

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MAY MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 12th May 2014.**

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

Officer Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr. Ian Sutherland – Item 12 – Planning Applications

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 14th April 2014

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

b) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 14th April 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record. (DB, TJ)

c) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Cllr Dudley Waters reported that he was not present at this meeting but had submitted his apologies. With this amendment the minutes were confirmed as a correct record. (IS, AW)

d) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Tuesday 22nd April 2014

Cllr Dudley Waters reported that he was not present at this meeting but had submitted his apologies. With this amendment the minutes were confirmed as a correct record. (AB, VC)

e) Minutes of the Special Meeting held Tuesday 22nd April 2014

These were confirmed as a correct record. (CL, IS)

f) Minutes of the Personnel committee meeting held Monday 28th April 2014

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

g) Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held Tuesday 6th May 2014

These were received only and will be confirmed at the Annual Town Meeting 2015.

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

4. Matters of Information

4.1 22.5.14 Recording meeting W.P

The Clerk reported that the first meeting of this Working Group will take place on 22nd May 2014 at 2.30pm in the Council Offices.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates for all Committee meetings in 2014/15 were circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

6. Police Report

No apologies had been received from the Police and no report was given. The Clerk to meet with Sgt Alex Clarke on 16th May 2014 to discuss future arrangements for submission of reports.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

7. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles of the Residents Forum reported on-going concerns about potential noise disturbance and parking problems at the forthcoming Hardwick Live event. A further Licensing meeting will be held 6 weeks before the event to which the Town Council and Residents Forum will be invited. Thanks were expressed to the 1424 people who signed the petition opposing potential future building developments in the Town. The Neighbourhood Plan Group are now looking for progressing towards developing its policy and would welcome participation at its future meetings. PC Keith Todd had been at the recent Neighbourhood Watch meeting and PACT meetings are to continue bi-monthly now at Neighbourhood Watch meetings. Finally, Mrs Bowles stated that no reports were being provided to the Residents Forum by Durham County Council, however, requests for such reports will continue to be submitted.

The meeting was then re-opened.

Cllr. Tim Jeanes raised his concerns over a previous matter raised by a member of the public in connection with being unable to reserve a plot in the Garden of Remembrance and asked for the issue to be investigated and an update given at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

i. To receive the information

- ii. **The Clerk to follow up the matter raised in connection with the Garden of Remembrance from the previous meeting.**

Cllrs. Vanessa Carmichael and Gloria Wills left the meeting at this point.

8. Internal Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Cllr. Chris Lines reported that the Neighbourhood Plan is now developing its Policy and the committee are looking for further participation from Members at meetings.

8.2 Mayor's Report

The Mayor, Cllr. Mel Carr reported that he had attended the following: -

April

17th Chilton Town Council, Mayors Civic Dinner in aid of local NSPCC

25th Seaham Town Council, Mayors Civil Ball in aid of local charities

26th Hartlepool Borough Council, Mayors Choral Spectacular in aid of 3 cancer charities

May

2nd Parish Hall, supporting Veterans coffee morning

8th V E commemoration service at war memorial on Crosshill

9th Barnard Castle Town Council Mayors fund raising for YMCA

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

8.3 Licensing re Hardwick Live

Cllrs Mel Carr and Gloria Wills had attended the recent licensing meeting held at DCC with regard to the two day application for Hardwick Live. Despite full approval having been given by DCC the Town Council is keen to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to access for the event and the implications of car parking upon the surrounding area. It was noted that toilet facilities will be provided for this event.

RESOLVED

- i. **To receive the information**
- ii. **To place on the agenda of the Environment Committee the permitted development rights surrounding the use of East Park for parking during this and similar events.**

9. External Reports

9.1 Report from DCC Members (JR / RL)

No report was given.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Larger Councils' Committee

Minutes from the NALC Larger Councils' Committee held on Tuesday 21st January 2014 had been previously circulated.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

10.2 Electronic Summons

An email from Stephen Ragg (CDALC) dated 15th April 2014 had been previously circulated detailing proposals to allow the use of electronic summonses to meetings.

RESOLVED

- i. To receive the information**
- ii. To monitor the development of this proposal as part of the work of the Recording Meetings Working Group.**

10.3 Durham Association News

Cllr. D. Brown noticed from the News that Cllr. Bill Waters had recently died and suggested as a mark of respect to the late Cllr. Bill Waters a letter of condolence be sent to his family.

RESOLVED

- i. To receive the information**
- ii. The Clerk to send a letter of condolence to Cllr Waters family.**

10.4 Request to Change Name of Sedgefield

A letter had been received from Mr Phil Wilson MP (dated 22nd April 2014 copy previously circulated) seeking the Town Council's support for the Sedgefield Village Veterans' proposal

(as communicated in a letter to Mr Wilson from Cllr. John Robinson) to change the name of Sedgefield to Royal Sedgefield. After discussion it was agreed that whilst the work of the Veterans, including the repatriation services, was held in extremely high regard it was felt that the scale was not comparable with that of Royal Wootton Bassett and the Town Council could not support this proposal.

RESOLVED

- i. **To receive the information.**
- ii. **Cllr Chris Lines and the Clerk to respond to Mr Wilson's letter accordingly.**

10.5 Letter from Lesley Swinbank

A letter of appreciation from the previous Town Clerk Mrs. Lesley Swinbank was read out at the meeting by Chairman, Cllr Chris Lines, thanking the Town Council Members for the gifts she had received to mark her retirement.

RESOLVED

To receive the information.

11. Planning: New Large Scale Development

11.1 Progress Report

Cllr Chris Lines confirmed that the Eden Drive application has now been submitted to DCC and the Town Council's objections had been submitted.

An application is still awaited for the proposed development to the east of the Town. Public consultation exercises had been run by the developer on 7th and 12th May 2014.

The Chairman informed Council that the owners of the site on which Pactiv (formerly Filmco) operates had written to Durham County Council to suggest that it be re-designated from commercial industrial, so that it could be put to other use once the Pactiv lease expires in 2019. One of the potential other uses could be for housing.

Cllr Rebecca Hagan raised the issue of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and highlighted the low rate (£15 per sq metre) that DCC had set for Sedgefield. The Chairman stated that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had identified this and is seeking to challenge it through the draft plan. It was noted by Councillors that both CIL and Section 106 could apply to developments in Sedgefield.

Cllr Allan Blakemore noted that the Chairman had met with the owners of the Pactiv site and the developers of the Eden Drive site, along with the Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to gather information and report back to council. The Chairman, stated that he would follow-up his verbal update with a written report.

Cllr Dudley Waters stated that the developers of the proposals for the east of the Town had

indicated that they would like to engage with the Council. Councillors agreed that it was proper for the developers to approach the Council and for the Council to agree the form of any such engagement.

It was also noted that a proposal is in development for the building of up to 40 houses on a site at Sedgefield Community College.

12. Applications

12.1 Current Planning Applications

Cllr Ian Sutherland declared an interest in one of the planning applications and sat out of the meeting for this item. A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED

All applications were approved and this will be forwarded to DCC.

13. CDALC: Selection of new Vice President

CDALC have advised it has two vacancies for Vice President and were requesting nominations. No nominations were made by Sedgefield Town Council.

RESOLVED

To advise CDALC that no nominations would be submitted by Sedgefield Town Council.

14. Sedgefield Library

A letter had been received on 23rd April 2014 from Gerard Darby of DCC to advise the Town Council of the decision to list Sedgefield Library as an Asset of Community Value with effect from 14th April 2014.

RESOLVED

- i. To receive the information.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45 pm.