

# SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **AUGUST SPECIAL  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** of the **Council** held at  
**6.30pm** in the **Council Offices**, Sedgfield, on  
**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**



**Present**

**Cllr Mel Carr (Chair)**

**Cllr Gloria Wills (Vice Chair)**

Cllrs David Brown, Ann Carr, Jo Elliott, Alda Hummelinck, Leo McCormack, Julie Towler, Alf Walton and Mavis Wayman

**Officer**

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael and Chris Lines.

**2. Declaration of interest**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

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

Ms Karen Turnbull informed Cllrs of her concerns regarding a planning application being submitted by the owners of 90 The Meadows which is next to her property. The proposed planning application would result in there being only a 38cm gap between the two properties as the extension would be built upon metal stilts rather than foundations hence it would overhang the existing garage at 90 The Meadows. Ms Turnbull circulated photographs to visualize this. In Ms Turnbull's view this application did not respect property boundaries and if built would remove access to enable pointing or guttering repairs if they were ever required. This extension would create the impression of terraced housing which would significantly alter the visual look of the estate and create a precedence for other such building work. Ms Turnbull had spent time looking at all other estates in the Town and could find no other example of an extension being built in such a way.

(Cllrs David Brown and Joanne Elliott joined the meeting at this point).

The Chairman thanked Ms Turnbull for her comments and re-opened the meeting. The Clerk

reported that earlier that day she had received from Ms Turnbull a copy of a letter which she had sent, along with attachment, to Ms Hilary Sperring of DCC dated 26<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The Clerk circulated copies of this letter and attachment to all Cllrs for their information.

**4. The County Council of Durham – A177 Thorpe Larches to Metal Bridge (Restriction) Order 2008 (Amendment No 1) Order 2017 (letter from Ms Loraine Holding, Durham County Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of a letter entitled “The County Council of Durham – A177 Thorpe Larches to Metal Bridge)” and attachments from Ms Loraine Holding of Durham County Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 as part of their consultation exercise running from 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Cllrs agreed with the proposal to reinstate the speed limit to 60mph.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and the Clerk to inform Ms Loraine Holding that the Town Council are in agreement with this proposal.**

**5. The County Council of Durham – Unclassified 43.20 Sedgefield (Various Speed Limits) Order 2017 (letter from Ms Loraine Holding, Durham County Council dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of a letter entitled “The County Council of Durham – Unclassified 43.20 Sedgefield (Various Speed Limits)” and attachments from Ms Loraine Holding of DCC dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 as part of their consultation exercise running from 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Cllrs agreed with the proposal to put in place a 40mph speed limit and hoped this would overcome safety concerns previously expressed by residents in this area.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and the Clerk to inform Ms Loraine Holding that the Town Council are in agreement with this proposal.**

**6. The County Council of Durham – Sedgefield (Prohibition & Restriction of Waiting and Stopping, Parking Places and Disabled Parking) Order 2011 (Amendment No 1) Order 2017 (letter from Ms Loraine Holding, Durham County Council dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017)**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of a letter entitled “The County Council of Durham – Sedgefield (Prohibition & Restriction of Waiting and Stopping, Parking Places and Disabled Parking) Order 2011 (Amendment No 1) Order 2017” and attachments

from Ms Loraine Holding of DCC dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 as part of their consultation exercise running from 11<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. Cllr Mel Carr reported that this proposal related to an extension of the no parking (i.e. no waiting at any time) around Sainsbury's covering the area between Sainsbury's and the nearby industrial estate. Cllr Alf Walton said he did not agree with this proposal as we felt the public did not use this area for parking. Cllr Leo McCormack commented that lots of lorries do park up overnight in this area which then creates a blockage. With the exception of Cllr Walton, all Cllrs agreed to DCC's proposal.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and the Clerk to inform Ms Loraine Holding that the Town Council are in agreement with this proposal.**

**7. The Sedgefield Plan Update Report by Town Clerk**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Sedgefield Plan Update Report which summarized the meeting held between Town Council representatives and Ms Clare Cuskin and Mr Stuart Carter both of DCC on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017. The Clerk informed Cllrs that the current situation detailed in the report, i.e. that on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 Mr Carter confirmed that Mr Timmiss had agreed to cover the cost of a second opinion from a barrister and that DCC were in the process of preparing instructions to be sent out and hoped to be in a position to pass this on shortly, was still the latest information received. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her concern at the time which has now lapsed since creating yet further delay in the Plan's progress. Cllr Wills suggested that the Clerk contact Mr Carter and request clarification as to who DCC will be seeking independent advice from and what they will be asking that person. Cllr Ann Carr expressed the hope that the advice would be sought from someone who is completely independent. Cllr Mel Carr also expressed his concern that DCC had assured the Town Council independent advice would be sought within two weeks of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 when in actual fact considerably more time is now being taken.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Clerk to contact Mr Stuart Carter of DCC to request clarification as to who DCC will be seeking independent advice from and what they will be asking that person.**

(Cllr Julie Towler joined the meeting at this point).

**8. New Chairs for Fletcher Room Recommendation Report by Estates Working Group**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a "New Chairs For Fletcher Room

Recommendation Report” by the Estates Working Group.

Cllr David Brown commented that he had heard lots of very positive comments regarding the refurbished Fletcher Room, however, he expressed his concern at the cost of the chairs being proposed for this room and felt that cheaper options were available and should be explored. Cllr Ann Carr agreed with Cllr Brown and she also felt that the chairs being proposed did not look particularly comfortable. Cllr Gloria Wills replied that the Estates Working Group had investigated this issue very thoroughly and it was essential that chairs in the Fletcher Room were contract chairs suitable for commercial use as well as being robust and comfortable. Cllr Mel Carr reiterated the level of research undertaken and whilst cheaper chairs had been identified they were not substantial enough for the use they would encounter. Cllr Leo McCormack questioned the length of warranty on the chairs being proposed and Cllr Mel Carr confirmed that these came with a 5 year warranty. The Clerk also pointed out that chairs were needed which could be stacked and it had been found that several of the cheaper alternatives did not allow for this.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) A sample chair from each of the two recommendations be ordered as a matter of urgency with a full range of coloured swatches.**
- ii) Decision making powers to be given to the Chair of the Council and Vice Chair of the Council in conjunction with the Town Clerk to make a decision on the final purchase as soon as possible so that an purchase order can be submitted.**

**9. Cheques For Approval After 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a cheques for approval list dated 17<sup>th</sup> July – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017. The Clerk distributed to all an updated list featuring cheques dated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Cllr Alf Walton queried cheque number 109002 which related to skip hire and asked what this was for. The Clerk replied that a skip had been hired for delivery to the Town Council offices on the morning of 15<sup>th</sup> August and removal later that day in order to remove remaining scrap metal from the cemetery compound area as well as obsolete items from the Parish Hall and Council Offices.

Cllr Ann Carr asked why payments were still made by cheques when BACS would be a cheaper alternative. The Clerk and Cllr Gloria Wills explained the background to the current

situation of presenting cheques for approval which is now done in an open and transparent way on a monthly basis with the opportunity for all Cllrs to comment on/challenge invoices prior to payment. The Council's Finance Working Group has on its agenda for the future to consider moving from cheques payment to BACS. Cllrs David Brown and Mel Carr endorsed the comments of the Clerk and Cllr Wills and reiterated that Cllrs now receive much improved financial information enabling them to fully understand the Council's finances.

**RESOLVED:**

**i) All cheques were approved for payment.**

**ii) Cllrs Carr and Wills plus the Town Clerk to duly sign the cheques.**

**10. Consideration of Current Planning Applications**

Prior to the consideration of the current planning applications the Clerk updated Cllrs on the following matters:

ESRG Public Inquiry – The Clerk reported that earlier that afternoon she had been informed by the Planning Inspectorate that the Public Inquiry arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017 to consider the ESRG large-scale planning application in Sedgfield had been cancelled because the appeal had been withdrawn. The Clerk had also shared this information electronically with all Cllrs.

Street Names for Large-scale Development at Eden Drive – The Clerk reported that a member of the public had asked how the street names were to be determined on the large-scale development at Eden Drive and if the Town Council would have any involvement in such. The Clerk had liaised with Ms Rachel Partridge of Taylor Wimpey who had replied she had been advised that during the consultation period for the planning application the SVAG had requested on input on this matter and Ms Partridge was now awaiting their comments. In the event that no suggestions were forthcoming Ms Partridge would request DCC appoint street names. Cllr Alf Walton said that he did not wish to see street names incorporating the names/surnames of individuals. Cllr David Brown commented that he had recently received information from DCC which suggested that road names had already been allocated and these included Farrier Close and Saddler Drive.

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/17/02159/TPO – crown raise (to approximately 2.4 metres) 1 no yew and 1 no holly (protected by TPO SBC-13-2004), 5 Millwalk Close, Sedgefield:**  
Cllrs did not have any objections.
- 2 DM/17/02184/FPA – loft conversion including installation of dormer window and 2 no roof lights to rear roof slope and 2 no roof lights in the front elevation, fenestration alterations to rear windows and erection of single storey rear extension, 33 West End, Sedgefield:**  
Cllrs expressed concerns regarding the roof lights being proposed to the front of the property and felt these could set a precedence. As a result of this Cllrs agreed to request that this matter be referred to the Conservation Officer to ensure the application complied with the requirements of the Conservation Area.
- 3 DM/17/02281/FPA – single storey front extension to form additional bedrooms and bathroom, Beechgrove, Thorpe Larches:**  
Cllrs did not have any objections.
- 4 DM/17/02316/FPA – replacement front bay windows, front door and re-rendering of panels, 27 North End, Sedgefield:**  
Cllrs were supportive of the proposals to improve this property but would like the Conservation Officer to look at this application to consider whether wooden windows should be retained at the property.
- 5 DM/17/02358/FPA – pitched roof first floor addition to the side and rear and pitched roof over front canopy, 90 The Meadows, Sedgefield:**  
Cllrs objected to this planning application on the grounds of it being over bearing and so close to the neighbouring property that it would become dominant to the street scene and not in keeping with the rest of the estate. Cllrs would like to request the Planning Officer reviews this particular application so as to keep distinct separation between this property and its neighbor by reducing the scale of the extension to within the footprint of the existing garage, i.e. any future extension to only be above the existing garage of the property.
- 6 DM/17/02462/VOC – variation to condition 2 (approved plans) of planning application DM/16/02310/FPA to increase size of front extension, Glendale Bungalow, Thorpe Larches:**  
Cllrs did not have any objections.
- 7 DM/17/02471/FPA – erection of two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, raised patio to rear and installation of driveway to front, 19 Rowan Oval, Sedgefield:**  
Cllrs did not have any objections.

- 8 DM/17/02518/FPA – demolition of garage and conservatory, erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and front porch, 22 Rowan Oval, Sedgefield:**

Cllrs did not have any objections.

**RESOLVED:**

**The comments on planning applications 1-8 above to be submitted to DCC Planners.**

- 11. The County Council of Durham (Roads C37 and C38 Sedgefield & Mordon Areas) (7.5 Tonnes Operating Weight Restrictions) Order 1983 (Amendment No 1) Order 2017 (letter and attachments from Ms Loraine Holding, DCC dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017):**

**The County Council of Durham (Farrier Close, Sedgefield) (20mph Speed Limit) Order 2017 (letter and attachments from Ms Loraine Holding, DCC dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017):**

The Clerk circulated to all copies of two letters and attachments as detailed above as part of their consultation exercise running from 18<sup>th</sup> August 2017 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Cllrs agreed with the proposals.

As an aside Cllrs noted that in relation to the second item of correspondence street names had already been assigned to part of the large-scale development on Eden Drive, i.e. Farrier Close, Saddler Drive, Milliner Court and Cordwainer Grove.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and the Clerk to inform Ms Loraine Holding that the Town Council are in agreement with these proposals.**

- 12. Sedgefield Community Hospital (letter from Ms Sue Jacques, Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017):**

The Clerk circulated to all a letter received from Ms Sue Jacques, Chief Executive of the County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 in response to the Town Council's earlier letter requesting an update on the current situation at Sedgefield Community Hospital and plans for the future of this facility in the Town. Ms Jacques letter concluded by informing the Town Council that a meeting has been arranged with County Cllr John Robinson on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 at 2pm at Darlington Memorial Hospital. County Cllr Robinson had advised that Allan Blakemore would be attending along with two other Cllrs. Town Cllrs reiterated that it was for the Town Council only as a corporate body to determine who would act as representatives and not for external organisations/individuals to make such a decision.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) Cllrs Gloria Wills and Mavis Wayman to represent the Town Council at the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2017 regarding Sedgefield Community Hospital.**
- ii) The Clerk to inform Ms Sue Jacques and County Cllr John Robinson that Cllrs Gloria Wills and Mavis Wayman will be representing the Town Council at the meeting.**
- iii) Cllrs Wills and Wayman to keep the Town Council updated following their attendance at the meeting with Ms Jacques.**

**13. Co-opted Councillor Resignation:**

The Clerk informed Cllrs that Mr Tony Magee has resigned from his position as Co-opted Councillor due to a sudden change in his personal circumstances. The Clerk had duly liaised with Ms Linda Spence of DCC's Electoral Services who has in turn produced notices which need to be displayed with immediate effect around the Town and on the Town Council's website, informing the public of this casual vacancy and giving people until 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to request an election. If ten electors from the Parish request an election this will be held by no later than 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. If nine or less electors request an election the vacancy can then be filled by co-option. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.36pm.