

# **SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **APRIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2015.**

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

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. Vanessa Carmichael, Rebecca Hagan, John Robinson and Maxine Robinson.

**2. Declaration of interest**

Cllr Ian Sutherland declared an interest in Item 5.3.

**3. Matters of Information**

**3.1 Equality Act 2010:**

It was agreed that as Cllr Hagan's presentation has not been shared with the Clerk at this point in time this matter should be closed.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.2 Fireworks Display 2015 (31<sup>st</sup> October):**

The Clerk reported that through CDALC members she is seeking contact details of an alternative provider in order to get a second opinion on the Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds and Cricket Club sites. This matter will be progressed following completion of the year end arrangements when the Fireworks Working Group will meet to consider options

and report back to a future Community Development and Engagement Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**3.3 Consideration of New Year's Eve Fireworks:**

The Clerk has written to Mrs Freda Dovaston. No response has been received as yet.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.4 Skerne Landscape Partnership Proposal:**

The Clerk had circulated to all Cllrs details of feedback required in relation to this project. No feedback had been received. The closing date for comments had been 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.5 How To Identify and Apply For Grant Funding:**

Mrs Angela Simpson has been tasked with drafting a Town Council Grant Funding Policy for presentation at the May 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**3.6 Sowers & Growers:**

As discussed at the previous Community Development and Engagement Committee meeting a recommendation had been taken to the P&R Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information and to close this matter.**

**3.7 Foodbank – Sedgefield:**

To be considered under agenda Item 6.

#### **4. Public Participation**

The Chairman, Cllr Alf Walton closed the meeting for the public to give their views and comments. Members of the public present did not have views or comments to make. The meeting was then re-opened.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **5.1 Grants/Projects Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson (to be circulated at the meeting)**

The Clerk circulated to all a Grants Funding Update Report produced by the Community Development Officer. The Clerk highlighted the following:

- Part 2: Grant Funding Applications Submitted – notification has now been received that the funding application submitted to Stanley Smith Horticulture on behalf of the Bloom Group in relation to historic garden renovation at Ceddesfeld has been refused as the fund has been oversubscribed. Work is now underway to find alternative funders.

Cllr Allan Blakemore queried where the DCC Section 106 money was from (as detailed in Part 3 Potential Grant Funding). The Clerk explained there was £10,500 of Section 106 money available in related to land at Thurlow Grange. This had been previously discussed at the Community Development & Engagement Committee and it had been agreed to task the Open Spaces Working Group with preparing a bid for this money. The Open Spaces Working Group had duly met and considered that the provision of outdoor adult gym equipment at Eden Drive would be the most appropriate project to explore and the Community Development Officer has been tasked accordingly at developing a proposal as well as exploring options for potential match funding from elsewhere. The Community Development Officer will take a proposal back to the Open Spaces Working Group in the first instance for comment. Once finalised it will come back to Community Development & Engagement for consideration and then need to be discussed with both County Councillors in order to gain their support.

Cllr Gloria Wills requested a more detailed update is provided by the Community Development Officer in relation to the Warm Up North British Gas initiative. The Clerk confirmed that information is currently being awaited from British Gas and will be taken to the Estates Working Group in the first instance.

Cllr Gloria Wills also requested that efforts be made in future to ensure that any grant funding obtained is fully spent and not returned to the provider. She gave the example of the CDCF Sedgefield 700+ for the Sedgefield Weekend in 2014. The Clerk explained that with the new financial reporting systems to be introduced upon completion of the year end accounts future grant funding will be recorded separately in the hope that this will make it much easier to monitor. Cllrs agreed with Cllr Wills comment.

Cllr Mark Cant asked if the Community Development Officer could be involved in the proposal he recently submitted to the P&R Committee (which is to be developed by the Estates Working Group) in relation to the potential re-opening of the toilets. The Clerk explained that the Community Development Officer would be involved as soon as the Estates Working Group have considered how they wish to progress with this matter. Cllr Tim Jeanes informed Cllrs that a considerable amount of work had been undertaken prior to May 2013 to explore the feasibility of a one-stop shop facility being created at the Town Council Offices which would incorporate a public toilet facility. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that Cllr Maxine Robinson had also made this point at the P&R Committee meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and it had been agreed the Estates Working Group should start by reviewing the work and research that had already been undertaken by the Council previously.

**RESOLVED:**

To receive this information.

## **5.2 Dementia Friends and Dementia Café Verbal Report by Cllr John Robinson**

Cllr John Robinson had provided the Clerk with a verbal update on this issue. Following purdah a joint public meeting will be held in the Town in mid-May 2015. The meeting will be co-ordinated between DCC, Age Concern UK and the NHS. The purpose of the meeting will be to raise awareness of dementia but more specifically to identify volunteers willing to become Dementia Friends. It is hoped that once volunteers have been identified that a Dementia Café can be established. This project will link into larger national campaigns relating to dementia.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllr John Robinson to provide further updates on this project following purdah.**

**5.3 Replacement Gazebo Cases Report by Mrs Angela Simpson (to be circulated at the meeting)**

The Clerk reported that no report had yet been produced.

**RESOLVED:**

**To defer this matter until the next meeting.**

**6. Foodbank – Sedgefield: Consideration of Mr Michael King’s Report circulated to all Cllrs in March 2015**

Cllr Alf Walton reminded Cllrs that at the March 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report produced by Mr Michael King. Cllrs had agreed to consider this report and then discuss at the April 2015 meeting. He then opened the meeting for Cllrs to comment.

Cllr Allan Blakemore, based upon his own experiences of this outlet at the Methodist Church Hall, questioned whether such a facility was actually needed in Sedgefield. Cllr David Brown believed the issue was not whether a facility for distributing emergency food parcels as such was needed within the Town but whether the Town Council wished to take this role on or not. Cllr Ian Sutherland expressed his concerns regarding the impact upon Town Council staff and their time in taking on such a service. Cllr Dudley Waters proposed the Town Council agree to take on this service for a trial period of 3-6 months then review to consider if it was working. Cllr Ian Sutherland agreed with this proposal but with a shorter timescale of 2-3 months before a review. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her concerns regarding not only the potential impact upon Town Council staff who are already dealing with a very significant workload but also potentially having to deal with other issues that service users may have. Cllr Wills suggested that there may be other more appropriate voluntary groups within the Town who are able to take on this role. Cllr Mel Carr suggested that people requiring the need for this service are re-directed to Trimdon Village Hall where a similar service is provided. Cllr Chris Lines did question how those in need could actually get to that venue. Cllr Lynne Dentith expressed her concerns that this service appears on paper to be outside the official CAB process and felt it was important that such a service was run in accordance with those of others. The Clerk suggested to Cllrs that a way to take this forward would be for her to meet with Mr King and talk through the practicalities of the service, its historic and current user levels as well as links with other established voluntary and professional groups in order to bring a recommendation back to the next meeting. This was agreed.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Clerk to arrange to meet with Mr Michael King to determine the likely workload and implications for Town Council staff involved with this proposal in order to bring an appropriate recommendation back to the May 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting.**

**7. Correspondence**

**7.1 VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (email from Mr Steve Ragg dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015):**

The Clerk circulated to all copies of an email from Mr Steve Ragg dated 7<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in relation to the forthcoming VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This email contained information from Mr Gordon Elliott of DCC and attached to it was a copy of the Government's published guidance notes for community groups, parish councils etc who would like to hold events to mark the occasion. Cllr Chris Lines informed fellow Cllrs that there are already a number of community organized events planned within Sedgefield to mark this anniversary.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**7.2 Sedgefield 700+ (minutes of meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015):**

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sedgefield 700+ meeting held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**7.3 Welfare Assistance Factsheet (email from Mr Steve Ragg dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015):**

The Clerk circulated to all copies of an email from Mr Steve Ragg dated 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015 which had detailed information from Ms Donna Whitfield of DCC outlining DCC's Welfare Assistance Scheme for 2015/16. Accompanying the email was an attached factsheet.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**8. Financial Position**

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the Community Development and Engagement Committee Financial Position.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.25pm.