

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**
of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice &
Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 10th November 2014.**

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

Officer Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. David Brown, Lynne Dentith, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a) Minutes of the Community Chest Meeting held Monday 6th October 2014

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

b) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 6th October 2014

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

c) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 6th October 2014

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

**d) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held
Monday 13th October 2014**

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

e) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 13th October 2014

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

f) Minutes of the Fireworks Working Group meeting held 16th October 2014

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

Note: The Fireworks Working Group minutes of the meeting held on 31st October 2014
will be issued and considered at the December Monthly meeting.

g) Minutes of Joint Town Council and Sedgefield In Bloom Meeting held 15th October 2014

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

h) Minutes of the Personnel committee meeting held 29th September and 20th October 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record (GW / IS).

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2014 were confirmed as a correct record (AB / GW).

Cllr Gloria Wills highlighted page 46 of the Personnel Minutes relating to 20th October 2014 whereby the Town Clerk had confirmed her attainment of the CiLCA qualification. Congratulations were given to the Clerk.

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

4. Matters of Information

Cllr Chris Lines reported to Council the death of Mr Tim Speary on Wednesday 5th November 2014. Mr Speary was one of the founding members of the Sedgefield Village Veterans as well as being actively involved in the Town in his role as Neighbourhood Warden for many years. His involvement within the Town was acknowledged by all Cllrs present.

RESOLVED:

- i) A card of condolence and accompanying letter be sent from the Town Council to Mr Speary's family.**
- ii) When known, details of Mr Speary's funeral arrangements to be circulated by the Clerk to Cllrs.**

County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon joined the meeting.

4.1 Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans:

The Clerk reported that a summarized history of this issue had been sent to County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon in order that she could investigate further with DCC. No further information had been received as yet.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.2 Chairman's Report (October 2014):

Preliminary work has already been undertaken with regard to organizing a visit to NETPark.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.3 Woodland Parish Council – Woodland and Hamsterley Against Windy Banks Wind Farm Proposal

The Clerk has thanked Cllr Alistair Rutter of Woodland Parish Council for taking the time to make the Town Council aware of this development and suggested he liaises with Mr Steve Ragg (CDALC) to seek support/involvement from the Windfarm Working Group.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and close this matter.

4.4 Current Planning Applications

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

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates for meetings taking place in November 2014 and events scheduled for December 2014 – March 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Police Report

Apologies had been submitted by Sgt Alex Clarke who was unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk read out Sgt Clarke's monthly report which covered the period 6th October 2014 – 10th November 2014. In this period the following crimes had been recorded:

- Between 4pm and 80pm on 31st October 2014, a dwelling burglary occurred in Hadleigh Close, Sedgfield. The property was in darkness and entry was forced at the rear of the

premises. Money and a gents wristwatch were taken.

- Between 3pm on 20th October 2014 and 4pm on 1st November 2014, a dwelling burglary occurred in Queens Drive, Sedgefield. Again entry was forced at the rear of the premises. Cash and jewellery were taken. The MO was very similar to the above and it is suspected that both incidents occurred on the same evening.
- At 5am on 4th November 2014, a burglary occurred in Chestnut Road, Sedgefield. Persons entered via an unlocked front door and removed car keys for a Ford KA motor vehicle. The vehicle was driven away pursued by the occupant. The vehicle travelled onto the A689 towards Wynyard.
- Between 7pm and 11.50pm on 24th October 2014, unknown persons have entered a garage by pulling the roller door from its runners at South West Lodge, Sedgefield. A pressure washer, a gents hybrid pedal cycle and a Honda off-road motor cycle were taken.
- On 17th October 2014, damage was caused to planters on the village green. PC Todd has recovered CCTV images from DCC and is confident of identifying those responsible.
- Overnight on 1st November 2014, a vehicle sustained damage whilst parked in the car park of the Golden Lion Public House. There are no suspects for this crime.
- Shortly after midnight on 8th November 2014, a taxi was damaged whilst collecting a fare from the premises. A female suspect has been identified and will be interviewed in due course.
- On the evening of 14th October 2014, an attempted theft of Entonox (laughing gas) occurred at Sedgefield Community Hospital. Police traced the suspect to the Wheatley Hill area. The male was later charged with the above offence.
- There have been 2 drive offs from local service stations (one detected and a very strong suspect has been identified for the second), one incident of public order/resist arrest outside the Black Lion (the male suspect received a Police caution), one assault at the Golden Lion (male suspect is to be interviewed), one drug offence (suspect interviewed and bailed awaiting forensic analysis results), one domestic theft involving ex-partners and one fraud involving the use of a fuel card.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 32% on the same time last year with nearly one out of every two crimes being solved (47% detection rate for year to date).

81 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in October 2014 compared with 95 in October 2013 (a reduction of 15%). 38 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in October 2014 compared to 50 in October 2013 (a reduction of 24%).

The next PACT Meeting is on Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall.

Sgt Clarke had also reported three other issues of note:

- Dwelling burglaries – two of the dwelling burglaries (Hadleigh Close and Queens Drive) have very similar MO's and due to the close proximity it is thought they both occurred on the same evening. They are similar in nature to several other burglaries in the Trimdon Village area which occurred earlier in the month. Police have arrested a male who is currently on police bail pending further enquiries. The MO for the burglary in Chestnut Road appears at odds with the others and may not be connected. Police have also been conducting covert foot and pedal cycle patrols in the areas affected.
- Crime prevention advice – the above burglaries have been occurring early evening after dark. The houses targeted have been in darkness and have not been alarmed. The message police are keen to get out is 'don't leave your house in darkness (leave an energy saving light on or use a timer switch) and keep your doors and windows secure'.
- There are still issues with youths gathering in the village on a weekend. This will be policed appropriately and the NPT will keep working with the local comprehensive school to get the message out. With the nights turning colder it is hoped that this will reduce the numbers involved and that the youth café will become a more attractive proposition and keep the young people in-doors.

Finally, the Clerk reported that over the last couple of weekends several planted tubs and flowerbeds have been vandalized. This matter has been reported to Sgt Clarke via 101.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

7. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles reported that she had attended 3 hearings of the County Durham Plan Examination in Public process representing the Sedgefield Residents Forum. She expressed her disappointment that despite the Forum requesting to work in partnership with the Town Council on this matter that this had not happened. The Vice Chair of the Forum had recently resigned and at the last Forum meeting Mrs Bowles (Chair) and Mrs Spalding (Secretary) had also both reported their intention to stand down from their roles respectively. There is a desire to keep the Forum in operation and an appeal for new members is being placed in the

Sedgefield News. If no new members come forward the Forum will close. The Sedgefield Plan needs to be finalized as a matter of urgency and needs to come to the Town Council soon. Finally, Mrs Bowles reported a significant amount of smashed glass on footpaths in the Town on the morning of Sunday 9th November 2014.

Cllr Chris Lines replied that a special Town Council meeting will be held to consider the Sedgefield Plan when the Plan is ready to be presented.

Mr Howard Smith reported that on Friday 7th November 2014 a DCC Environmental Health Officer had been knocking on doors in Rectory Row and Wykes Close asking if residents had seen any rats recently. A number of rats have been seen by various residents in an around the bins in Rectory Row/Wykes Close area which are overflowing during weekends.

The Clerk reported that Environmental Health had visited the area as a result of the Town Council reporting a number of complaints regarding sitings of rats in this area of the Town.

Ms Liz Mitchell reported that digging work is taking place at the field at Stockton Road, however, it is unknown who is undertaking this work and why.

The Clerk offered to investigate this situation and report back at the next meeting.

The meeting was then re-opened.

8. Internal Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that over the past month he had prepared for and attended several hearings of the County Durham Plan Examination in Public process as detailed in the report circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk (to be considered under agenda item 11.1. The Chair is also due to attend in his role as Town Council Ambassador a NETPark vision launch event on Wednesday 12th November 2014. He will update Cllrs on this event in his December Chairman's Report.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

8.2 Mayor's Report

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

October:

10 th	Durham County Planning Hearing at Riverside to represent Sedgefield and
------------------	---

	confirm earlier submissions on part of their proposal.
16 th – 17 th	Britain in Bloom awards at Bristol when Sedgefield won Gold
21 st	Pop In Club visit
24 th	Darlington Civic Theatre visit for Mayor's Charity
25 th	Winterton Allotments visit to support Cllr Walton's Allotments Challenge Awards Ceremony
31 st	Sedgefield Mayor's Quiz at Ceddesfeld Hall
31 st	Bloom coffee morning visit
31 st	Golden Wedding presentation to Mr & Mrs Bannister, The Lane.

November:

1 st	Fireworks Display and judging 29 pumpkins as part of Halloween Howler
7 th	Peterlee Mayor's Charity Ball at Shotton Hall
8 th	Horden Parish Council Mayor's Charity Evening
9 th	Remembrance Service at St Edmund's and the cenotaph

The Clerk reported that the recent Sedgefield Mayor's Quiz on 31st October 2014 had raised £289.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

8.3 Presentation of Freeman Award to Cllr Ian Sutherland (Report by Clerk)

A report by the Clerk had been circulated to all prior to the meeting detailing the arrangements for the presentation of Cllr Ian Sutherland's Freeman Award on Thursday 11th December 2014. Invitation letters will soon be sent to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

9. External Reports

9.1 Report from DCC Members (JR / RL)

County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon reported the following:

- A significant amount of her time is being spent on dealing with the current school transport issues surrounding Sedgefield Community College;
- There will be an official opening of the yurt at Hardwick Park on 14th November 2014. An invitation should have been sent to the Town Council (Note: It appears that the invitation has gone directly to Cllr Chris Lines who will be attending this event);
- DCC are currently removing a significant amount of rubbish and flytipping from the Duck Pond at Wykes Close. Cllrs felt that this work could perhaps be the cause for rat movement within the Town.
- DCC have launched an anti-fly tipping campaign.
- NETPark are delighted to host a site visit for Cllrs and staff from Sedgefield Town Council, Fishburn Parish Council and Bishop Middleham Parish Council.

To progress this NETPark require a preferred month for such a visit.

- The Fire Service and Ambulance Service are looking at options for having a shared site within the Sedgefield/Fishburn area. Fishburn would be keen to host such a facility (Note: the Fire Service are due to give a presentation to the Town Council at the next Community Development & Engagement Committee on 17th November 2014 so a view could not be given on this matter until after that date).
- Warm Up North is a national initiative whereby British Gas are making available money for community buildings up to £6,000 to replace boilers etc.

Cllr Mark Cant requested an update on the old hospital site at Fishburn. County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon confirmed that DCC are working with the owners to target harden the site. An audit of the site is currently underway. County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon will keep Cllrs updated on this matter. With regard to the annual Durham Horse Fair held over the August Bank Holiday weekend all parties preferred option is to have a pre-identified and publicized site known well in advance of the event. Sedgefield is not going to be considered as a site for the 2015 event.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to investigate again the on-going outstanding matter of the Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans issues (Note: The Clerk will resend previously sent information).**
- iii) County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to make DCC Environmental Health aware of potential rat movement as a result of work currently being undertaken at the Duck Pond at Wykes Close.**
- iv) County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to send to the Clerk details of DCC's anti-fly tipping campaign for wider dissemination to Cllrs and Residents.**
- v) The Clerk to forward to County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon the preferred month for visiting NETPark.**
- vi) The Clerk to request Mrs Angela Simpson explore the possibility of the Warm Up North initiative for the Parish Hall.**

10. Correspondence

10.1 Proposed Artwork at Caden Court, Sedgefield

The Clerk circulated copies of an email from Mr Andrew Kitchen, Development Manager at Livin, dated 4th November 2014. Mr Kitchen confirmed that a previous planning application to install a piece of artwork at Caden Court had now been withdrawn as Livin felt with hindsight it would have been prudent to consult with the Town Council on their proposal prior to submission when it would have been apparent that the inclusion of a miners lamp indicating a former mining heritage would have been more akin to Trimdon/Fishburn. The artist has now altered his design and Livin seek the views of the Town Council prior to a planning application being submitted. Details of the newly proposed artwork and a photograph of it were circulated to all Cllrs for consideration.

RESOLVED:

This matter to be discussed at the start of the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th November 2014.

10.2 Construction of 3 dwellings, Butterwick Road, Sedgefield

The Clerk circulated copies of an email from Mrs Pauline Tweddell dated 11th October 2014 regarding the developer building 3 dwellings next to St Edmund's Green on Butterwick Road.

RESOLVED:

This information to be considered by Cllrs and discussed further at the start of the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th November 2014.

10.3 Proposed Stopping Up At Butterwick Road, Sedgefield

The Clerk circulated copies of an email from Mrs Pauline Tweddell dated 8th November 2014 detailing her objections to proposed Stopping Up at Butterwick Road, Sedgefield.

RESOLVED:

This application is to be considered under agenda item 12.

11. Planning: New Large Scale Development

11.1 County Durham Plan Public Examination Update (Report by Town Clerk)

A report by the Clerk had been circulated to all prior to the meeting detailing the latest position with regard to Sedgefield Town Council's representation at the County Durham Plan Public Examination.

Cllr Chris Lines reported that the EIP is nearing the end of its first phase. There have been lots of challenges made from across the County by both developers and community groups. There has been good representation from Sedgefield from individuals, the Residents Forum and the Town Council. Following a challenge from the Town Council regarding the statistic of 7133 existing dwellings in Sedgefield, DCC have now confirmed this figure included existing dwellings within Fishburn and the Trimdons. The correct figure is 2230 and this will be used in the Town Council's summing up arguments with the Inspector on Thursday 13th November 2014. Cllr Chris Lines reported that due to the level of representation and strength of feeling in

relation to Sedgefield the Inspector has indicated that he may arrange a visit to the Town and would be willing to invite those who have made representations during the EIP.

Cllr Ian Sutherland asked if he was correct in his interpretation of the Clerk's report that other areas in the County have requested higher allocations of housing than they have currently been given. Cllr Chris Lines confirmed that representatives of land owners and developers from many areas are asking for higher allocations of housing in the County Durham Plan.

Cllr Tim Jeanes asked if any survey had been undertaken with estates agents to determine the number of houses for sale in Sedgefield, the number which have been on the market for less than a year/more than one year/more than 2 years etc plus the number of properties available to let. Cllr Gloria Wills confirmed that the Neighbourhood Planning Group at its inception had undertaken a huge amount of research relating to issues in and around those highlighted by Cllr Jeanes. The Housing Appraisal detailed that there was sufficient housing in the south of County Durham. Cllr Gloria Wills stated that she had participated in several EIP hearings not as a Councillor but as an individual resident from the Town. She informed Cllrs that DCC have now withdrawn their earlier submitted evidence that NWL have already found funding to deal with capacity issues on their assets in the Town.

Cllr Chris Lines reiterated how this process links to the Neighbourhood Plan. When the Sedgefield Plan is ready it will be presented to the Town Council for approval. This matter cannot be covered as part of a Town Council Committee meeting due to the fact that it needs time for consideration and the correct level of questioning. Cllr Allan Blakemore had attended a recent Neighbourhood Plan meeting and confirmed that it would not be possible or practical to consider this Plan as part of a wider Committee meeting. A special Town Council meeting will be scheduled once the Plan is at an appropriate stage to be considered with copies of the Plan being circulated to all. Cllrs will need time to consider the Plan and read the underlying documentation to correctly understand the context and bring their questions to the special meeting. Cllr Gloria Wills stated that the Neighbourhood Plan will go through a similar examination process to that being undertaken by the County Durham Plan. All Cllrs agreed that a robust Sedgefield Plan is needed to protect the area.

Cllr Rebecca Hagan queried where the original suggestion had come from for

Sedgefield to become a “Main Town”. Cllr Chris Lines explained that this suggestion had originated from the Church Commissioners in a letter to DCC.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

12. Current Planning Applications

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

Proposed Stopping up of Highway at East Well Farm, East End, Sedgefield

Information relating to this application had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The information had been supplied by the National Transport Casework Team of the Department of Transport. All Cllrs present felt that this proposal should have been submitted as part of the original planning application and not be applied for at this stage.

- 1 Outline application including details of access, appearance, layout and scale for the erection of 205 dwellings, 2 extra care facilities (total 105 beds), community youth facility, business enterprise unit and 3000m² of B8 (storage and distribution) use with further outline permission sought including only details of access and layout for the erection of 256 dwellings including 13 self-build plots. Cllrs agreed to object to this application with concerns regarding:

- There being no definite determination made yet regarding the County Durham Plan;
- The scale of the application;
- The application being out of context with a country Town;
- Concerns regarding water pressure and sewerage capacity;
- Major infrastructure problems which cannot be overcome without major investment

In addition, there was concern that a decision should not be made regarding such a large scale application until the outcome of the County Durham Plan Public Examination Process is known.

Several Cllrs felt that professional advice should be sought regarding this application (in a similar way to that obtained in relation to Eden Drive). An extension should be sought from DCC to allow the Town Council to submit its objections and if necessary allow the Clerk to seek professional advice to a financial limit of £500 to do so.

RESOLVED:

The Council will object to this application on the grounds of material planning considerations.

2-4 Cllrs did not have any objections with regards to Planning Applications 2-4.

RESOLVED

The above comments to be forwarded to DCC Planning Officers.

The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs details of two planning applications which had just been published by DCC on Monday 10th November 2014 as follows:

- Creation of all weather bowling green and associated works (DM/14/02891/FPA)
- Installation of air handling unit, 3 no chiller units, boiler, associated flues and pipework (north elevation), internal and external alternations and erection of detached single storey building at NETPark (DM/14/02890/FPA)

RESOLVED:

The above 2 planning applications will be considered at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th November 2014.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.19pm.