

# SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **SEPTEMBER  
MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the  
**Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield,  
on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

**Present**                    **Cllr. Chris Lines (Chairman) and**  
Cllrs. David Brown, Mark Cant, Lynne Dentith, Tim Jeanes, John Robinson,  
Maxine Robinson, Ian Sutherland, Alf Walton and Dudley Waters

**Officer**                    Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. Vanessa Carmichael, Mel Carr, Rebecca Hagan and Gloria Wills.

**2. Declaration of interest**

None

**3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports**

**a) Minutes of the Community Chest Meeting held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

One page of these minutes were missing from the copies sent out to Councillors. These will be re-issued and considered at the October Monthly meeting.

**b) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

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

**c) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

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

**d) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

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

**e) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

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

**f) Notes of the Personnel committee meeting held Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014**

Councillors who attended the Personnel Committee were not present and were unable to confirm these notes as being correct. Cllr Maxine Robinson stated that if a meeting is not quorate it must not go proceed even if the purpose was only to receive verbal updates.

**g) Minutes of the Estates Working Group meeting held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

These were received as being a record as with the exception of Cllr Alf Walton none of the other Cllrs who had attended the Estate Working Group attendees were present to second. ( AW )

**h) Minutes of the Open Spaces Working Group meeting held Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

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

**RESOLVED: To accept all of the minutes as above (with the exception of the Community Chest) and recommendations contained therein.**

**4. Matters of Information**

**4.1 Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans**

The Clerk had requested further information from Ms Susan Porter (DCC) and made her aware that several members of the public have also asked for an update on this site. Ms Porter responded via email dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 "All I can disclose is that we have met with the occupier of the site and discussed the situation with him. He now has a number of issues to consider and discuss with us further. Obviously the use of the site is unauthorized so there are a few options for the occupier in the resolution of the situation, he may apply for retrospective permission, he could cease the use of the land voluntarily or (DCC) could pursue formal enforcement action. The latter is obviously the last resort in these situations. (DCC) will be providing the occupier with a period of time in which to consider his options and thereafter (DCC) will contact him to establish the current position. (DCC) will update the Town Council with any progress or actions as and when they occur and any information that is in the public domain". Ms Porter has agreed to supply the Clerk with further information as soon as it is available.

**4.2 Planning Applications**

Comments made on planning applications considered during the July Monthly Meeting had been submitted to DCC Planning Officers. The Clerk reported that on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014 confirmation had been received from DCC that both planning applications relating to the Hope Inn had been withdrawn.

**4.3 Death of Dr Elisabeth Sutherland**

A card and letter of condolence had been sent by the Clerk to Dr Sutherland's family. The Clerk circulated a letter from Dr Sutherland's daughter Jean thanking the Council for this gesture and informing the Council of a memorial gathering to remember the life of Dr Sutherland on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 3pm at Fremington Sunday School, Reeth which is open to all. Cllr Maxine Robinson suggested that this information be displayed on Council noticeboards, forwarded to the Sedgefield News and shared with the Residents Forum database.

**5. Dates of Meetings**

Dates for meetings taking place in September had been circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr Maxine

Robinson requested that in future dates for Mayor events also be included on this list for easier referencing.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to incorporate Mayor events into future date listings.**

**6. Public Participation**

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

Mrs Julia Bowles stated that the Residents Forum have submitted a Further Statement as part of the County Durham Plan Examination in Public process. She explained that the Neighbourhood Planning Group is unlikely to be allowed by the Inspector to participate in the hearings and that individuals from within the Town could be participating in such hearings voicing their own concerns. She expressed her concerns that this may result in conflicting messages being conveyed during the hearings process which would undervalue Sedgefield's strong position of having gathered data from across the community which has been considered and analysed in order to build a strong argument to object to the County Durham Plan. Mrs Bowles also voiced concerns regarding the recent Horse Fair and informed Council that the Residents Forum have written to Mr Terry Collins of DCC and Phil Wilson MP seeking reassurance that this event will not be held in Sedgefield again. FOI requests have been submitted to Durham Constabulary (requesting the cost of policing this event and clarification as to where resources came from) and Durham County Council (requesting the cost of this event). Finally, Mrs Bowles reiterated her concerns expressed at a previous Town Council meeting regarding an earlier instance of travellers gathering on the village green to which Councillors had said they did not have any concerns or issues. She questioned whether this view would have an impact on future events.

Ms Liz Mitchell asked what would happen if a Councillor did not declare an interest but was then later found to have an interest.

Mr Howard Smith wished to express his thanks to the Town Council for their on-going support to Sedgefield In Bloom and paid particular thanks to Mr Stephen Young and Mr Roy Cairns for all their hard work. Mr Smith stated that whilst recognition from national and regional judges is welcomed the purpose of the Bloom Group is to improve the appearance of the Town for residents and visitors.

Mrs Janet Spalding asked if the Town Council would be objecting to the recently lodged planning application to develop 42 dwellings on the three corner field.

The meeting was then re-opened.

Cllr Chris Lines stated that he believed there was a strong alignment of views amongst the Sedgefield community in relation to the County Durham Plan. He informed Ms Mitchell that the Council has Standing Orders which detail how Councillor declarations of interest are dealt with. Cllr Lines thanked Mr Smith for the work of the Bloom across the Town and the positive effect upon civic pride. Finally, Cllr Lines confirmed

that the County Durham Plan Examination In Public process, the Horse Fair and the three corner field planning application were all items to be found later on this meeting's agenda.

## **7. Horse Fair Update**

### **a Update from Durham County Council and Durham Constabulary**

Cllr Chris Lines welcomed Mr Ian Hoult (Neighbourhood Protection Manager) from Durham County Council and Inspector Kevin Tuck from Durham Constabulary both of whom were going to explain the procedures that were undertaken in the build up to the recent Horse Fair and actions that took place during the actual Fair held in Sedgefield over the August bank holiday weekend. Sgt Mark Hall was also present from Durham Constabulary.

Mr Hoult explained that unauthorized encampments fall within this work remit. It was known that a Horse Fair would take place somewhere in County Durham over the bank holiday weekend, however, the exact location was unknown. For this reason DCC prepared a portable contingency plan which could be activated regardless of the Fair's final location. Once the site was known then the plan was activated and the site owner was contacted, toilets and bins were put in place and road safety measures were put in place for the anticipated trotting event on bank holiday Monday. DCC's view is that providing such facilities is far better than not providing them and having to deal with potentially higher costs at the end of any event.

Inspector Tuck explained that he leads the Teesdale and Weardale Division of the Police and in this role he is heavily involved in the annual Appleby Horse Fair migration as it passes through this area on the way to and from Cumbria and therefore has considerable experience of responding to short-term migratory trespass. There had been suggestions at one point that the August bank holiday Horse Fair might be held in the Crook area and as a result of this Police Officers from within the Teesdale and Weardale Division had been identified and trained for such an event. Once the location of the Fair was determined as being Sedgefield those pre-identified Police resources were re-allocated but still performed the role which they had been trained to undertake.

### **b Consideration of issues by Town Councillors**

Considerable discussion took place following the overview from Mr Hoult and Inspector Tuck regarding this event. The following issues were raised by Cllrs:

Cllr Alf Walton asked when DCC first became aware that this event was taking place in Sedgefield. Mr Hoult replied DCC were first aware on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014. This was challenged by Cllr Alf Walton who saw toilets on-site on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Mr Hoult said he would check his records.

Cllr Chris Lines questioned how leaflets had been prepared and circulated to local residents when

the location of the event had been unknown. Mr Hoult responded that DCC hold stocks of generic leaflets for residents regarding the implications of such events which then tailored for the specific area once known.

Cllr Tim Jeanes asked why the location of this event had been unknown. Mr Hoult reported that it is always preferable to know in advance the location of such an event, however, with this particular Fair this had not been possible until very near to the actual start of the event. Inspector Tuck confirmed that there is no legal duty on the travellers to inform the community of their intention to hold such an event. There is a tradition of such Horse Fairs in County Durham and the issue of location is always very challenging. With this particular event DCC had tried to find some of their own land upon which to hold the event but this had not been possible.

Cllr Maxine Robinson thanked DCC and Durham Constabulary for the arrangements that they had put in place for the Fair as these had made the event run smoother and had reduced any long-term clean-up costs. However, she requested more information regarding the discussions that took place prior to the event and expressed her dissatisfaction no such discussions had included the involvement of the local level, i.e. the community which was to be directly impacted. There was a very real concern that the site used for this event could be perceived as being very welcoming and well resourced making it a more attractive venue for this event in future years. This situation had resulted in anger and resentment from the local public because the Fair had actually impacted upon local roads and threatened other pre-planned events. Other pre-planned events require official road closures and have to incur considerable expense whilst road closures had been put in place for the Horse Fair with little/no notice and at no cost to the event organizer. Where is the community's right in this? She stated that her comments were not being targeted at travellers specifically but would be made regardless of who had organized such an event in this way. Inspector Tuck replied that there had been no road closures for the Horse Fair, however, instead road safety measures had been used when it was recognized that 44 horse and carts would be taking to the roads. This action was taken to limit harm and to ensure safety. There will be a debrief of those parties who were involved in live operations during the event to review procedures and the Stop/Go system of traffic management will also be reviewed as part of that. Mr Hoult commented that this Horse Fair is in its 9<sup>th</sup> year and has taken place at a different location each year so far. DCC have identified lots of potential sites across the County and ideally want to identify a suitable site which can be used and then the event taken forward via the SAG, however, this is proving to be very difficult. The history of the previous Horse Fairs provided DCC and the Police with an indication as to timings of trotting and other key activities which was factored into the County's contingency plan. Cllr Dudley Waters stated that trotting had also taken place on the Wednesday and Thursday prior to the actual Horse Fair.

County Cllr John Robinson reported that he and fellow County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon had met earlier on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 with Senior Officers from DCC and the Police to discuss this event. The result is that a questionnaire is being produced aiming at seeking the views of residents at both

Sedgefield and Fishburn regarding the recent Horse Fair. This questionnaire will take the form of door knocking on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at which John and Rachel will be present. Findings from this will be fed back to the Town Council. Cllr John Robinson had also made Police aware of lots of information regarding the Fair on various social media sites. This was going to be investigated further by the Police. Finally, Cllr John Robinson expressed his grave concerns regarding the safety of children staying on a site that is full of asbestos as well as participating in trotting activities when no safety equipment is worn. Inspector Tuck confirmed that the latter activity is not illegal and would require a change in legislation so therefore he advised the most appropriate action being to write to the local MP.

Cllr Lynne Dentith questioned if the Town Council could be represented at the debrief being held to discuss this event. Inspector Tuck stated this was not possible as the purpose of the debrief was to review procedures deployed in the live operations. Internal reviews were taking place within the Police and DCC in order to learn lessons to feed into future planning. As no place was available at a debrief for the Town Council Mr Hoult and Inspector Tuck had instead offered to attend this Council meeting. In addition, Superintendent Kerrin Smith will also attend the next PACT meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to listen to, and answer, residents questions.

Cllr Mark Cant asked if DCC can do anything to make the site used at the Horse Fair more secure. Mr Hoult replied that this is not the responsibility of DCC as it is not their site, however, DCC have asked the site owners what their intentions are for the future of this site.

Inspector Tuck reported that there had been no disorder, crime or anti-social behavior reported to Durham Constabulary as a result of this Fair. Had such instances been reported then the Police are duty bound to investigate crime and do everything to solve.

Cllr Chris Lines expressed his concerns regarding communications surrounding the event and stated that the titling of the event as "Sedgefield Horse Fair" appeared to legitimise the event. Cllr John Robinson confirmed that he had also raised this issue in his earlier meeting with Senior Officers of DCC and the Police who had stated this branding had been given in the local press. This matter is now being investigated further by DCC and the Police.

Cllr Alf Walton asked Mr Hoult if he was aware that horses from the event had been allowed to graze on nearby DCC owned land. Mr Hoult said that he would investigate this matter.

Mr Hoult thanked the Town Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting and stated that he recognized the difficulties from the community's perspective. He made the offer of one of his Gypsy and Romany Traveller Liaison Officers to attend a future Council meeting to explain in more detail their role and work.

## **8. Police Report: Sgt Alex Clarke**

Sgt Alex Clarke verbally delivered a Police Report for the period 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014. In this period the following crimes had been recorded:

6 burglaries (non-dwelling):

- Overnight on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 an outbuilding at Sedgefield cricket club was broken into and a large petrol lawn mower, petrol strimmer, roller and socket set were stolen.
- Overnight on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2014 an outbuilding at a farm in Bradbury was broken into and a Husqvarna ride-on lawn mower together with a large amount of power tools were stolen.
- In the early hours of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 persons have removed the window from an office at Bolams Foods and attempted to remove a safe. The persons were disturbed and pursued by Police. The vehicle was abandoned in Trimdon Grange area and those responsible made off. Enquiries by CID are continuing.
- In the early hours of 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 unknown persons have taken 20 tractor batteries from an insecure outbuilding at a farm of Ricknall Lane.
- Overnight on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2014 unknown persons have entered an insecure garage at Station Road and removed a wacker plate, petrol strimmer and a post hole borer.
- Overnight on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 persons have broken into the outbuilding on a farm off Spring Lane and attempted to steal a sit-on lawn mower. Although unsuccessful in this the thieves did take power tools, golf clubs, a mountain bike, clothing and a youth's scooter. Police now have a named suspect for this investigation who will be arrested in the near future.

1 instance of criminal damage:

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2014 a vehicle travelling on the A689 sustained minor damage to the windscreen after an object was thrown from the bridge at the Castle Eden walkway.

3 instances of commercial theft:

- There has been one detected shoplifting offence at Sainsbury's where two Stockton males attempted to steal a Dyson vacuum cleaner.
- There have been two drive offs from Bradbury services by persons using vehicles with either false plates or having used tape to disguise the plates. Enquiries are on-going to identify those responsible.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 35% on the same time last year with nearly one out of every two crimes being solved (47% detection rate for year to date).

50 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in August 2014 compared with 69 in August 2013. 21 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in August 2014 compared with 38 in August 2013.

The next PACT meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall where issues of note will include the recent Horse Fair (with Inspector Kevin Tuck attending to discuss) and the forthcoming Hardwick Live event.

Cllr Chris Lines asked if the Police were aware of the issue of people staying in cars overnight at East Park following last year's Hardwick Live event. Sgt Clarke confirmed the Police were aware of this issue from

last year and together with event organizers would be ensuring this did not happen again this year.

Cllr Ian Sutherland noted the reduction in youth anti-social behavior and questioned whether the location of such incidents had moved from Sedgefield to elsewhere. Sgt Clarke was unaware of an increase in anti-social behavior in any other area.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**9. Internal Reports**

**9.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chair reported that over the past month he had:

- Continued his on-going work with the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group;
- Worked with the Clerk to research, draft, distribute and submit the Town Council's Further Statement as part of the County Durham Plan Examination in Public process.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**9.2 Mayor's Report**

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

July:

|                  |                                                                                                      |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | Bishop Auckland Mayor's Charity "At Home" in Town Hall                                               |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> | Sedgefield, meeting and greeting Northumbria In Bloom judges                                         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Shildon Mayor's Charity evening at Town Function Rooms                                               |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | Sedgefield, meeting and greeting the Lord Lieutenant of County Durham, WW1 commemoration at cenotaph |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> | Darlington Mayor's Civic Service at Heighington Village Church                                       |

August:

|                  |                                                                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Sedgefield, wreath laying at cenotaph                                                                                 |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Sedgefield, St Edmund's Church evening WW1 commemoration service                                                      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Sedgefield, meeting and greeting Britain In Bloom judges                                                              |
| 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Sedgefield, judging hidden gardens                                                                                    |
| 8 <sup>th</sup>  | Peterlee Mayor's "At Home" in Shotton Hall                                                                            |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Sedgefield Show, judging trade stands, fancy dressed children's horses and awards to animals and horses prize winners |
| 15 <sup>th</sup> | Sedgefield, wreath laying at cenotaph WW1 commemoration                                                               |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> | Ferryhill, supporting Mayor's charity at Gala                                                                         |



|                  |                                           |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Hartlepool Mayor's charity fun fayre      |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> | Peterlee Show, supporting Mayor's charity |

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that Cllr Mel Carr's Mayor's Civic Service will take place at 10am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2014 at St Edmund's Church as per an invitation letter sent to all Cllrs on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014. Cllrs need to inform Ms Jane Young of their intention to attend by no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**10. External Reports**

**10.1 Report from DCC Member (JR)**

County Cllr John Robinson reported the following:

- County Cllr Pauline Charlton, a long-serving Councillor covering the Evenwood Ward and former Chair of DCC, had recently died with her funeral having been held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Bishop Auckland.
- Cllr Robinson has requested as a matter of urgency a meeting with Mr Stuart Timmiss (DCC's Head of Planning) in order to discuss the recent 3 corner field planning application, the neighbouring road, the planning process and an update on the caravan park near Hardwick Park. He strongly stated his belief that the road must be retained and the 3 corner field protected. As such he will be requesting that the 3 corner field planning application be called in front of the Planning Committee.
- One mile out of the Town on the road to Stockton there is what appears to be a historic altar blocking the entrance to a field. Cllr Robinson has requested DCC investigate what this is.
- Sedgfield Community College has been confirmed as being the highest performing school in County Durham.

Cllr Tim Jeanes suggested that a congratulatory letter be sent from the Town Council to the Head of Sedgfield Community College along with the Heads of the primary feeder schools in the Town.

Cllr David Brown queried the current status of the application for a permanent gypsy site within Mordon. Cllr John Robinson was of the view this had been decline, however, he will investigate and report back.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**10.2 Sedgfield Plan (Steering Group minutes 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014)**

Minutes from the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2014 had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**10.3 Sedgefield Plan – Progress Report for Town Council**

A progress report from the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group in relation to the Sedgefield Plan had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**10.4 Sedgefield Plan – Response by Fairhurst submitted on behalf of Sedgefield Neighbourhood Planning Forum (29<sup>th</sup> August 2014)**

A copy of the written response prepared by Fairhurst's on behalf of the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Planning Forum in relation to the proposed County Durham Plan had been previously circulated.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**10.5 Sedgefield Plan – Budget Update**

The Clerk circulated copies of the income and expenditure incurred in relation to the Sedgefield Plan for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To receive the information.**
- ii) To receive regular updates on Sedgefield Plan income and expenditure.**

**11. Correspondence**

**11.1 NETPark: Request to nominate a NETPark Ambassador**

A letter from Dr Simon Goon, Managing Director of NETPark, had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Dr Goon was keen to develop more formal links with the Town Council and had offered the opportunity for a member of the Town Council to become a NETPark Ambassador representing Sedgefield. It was agreed that greater dialogue and closer alignment between the Town Council and NETPark is important. Cllr Chris Lines volunteered to take on this Ambassador role and this was then proposed and seconded by Cllrs John Robinson and Mark Cant.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) Cllr Chris Lines to become the Town Council's NETPark Ambassador.**

ii) **The Clerk to inform Dr Goon.**

iii) **Cllr Chris Lines to keep the Town Council informed of work with NETPark.**

**11.2 NALC: Media Release on Fracking (13<sup>th</sup> August 2014)**

A NALC media release regarding fracking had been circulated to all prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**12. Planning: New Large Scale Development**

**12.1 County Durham Plan Public Examination Process (Report by Town Clerk)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report detailing the County Durham Plan Public Examination Process. The Clerk confirmed that the Examination Process finalized timetable previously promised for the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> August 2014 has not yet been produced.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**12.2 Town Council Further Statement in response to the draft County Durham Plan ahead of the Examination in Public**

Prior to the meeting a copy of the Town Council's Further Statement in response to the draft County Durham Plan ahead of the Examination in Public had been circulated to all. The Clerk confirmed that this Further Statement had been submitted on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 with copies also being shared with the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**12.3 Determination of Town Council representation at Public Examination Hearing(s) (Report by Town Clerk)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report outlining at which hearings in the Public Examination process the Town Council wanted to have representation. In addition, this report also detailed how such hearings would be held as per advice received from the appointed Inspector. This report concluded with the recommendations that Cllrs need to agree who would represent the Town Council at these hearings. Cllr Chris Lines suggested that in the absence of exact dates and times for hearings making it difficult to identify a single representative that the Council should instead identify a small core of representatives. Cllr Maxine Robinson expressed the importance of ensuring that such representatives understood they would be speaking on behalf of the Town Council and not giving their own personal comments. This was acknowledged by all as being essential.

Cllr John Robinson suggested that the Sedgefield Neighbourhood Planning Forum be allowed to speak on behalf of the Town Council at these hearings as this is a Group which has been established and supported by the Town Council in order to produce a Neighbourhood Plan built upon the views of the Town's community.

Cllrs expressed grave concerns that if there is any time delay in the County Durham Plan Public Examination Process this could allow developers the opportunity to challenge delays in the determination of their applications which would make Sedgefield very vulnerable. Cllr Chris Lines stated that for this very reason the Sedgefield Plan is progressing to the timetable previously agreed to ensure that the community's voice is known.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) Sedgefield Town Council is represented at the Public Examination Hearing(s) by one of the following – Cllr Chris Lines, Mr David Bowles or Mr Mort Spalding.**

**13. 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):

- 1-2** These applications had already been approved by DCC.
- 3-4** Cllrs did not have any objections with regards to Planning Applications 3-4.
- 5** Land South Of Beacon Lane:

Cllr Maxine Robinson declared an interest that she had already spoken earlier to the Sedgefield Civic Trust who would be objecting strongly to this application due to the impact upon the historic landscape and furrows.

All Cllrs objected to this application to build 42 dwellings on the three corner field due to the impact upon the historic landscape (including ridged furrows), the effects upon the character and nature of the Town and highways issues. Cllr David Brown stated planning permission for this site has been submitted on several occasions over the years and all have been refused.

Cllrs requested this application be referred to DCC's Planning Committee for determination. County Cllr John Robinson duly noted this request.

- 6-10** Cllrs did not have any objections with regards to Planning Applications 6-10.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) The above comments to be forwarded to DCC Planning Officers.**

- ii) With regard to planning application 5 the Clerk to immediately inform Mr Steven Pilkington, DCC Planner, of the Council's request for this application to be referred to the Planning Committee for determination.**
- iii) With regard to planning application 5 the Clerk to draft a letter to Mr Steven Pilkington outlining the Council's objections to the application and then to get this letter approved at the start of the Community Development & Engagement Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.