

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MAY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held following the Environment committee meeting in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on
Monday 18th May 2015.

- Present** **Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Chairman)**
Cllr. Lynne Dentith (Vice Chairman) and
Cllrs. David Brown, Mel Carr, Ian Sutherland, Alf Walton, Dudley Waters and Gloria Wills
- Officer** Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, Chris Lines, John Robinson and Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Fireworks Display (31st October 2015):

The Clerk, through CDALC members, has now identified other fireworks providers in order to get a second opinion on the Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds and Cricket Club sites for this year's fireworks display. On-site meeting with providers and members of the Fireworks Working Group will be scheduled once the Clerk returns from annual leave. The Working Group will keep Cllrs informed regarding this event and make a recommendation for its future location.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr Allan Blakemore, closed the meeting for the public to give their views and comments. No members of the public were present. However, Cllr Dudley Waters reported that Ms Lilian Suddes of Eden Drive had given him a unique Commemorative Presentation Plate made of china Leedsware which had been commissioned by special appointment on behalf of Sedgefield District Council. Its design is made up of five coats of arms with the top central image representing Sedgefield District Council which, since 1974, had brought together under one local government umbrella four neighbouring Councils of namely Spennymoor Urban District, Shildon Urban District, Darlington Rural District (in part) and Sedgefield Rural District. This plate was in a presentation box which also contained a special commemorative booklet. Cllr Waters recommended that this plate be displayed with other Sedgefield regalia and memorabilia in the display cabinet at the Council Offices. Cllrs agreed with Cllr Waters and requested the Clerk write on behalf of the Council to thank Ms Suddes.

The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Grants Funding Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

Prior to the meeting a Grants Funding Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson had been circulated to all.

Cllr Ian Sutherland informed the Committee that the funding application submitted by the Sedgefield In Bloom Group to Stanley Smith Horticulture had been refused due to oversubscription. Cllr Sutherland reported that work will now be undertaken by the Bloom Group to seek alternative funders and requested that once such sources have been identified Mrs Angela Simpson provide administration assistance in order to progress this matter. Cllrs agreed to this request.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllr Ian Sutherland to request the Bloom Group start to identify potential sources of funding.**
- iii) The Clerk to request Mrs Angela Simpson assist the Bloom Group with**

administration when the Group have identified potential funders.

5.2 Replacement Gazebo Cases Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

Prior to the meeting a Replacement Gazebo Cases Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson had been circulated to all for consideration. Cllr Allan Blakemore suggested the Council adopts a rolling programme of replacement cases with some being purchased in the current financial year and further in subsequent years in order to spread the cost. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea. Cllr Lynne Dentith requested clarification is sought as to the returns policy should for any reason the cases not be suitable.

RESOLVED:

To purchase 10 replacement roller gazebo cases as detailed in Mrs Simpson's report and then to purchase a further 10 in the next financial year (2016/17) following careful consideration of the company's returns policy.

5.3 Foodbank – Sedgfield Verbal Report by Town Clerk

The Clerk reported that as agreed at the last meeting she had met with Mr Michael King in order to find out more information regarding the practicalities of the Town Council being involved in this service. Prior to this meeting the Clerk had discussed this matter with other Town Council staff in order to determine any concerns they may have. A meeting with Mr Michael King had taken place at 5pm on 18th May 2015. Mr King reported that the original Sedgfield Foodbank had been located in the Methodist Church Hall and have closed due to lack of usage. This lack of usage was as a result of other foodbanks opening in immediate surrounding area, e.g. Coxhoe, Chilton, Ferryhill, Newton Aycliffe and Shildon. There is a need to have a location within Sedgfield for the distribution of emergency food boxes. These emergency food boxes can only be given to those people who have been professionally assessed and referred to an emergency distribution point and given an official red referral note. A location in Sedgfield would only need to be open for 2 hours on one specific day per week. The emergency boxes are slightly larger than a photocopying paper box and each will be pre-packed and sealed with 3 days worth of packeted food. The boxes are supplied by the Durham Christian Partnership and are already packed when delivered.

As a result of this meeting the Clerk recommended to Cllrs that the Town Council Offices do become an emergency food box distribution point on Wednesdays between

11am and 1pm (Note: every other week this time slot would coincide with the CAB sessions being delivered from the Town Council Offices). The Town Council offices would hold a maximum of 6 emergency boxes on-site at any one time. This arrangement is to be trialed for 2 months in order to determine if it is appropriate. There will be a review of this at the July 2015 Community Development & Engagement meeting, however, if any problems are experienced prior to this date the Town Clerk will ensure that Cllrs are informed immediately.

Cllr Gloria Wills was supportive of the emergency food boxes, however, expressed concerns that the provision of this additional service would be a distraction for Town Council staff. She suggested that the library may be a more suitable community venue and Cllr Mel Carr supported this stated it was also a way of ensuring that members of the community continued to visit the library. Cllrs Ian Sutherland and Lynne Dentith were supportive of the Clerk's proposal to trial this scheme. It was agreed to trial this scheme as detailed by the Clerk and to review by no later than the July 2015 Community Development & Engagement meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to inform Mr Michael King that the distribution of emergency boxes will be trialed at the Town Council Offices for a period of 2 months as per the recommendations detailed earlier in these minutes.**
- ii) The Clerk to request Mr Michael King sets up a meeting with the Area Manager for the Durham Christian Partnership in order to set up this service.**
- iii) This matter to be put onto the July 2015 Community Development & Engagement Committee agenda.**

5.4 Warm Up North British Gas Initiative Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

A Warm Up North British Gas Initiative Update Report by Mrs Angela Simpson had been circulated to all prior to the meeting. Cllrs felt the information contained in the report was too vague in order to make any decisions. The Clerk recommended that an Estates Working Group meeting be held in her absence between 26th May and 5th June 2015 in order to progress this matter. Cllr Allan Blakemore questioned whether a decision would need to be taken back to P&R for approval. Cllr Gloria Wills explained that it would depend upon what was the outcome of the Estates Working Group meeting, i.e. if work could be done exclusively with grant funding then this could be progressed with a report for information being submitted afterwards.

RESOLVED:

An urgent Estates Working Group meeting be arranged in order to progress this matter.

6. DRAFT Grant Funding Policy by Mrs Angela Simpson

Cllr Allan Blakemore reported that as he had only recently been appointed as Chair to this Committee he wished to spend time with the Town Clerk and Mrs Simpson in order to consider further the requirements of a Grant Funding Policy for the Town Council. He proposed that a DRAFT Policy be brought to the Committee in July 2015.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllr Blakemore and the Town Clerk to progress this matter.**

7. Correspondence

7.1 Skerne Landscape Partnership

The Clerk read out an email from Helen Ryde of Durham Biodiversity dated 5th May 2015. Ms Ryde's email stated that further to the recent presentation relating to the Brightwater Project she was seeking from Sedgfield Town Council a letter of support for the proposed project in order that it could be included as evidence in the bid to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr Ian Sutherland proposed that the Town Council do support this application as there could be benefits to the wider Sedgfield area. Cllrs Alf Walton and David Brown did support of this project so Cllr Allan Blakemore proposed a vote. A vote by show of hands subsequently took place.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write a letter of support for this project.

7.2 Sedgfield 700+ (Minutes of meeting held on 13th May 2015)

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sedgfield 700+ meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.