

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 8th December 2014.**

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

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Alf Walton and Rebecca Hagan

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 10 November 2014

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

b) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 10 November 2014

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

c) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Monday 17 November 2014

Cllr Gloria Wills highlighted section 7.5 and the Clerk confirmed this should read " Cllr Chris Lines confirmed that copies of the "work in progress" Sedgefield Plan were available on the Sedgefield Plan website. Cllr Chris Lines also reported that the Plan".

With the inclusion of this amendment the minutes were confirmed as a correct record. (CL / IS)

d) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 17 November 2014

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

Cllr Mel Carr joined the meeting.

e) Minutes of the Fireworks Working Group meetings held 31 October 2014 and 11 November 2014

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

f) Minutes of Estates Working Group meetings held 13 and 25 November 2014

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

g) Minutes of the Personnel committee meeting held Monday 24 November 2014

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

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

4. Matters of Information

4.1 Mr Tim Speary:

A card of condolence and accompanying letter had been sent to Mr Speary's family. Mr Speary's funeral details had been circulated to all.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and close this matter.

4.2 Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans:

The Clerk reported that a summarized history of this issue had been resent to County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon in order that she could investigate further with DCC. No further information had been received as yet. Cllr Mark Cant reported that lights are noticeable at this site during the evenings. It was agreed this should be reported to Ms Susan Porter at DCC.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) The Clerk to inform Ms Porter of Cllr Cant's observations and request an urgent progress update regarding this site.**

4.3 Public Participation:

Cllr Chris Lines and the Clerk have written to the Residents Forum, via Mrs Julia Bowles, in relation to their concerns regarding the lack of co-ordination across the Town in relation to

the EIP. Copies of this letter had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that Mrs Julia Bowles had responded to this in a letter dated 4th December 2014 a copy of which was circulated to all Cllrs for their information.

The Clerk reported that the Sedgefield Plan will be presented to the Town Council on Monday 5th January 2014 and would be discussed in further detail during agenda item 11.2.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.4 Report from DCC Members:

The Clerk reported that NETPark had invited Cllrs to attend a site visit on 16th December 2014, however, the timing clashed with the next Personnel Committee to which the new Internal Auditor had provisionally been invited to attend. The Clerk had requested NETPark suggest an alternative date/time in the New Year and reiterated Cllrs desire to visit the site and have greater engagement.

Cllr Rachel Lumsdon had forwarded to the Clerk information regarding DCC's anti-fly tipping campaign and this had been duly disseminated to Cllrs and residents as well as displayed in the Town Council Offices.

Mrs Angela Simpson is investigating the Warm Up North initiative and has submitted expressions of interest in relation to both the Town Council Offices and the Parish Hall. Once information is received from British Gas this will be considered by the Estates Working Group.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.5 Current Planning Applications:

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

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates for meetings taking place in December 2014 and events scheduled for December 2014 – March 2015 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk informed Cllrs that since these dates had been circulated a further meeting of the Finance Working Group had been scheduled for 9.30am on Wednesday 17th December 2014 in the Council Offices.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Police Report

Sgt Alex Clarke read out his monthly report which covered the period 10th November 2014 – 8th December 2014. In this period the following crimes had been recorded:

- Between 6pm on 19th November 2014 and 8.45pm on 26th November 2014, the lock of a garage in Eden Drive was forced and two off-road motor cycles and a generator were taken.
- Overnight on 28th November 2014, a Volvo motor vehicle sustained scratches to the paintwork whilst parked up in Wykes Close.
- Overnight on 16th November 2014, a Ford Fiesta motor vehicle sustained scratched to the paintwork whilst parked up in Winterton Avenue.
- In the early hours of Saturday 6th December 2014, the patio doors were damaged at the Black Lion Public House. Staff challenged a male who was barred from the pub and on leaving the male damaged the doors. A 33 year old man from Oakdene Road, Fishburn was arrested and later charged with the offence.
- Between 23rd November 2014 and 1st December 2014, a poster frame attached to the brick bus shelter on the village green was kicked and sustained damage. Enquiries are on-going to identify the person responsible.
- There have been four incidents of shoplifting which Police are investigating. Two suspects have been identified and Police are also working with retailers to improve security on the lead up to Christmas.
- There has been one drive-off offence at Bradbury Services and Police have identified a suspect who will be dealt with in due course.
- There has been one minor assault involving two boys and they have been dealt with by way of Juvenile RA.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 32% on the same time last year with nearly one out of every two crimes being solved (49% detection rate for year to date).

91 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in November 2014 compared with 105 in November 2013 (a reduction of 13%). 42 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in November 2014 compared to 55 in November 2013 (a reduction of 24%).

The PACT are currently focusing their attentions on parking and congestion problems at the entrance to Sedgefield Industrial Estate in the run up to the festive period. Dates for PACT meetings in 2015 have yet to be scheduled.

Sgt Clarke also reported two other issues of note:

- Dwelling burglaries – local officers working with colleagues from Cleveland Police Area have identified a male responsible for two dwelling burglaries in the Cleveland area on 15th November 2014. The male was charged and placed before the court where he was remanded in custody. This male had already been arrested for four dwelling burglaries in Trimdon as well as three in Sedgefield.
- There are still issues with youths gathering in the village on a weekend. The Police will continue to police the area at the appropriate times.

Cllr Ian Sutherland congratulated Sgt Clarke and his Police colleagues their work in reducing the number of incidents in the Town.

Cllr Tim Jeanes asked Sgt Clarke how often CCTV footage is useful in leading to arrests within the Town. Sgt Clarke replied that the CCTV footage is not as useful as it could be.

Cllr Allan Blakemore informed Cllrs that the Neighbourhood Watch have now started this year's Operation Dark. Sgt Clarke reminded Cllrs that if anyone requires lights the Police do have a supply and he should be their first point of contact.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles appreciated that the Town Council's New Year's Eve fireworks would not be taking place this year on the village green, however, she understood that another event may be taking place in the Town with Council funding. Cllr Chris Lines responded stating that no Town Council funding is being used for any such event, however, he understood that some fireworks were going to be let off at the Nag's Head as they have done for several years previously. Mrs Bowles then asked why nothing has been done to the front of the old Sainsbury's store which is now looking in a very poor state. Cllr Chris Lines said the Town Council would investigate this. Finally, Mrs Bowles informed Cllrs that she had written a follow-up response to the Council following receipt of the letter from Cllr Chris Lines and the Clerk in response to comments made regarding the approach to the EIP. The Clerk confirmed that this letter was the one circulated to all Cllrs earlier in the meeting for their information.

Mr Howard Smith congratulated the Police on their efforts which had seen a reduction in anti-social behavior in the Town. However, Mr Smith expressed concerns regarding recent vehicle vandalism in and around the Old Peoples Bungalows in the Town. Vehicles have not only been scratched but also been covered in eggs and flour. This is very intimidating for the residents living nearby. Cllr Chris Lines assured Mr Smith that his concern would be passed 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:

- Attended NETPark's 10 year celebratory event at the Town Hall in Durham. This had been a very interesting event which showed how much had already been achieved at the site and how much is hoped to be achieved in the future. Cllr Lines will be attending a further event at NETPark on 16th December 2014.
- Attended the final hearing of Stage 1 of the Examination in Public. This hearing had been followed by a site visit to Sedgefield which had also included other Sedgefield residents and Groups as well as potential developers and DCC Officers. The visit had looked at several proposed sites of development in the Town. The Inspector's Stage 1 Findings Report is expected early-mid February 2015. Cllr Gloria Wills thanked Cllr Chris Lines for his attendance at this hearing and for keeping fellow Cllrs updated.
- Attended the official opening of the Yurt at Hardwick Park.
- Organised and attended defibrillator training.
- Attended the Sedgefield Development Trust Open Evening.
- Attended the Town Council's Youth Working Group meeting and Sedgefield 700+ meeting.
- Continued involvement in the production of the Sedgefield Plan.

- Met with Ms Freda Dovaston regarding New Year's Eve Fireworks.

With regards to the Sedgefield 700+ meeting Cllr Allan Blakemore informed Cllrs that next year's Sedgefield Day will be held on 20th June 2015. One of the themes being proposed was a Science event with potential linkage to NETPark. Cllr Chris Lines will explore this option further during his next meeting at NETPark on 16th December 2014 which is aimed at increasing NETPark's community engagement with the wider area.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

8.2 Mayor's Report

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

November:

11 th	Remembrance Service at St Luke's Church, Winterton
13 th	County Durham Environment Awards at Durham Raddison to receive awards with Sedgefield In Bloom
24 th	Christmas tree planting on Crosshill with Rotary Club of Sedgefield, Cllr Alf Walton and Gardeners Stephen Young and Roy Cairns
27 th	Visit to Sedgefield Hardwick School in conjunction with Area Action Partnership to answer any questions about the function of the Town Council
27 th	Visit to Sedgefield Primary School with AAP as above
28 th	Bloom Christmas coffee morning visit
28 th	Stockton Mayor's Charity evening at Chandlers Wharf
29 th	Sedgefield Snow Party, at Parish Hall and Crosshill switching on Christmas lights and carols at St Edmund's Church. Well attended by local junior school children taking part in the snowman parade. There were visitors from various other surrounding villages and towns. Thanks go to the Snow Party Committee, Office staff (reindeers), Cllrs and all helpers who took part including the main with a white beard in the red suit.

December:

5 th	Stockton Mayor's Carol Service at Parish Church
6 th	Barnard Castle Carol Service and Fireworks Display
7 th	Sedgefield Farmers Market Christmas event

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. External Reports

9.1 Report from DCC Members (JR / RL)

No DCC Members were present to give a verbal report and no written report had been supplied.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Sedgefield Plan Steering Group Minutes (18th November 2014)

Prior to the meeting copies of the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2014 had been circulated to all Cllrs. Cllr Chris Lines reminded Cllrs that the next Steering Group meeting is to be held on Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 7pm with a venue TBC. All are welcome to attend.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

11. Planning: New Large Scale Development

11.1 County Durham Plan Public Examination Update (Report by Cllr Chris Lines)

Prior to the meeting copies of the "County Durham Plan Public Examination Update" Report by Cllr Chris Lines had been circulated to all Cllrs for their information.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

11.2 Presentation of Sedgefield Plan to Town Council (Report by Town Clerk)

Prior to the meeting copies of the "Presentation of Sedgefield Plan to Town Council" Report by the Clerk had been circulated to all Cllrs for their information. The Clerk explained to Cllrs that a text copy of the finalized draft Sedgefield Plan will be posted out to all Cllrs prior to the Town Council Offices closing on 23rd December 2014 to allow Cllrs time to read and consider the Plan before it is presented to them by the Steering Group on Monday 5th January 2015 at 7pm in the Parish Hall.

The Clerk also informed Cllrs that she is working with Mr David Bowles to complete the final Progress Report for the Community Development Foundation grant which was awarded to the Town Council in 2013. The Progress Report must be submitted by 31st December 2014. The Town Council was awarded a grant of £6150, however, 10% of the grant is retained by CDF until receipt of the final Progress Report at which point the funds will be released.

The Clerk is also meeting with Tony Guest on Thursday 11th December 2014 in order to submit an application for a potential £815 of funding from the DCLG to support the

on-going Neighbourhood Plan work.

Cllr David Brown questioned whether any funding had been received from the County Cllr. The Clerk reported that Mr David Bowles is already in discussions with County Cllr John Robinson regarding this matter. The Clerk reported that as requested by Cllrs at the previous Environment Committee meeting she had liaised with Ms Sandra Stephenson who had confirmed that the Neighbourhood Budgets for County Cllrs John Robinson and Rachel Lumsdon have now been spent/committed for 2014/15.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

12. Current Planning Applications

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

1-4 Cllrs did not have any objections with regards to Planning Applications 1 - 4

RESOLVED

The comments on planning applications 1-4 to be submitted to DCC Planners.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.37pm.