which the Town Council submitted in relation to the County Durham Plan during its various phases.

Cllr Chris Lines informed Cllrs that the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group had only that day received the health check findings from Planning Aid following their examination of the Draft Sedgefield Plan. Although there had not been time to fully review the health check ahead of the meeting it was understood that the QC who had undertaken it had found the Plan to be fundamentally sound but had recommended some technical amendments and clarification as well as changes to the flow/structure of the Plan. Cllr Lines reiterated that Council have already given their approval to the Sedgefield Plan subject to the health check findings which at first sight appeared to suggest that no major/fundamental changes are required.

Cllr Lynne Dentith asked if the Plan now needs to come back to Council or if amendments can be made by the Steering Group and then commencement of the Statutory Consultation process can begin. Cllr Allan Blakemore reported that the Council had already approved the Plan and that the Steering Group should be allowed to make the necessary amendments based upon the health check findings as the required changes do not alter the content of the plan but only relate to its structure.

Cllrs Gloria Wills and Vanessa Carmichael expressed their views that the Town Council, as the qualifying body, must approve any amendments made to the Sedgefield Plan prior to it being issued for Statutory Consultation.

Cllr Tim Jeanes expressed his view that the level of urgency relating to the Neighbourhood Plan was such that the Plan should be issued for statutory consultation immediately.

Cllr Ian Sutherland proposed that the Steering Group be tasked with making all the necessary amendments to the Sedgefield Plan in accordance with the health check findings and then give a copy of the finalised Plan to all Cllrs prior to it being issued to statutory consultees. Cllr Lynne Dentith seconded this proposal.

Cllr Tim Jeanes proposed the statutory consultation process begin immediately using the unamended Sedgefield Plan as it stands as a draft. No-one seconded this proposal and Cllr Jeanes withdrew this suggestion.

Cllrs votes on Cllr Ian Sutherland's proposal and the majority of Cllrs voted in favour of this approach.

RESOLVED:

- i) **The Clerk to forward to all Cllrs copies of the Hansard transcript from the 3rd May 2015 Parliamentary debate.**
- ii) **County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to inform the Clerk regarding the DCC meeting in March 2015 relating to the County Durham Plan.**
- iii) **The Sedgefield Plan Steering Group be tasked to amend the Sedgefield Plan in accordance with the health check findings and provide a copy of the finalised Plan to all Cllrs prior to it being issued for Regulation 14 Statutory Consultation.**

(Cllr Vanessa Carmichael left the meeting at this point)

11. 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 were made (Note: number refers to the number on the circulated list):

- 1 DM/14/03649/FPA – Conversion of workshop and stores to office/study space including renewal and extension of existing roof, Sands Farm, Sedgefield:**
This application had already been approved. Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.
- 2 DM/15/00007/FPA – Alterations and extension to roof including loft conversion, 13 Station Road, Sedgefield:**
Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.
- 3 DM/15/00168/HPN – Prior notification for the erection of a conservatory to the rear measuring 4 metres in length and 2.95 metres in height to the apex of the roof, 6 Moorside Crescent, Sedgefield:**
This application is not within Sedgefield but within Fishburn.
- 4 DM/15/00277/TPO – Felling of 1 no sycamore (G2A), and 1 no Cherry Tree (T3), removal of the 2 no smaller stems of 1 no sycamore (G2C), 10% crown reduction of 2 no copper beech trees (T6 and T7), Elderberry Hall, Front Street, Fishburn:**
This application is not within Sedgefield but within Fishburn.
- 5 DM/15/00372/OUT – Outline application for 2 no dwellings including details of site access, Low Farm, Bradbury:**
Cllr Rebecca Hagan expressed concerns regarding the highways risks surrounding this site, parking concerns, impacts upon a historical site, visual impact and locality

outside the Bradbury curtilage. Based upon these concerns Cllr Hagan recommended the Council submit a letter of objection.

RESOLVED:

A letter of objection based upon the above concerns be submitted to DCC.

6 DM/15/00414/FPA – Installation of plant on north facing elevation, Discovery 2, William Armstrong Way, NETPark, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.

7 DM/15/00557/FPA – Erection of single story side/rear extension, 37 Beaumont Court, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.

8 DRC/14/00363 – Discharge of conditions 3 (materials), 4 (lighting), 5 (enclosure details) of planning approval 7/2012/0397/DM – Land at Low Farm, Bradbury:

Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.

9 DRC/15/00027 – Discharge of conditions 3 (external materials), 4 (rainwater goods), 5 (means of enclosure), 10 (access improvements) and 11 (means of foul drainage) of planning permission 7/2012/0533/DM which represented an amendment to planning permission 7/2002/0481 at Heley House, Spring Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections to this Planning Application.

RESOLVED:

The comments on planning applications 1-9 above to be submitted to DCC Planners.

12. Unauthorised Encampment at Old Stockton Road, Sedgefield – Update:

The Clerk reported that following the discussions at the Environment Committee meeting on 16th February 2015 she had liaised with the Ms Emma Rothwell of DCC Gypsy Roma Traveller Service in order to obtain the last information regarding unauthorized encampments at Old Stockton Road. Ms Rothwell had reported that the most recent unauthorized encampments at this location have been from September 2014 to February 2015 and have been as a result of one family group who have moved on and off the area whilst they have been addressing welfare needs. These needs have now been resolved and, therefore, DCC do not foresee a return of this family to the area. Ms Rothwell stated the area at Old Stockton

Road has been used for several years on a short term basis by a few families around the summer and Appleby Fair period and have caused little concern for local residents. The issues have arisen recently due to the duration and frequency of visits by the same family which has led to some concerns. There has been some damage to the fence on the area which DCC have made arrangements to have repaired/replaced as necessary. Unfortunately, there were no witnesses to this damage so a prosecution is unlikely although DCC believe it has been reported to the Police.

Cllr Mark Cant suggested that DCC be requested to repair the fencing by using concrete bollards which cannot be removed.

Cllr Gloria Wills shared with Cllrs copies of photographs which had been taken during the 3 occasions during the last 6 months when this site had been used as an unauthorized encampment. As well as the damage to the fence there is debris from fires, fly tipping, damage to trees and distress caused to nearby landowners. Cllr Tim Jeanes pointed out that the information received from DCC only detailed the damage to the fence and not the other matters highlighted by Cllr Wills.

Cllr Allan Blakemore recommended that a letter be sent from the Town Council to DCC highlighting the additional damage/problems caused by the unauthorized encampment and request from DCC assurance that the site was being used by genuine members of the travelling community.

County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon asked if the Council was aware of DCC's current Fly Tipping campaign. The Clerk confirmed that this campaign will be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on 16th March 2015 and that background papers regarding this have already been circulated.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to DCC making them aware of the wider damage/problems caused by the unauthorized encampment and request from DCC assurance that the site was being used by genuine members of the travelling community.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.