

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Minutes of the proceedings of the **SEPTEMBER COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the
Council held at **7 pm** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information
Centre, Sedgefield, on
Monday 15th September 2014.

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

Officer Dr. Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Vanessa Carmichael, Rebecca Hagan, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson and Ian Sutherland.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Gloria Wills declared an interest in respect of the Sedgefield Development Trust relating to agenda item 5.2. (Farmers Market).
No other declarations of interest were made.

As agreed at the Monthly Committee meeting held on 8th September 2014, the Clerk had prepared and circulated to all prior to the meeting a draft letter detailing the Council's objections to the recently submitted planning application for the 3 corner field. This draft letter was considered and it was recommended by Cllr Dudley Waters that bullet point 6 on the first page become the first bullet. Cllr Gloria Wills recommended that reference is made in the letter to the fact that planning has previously been requested on this site and has always been rejected.

RESOLVED:

- i) **The Clerk to amend the letter as per discussions and submit to DCC Planning Officers.**

3. Matters of Information

3.1. Bowling Club

The Bowling Club planning application will be submitted soon.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2. Equality Act 2010

Cllr Rebecca Hagan will forward to the Clerk a copy of her recent Equality Act 2010 presentation for consideration by the Policy & Records Management Working Group as part of their work on policy review.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3. Youth Working Group

Town Councillors have been asked to indicate whether they would like to be a member of a new Youth Working Group. To date Cllrs Rebecca Hagan, Lynne Dentith, Dudley Waters, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson and Chris Lines have asked to be involved. A draft agenda is now being prepared which includes remit, objectives and external membership of the group. Work will now commence on a date for a first meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4. Youth Offending Team

A definite commitment has been requested from Ms Short in response to her offer to provide a number of young offenders to undertake work in the Town. No response has yet been received.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.5. Expenditure Item 47

This expenditure item of £156.66 comprised of two elements: £150 for an outstanding invoice from Mr C Dunn (no further invoices are expected) and £6.66 to purchase prizes for the Farmers Market poster design competition.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. Al Walton, closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

Mrs Julia Bowles of the Residents Forum reported that the recent Hardwick Live event had passed without disturbance. The event organizers had tried hard to control the noise and in this respect this year's event was much better than the previous year's. Mrs Bowles reported that the Residents Forum have submitted their objections to the recent planning application relating to the three corner field. She also commented that there are a significant number of objections to this application on the DCC on-line planning portal. Finally, Mrs Bowles requested that it be recorded in the minutes that the Residents Forum is very disappointed that there has not been a more co-ordinated approach within the Town to the forthcoming County Durham Plan Examination In Public. The Forum believes that had there been only one view representing the entire Town they would have deferred to that view and felt it would have been better to only have one voice speaking on behalf of the entire Town at the EIP hearings.

The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Grants/Projects Update

Prior to the meeting a Grant Funding Update Report had been circulated to all. The Clerk explained that this is a new style of report aimed at clearly showing Cllrs the latest position with regard to secured grant funding, grant funding applications submitted and identify potential grant funding sources for the future. The aim of the report is to ensure that Cllrs are kept up to date with all funding obtained and applied for by the Council (and associated Groups within the Town) as well as to start to pre-plan future activities which may require external funding. The Clerk stressed this is a new style of reporting and that Cllrs feedback would be welcomed.

Cllr Gloria Wills thanked community groups which have worked with the Town Council over recent years in order to secure grant funding. In addition, Cllr Wills requested that Part 3 of the report (Potential Grant Funding) be updated to detail any limitations with each funding source identified, e.g. if a funder stipulates that only one grant will be given in a 12 month period then it should detail from which point we can submit our next application etc.

Cllr Dudley Waters commented that with regards to the current Church Turning Circle proposal funding should be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Cllr Alf Walton suggested that County Councillor budgets are also highlighted as being a potential funding source.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **The Clerk and Community Development Officer to refine the template for the next Committee meeting in October 2014.**

5.2 Farmers' Market: Report by Sedgefield Development Trust Ltd

Prior to the meeting a report by Mr Roger Clubley of the Sedgefield Development Trust Ltd had been circulated to all. This report gave Cllrs an update on the first six months of the Sedgefield Farmers Market since the transfer of responsibility from the Town Council to the Trust.

Cllr Chris Lines commented that the current Farmers Market is much improved and commended the Development Trust for their work. This was agreed fellow Cllrs and the Clerk was asked to report this back to Mr Clubley.

The Clerk drew everyone's attention to Mr Clubley's offer within his report to attend a future Community Development and Engagement Committee meeting. It was agreed that Mr Clubley should be invited to attend the December Committee meeting in order to deliver his next quarterly progress report as well as to discuss the Market's plans for 2015.

Cllr Gloria Wills reported that to date the Trust have also had over 100 people from within Sedgefield sign up to the Switch On Scheme which is a considerably higher level of support than obtained in many other much larger sized Council areas in the country. The Switch On Scheme was initially promoted via the Farmers Market which supports and incorporates a number of other community groups.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive the information**
- ii) **The Clerk to inform Mr Clubley of the Committee's praise for the Market and to invite him to the December 2014 meeting.**

5.3 Proposed Winterton Shed Usage: Report by Mrs Angela Simpson and Cllr Alf Walton

Prior to the meeting a report produced jointly by Mrs Angela Simpson and Cllr Alf Walton had been circulated to all suggesting additional ways in which the shed at Winterton could be used more by the community. Cllr Alf Walton reiterated his concerns regarding the lack of use of this shed and its facilities and has spoken at length to existing Winterton allotments holders who have expressed their concerns regarding outside groups using the shed. Instead many of the existing Winterton allotment holders are keen to use the shed as a joint social area as well as a temporary storage area for seeds/drying harvested items (but not for tools). Mr Alex Dent, a nearby resident who is also an allotment holder, has expressed an interest in being an

Allotment Co-ordinator overseeing access and security for the shed. It was agreed that these proposals were sound and Cllr Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson should draw up an appropriate plan for these arrangements to work.

Cllr Alf Walton reported that the community allotment is not being used in the way that it was originally intended and should now be let as an ordinary allotment. This was agreed and Cllr Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson will progress this.

Finally, Cllr Alf Walton felt it would be appropriate to seek funding to replace the fencing around the Winterton allotments area. It was agreed that Cllr Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson would progress this. Cllr Dudley Waters suggested that contact be made with the Sedgfield Allotment Society with a view to establishing a similar group for the Winterton Allotments so that grant funding could perhaps become more accessible.

RESOLVED:

- i) **Cllr Alf Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson draw up a Winterton Allotment Shed User Plan and share with allotment holders.**
- ii) **Cllr Alf Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson to re-let the community allotment as an ordinary allotment.**
- iii) **Cllr Alf Walton and Mrs Angela Simpson to look at potential funding opportunities to replace the fencing around the Winterton allotments as well as investigate the feasibility of helping to establish a Winterton Allotments Society.**

5.4 Proposed Art Exhibition: Report by County Cllr John Robinson

No report had been received. However, Cllr Tim Jeanes informed Cllrs of a painting competition held in Spain which is of a day's duration aimed at encouraging people of all ages and ability to participate. The purpose of the event is not only to promote painting but also to promote the venue's town. It is a non-competitive event. Cllr Jeanes suggested this might be something to consider in the Town. It was agreed by Cllrs that this was a good idea and Cllr Chris Lines suggested that it could be linked to a future Farmers Market.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information and consider this idea with Mr Clubley's when he presents the next Farmers Market progress report to the Committee in December 2014.

5.5 Fireworks Display 2014: Report by Town Clerk and Cllr Rebecca Hagan

Prior to the meeting a report produced jointly by the Clerk and Cllr Rebecca Hagan had been circulated to all detailing issues that had emerged following the Fireworks Display in 2013 and the options available to the Council for 2014. All Cllrs present confirmed that they had read this report.

Following in-depth discussions it was agreed that every effort should be made to deliver a Fireworks Display from the grounds of Ceddesfeld on Saturday 1st November 2014 although it was recognized that considerable work is required in order to resolve issues and identify volunteer stewards and marshalls. A Fireworks Working Group would be formed with a membership of Cllrs Alf Walton, Mel Carr, Dudley Waters, Gloria Wills and Tim Jeanes with the Clerk and Mr Richie Parry. The Working Group will have delegated powers. Cllr Chris Lines agreed to act as liaison point between the Working Group and the Harriers plus the NetPark Football Team with a view to seeking volunteer marshalls and stewards. Cllr Dudley Waters confirmed that several members of the SCA would be willing to help but in a voluntary capacity rather than as SCA officials. Cllr Alf Walton had obtained contact details for a fireworks company who had provided the recent Hardwick Live display who may be able to provide a quote for the cost of running the event and thereby carry the associated insurance liability and offer a comparative to previous methods of delivering this event.

Cllr Chris Lines also suggested this Working Group look at the New Years Eve fireworks. He felt it was possible to slightly reduce the number of fireworks at the November event without detracting from the quality of the event and use the remaining fireworks to reinstate the New Years Eve event. Several Cllrs responded that following the cancellation of the New Years Eve fireworks in 2013 County Cllr John Robinson had said he would pay for this event to be reinstated in 2014 alongside a dinner dance in the Parish Hall.

RESOLVED:

- i) To establish a Fireworks Working Group with delegated responsibility to run the Fireworks display on Saturday 1st November 2014.**
- ii) The Clerk to contact County Cllr John Robinson to determine the status of the New Years Eve fireworks and dinner dance.**
- iii) The Clerk to contact Reaction Fireworks and Ritchie Parry.**

5.6 Gazebos: Report by Mrs Angela Simpson

Prior to the meeting a proposal had been circulated by Mrs Angela Simpson to purchase replacement gazebo bags as existing wheeled carrier bags have become damaged over time due to natural wear and tear. It was acknowledged that bags are needed in order to make it easier to transport the gazebos, however, Cllr Gloria Wills had found examples of cheaper alternatives. Cllr Dudley Waters recommended that in the first instance only one bag is purchased so that it can be tested for suitability before making a larger order.

RESOLVED:

- i) Cllr Gloria Wills to forward to Mrs Angela Simpson the costings she had obtained.**
- ii) Mrs Angela Simpson to purchase one bag in the first instance as a test.**

5.7 Commonwealth Flag: Report by Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a report regarding the flying of the Commonwealth Flag on 9th March 2015. The Committee had previously agreed to participate in this national initiative which had been advertised by NALC. However, upon registering the Town Council it has become apparent that the free Commonwealth Flag is no longer available and that to participate such a flag now needs to be purchased at a cost of £58.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council will not participate in the Fly A Flag For The Commonwealth initiative on 9th March 2015.

6. Youth Issues

6.1 Youth Forum / Youth Working Group (Verbal report by Cllr Rebecca Hagan)

No report was given. However, the Clerk informed Cllrs of her recent attendance at the Local Councils Committee meeting on 12th September 2014 as the representative for the Larger Town/Parish Councils Forum. This meeting had included a presentation by DCC Officers regarding the current Review of Children's Centres across County Durham. The purpose of this review is to determine how children's services aimed at the under 5s can be delivered with greater effect by bringing front-line staff into the actual communities rather than having them located in a limited number of specific buildings. A list of potential buildings from which such services could be delivered is being compiled and the Clerk noted that Sedgfield Library, Parish Hall and Methodist Church Hall all feature in that list.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Civic & Mayors Events:

The Clerk circulated copies of the following Civic and Mayor events:

Date:	Event:	Details:
21 st September 2014	Civic Service	St Edmund's Church 10am
31 st October 2014	Quiz	Ceddesfeld Hall 7.30pm
	Fireworks	To be confirmed
9 th November 2014	Remembrance Service	St Edmund's Church 10am
11 th November 2014	Coach Trip	Doncaster
	Snow Party	To be confirmed
11 th December 2014	Carol Service	St Edmund's Church 7pm

With regard to the above list the Clerk explained that the coach trip on 11th November 2014 is likely to be rescheduled to 4th November 2014 to avoid coinciding with Armistice Day.

It was agreed that work on planning the Snow Party should begin immediately with work being undertaken to develop a proposal to extend this to a 2 day event to link into a Christmas themed Farmers Market and incorporate a plastic ice rink. Cllr Dudley Waters requested that consideration be given to any pre-planned events at St Edmund's Church over that time.

RESOLVED:

- i) **To receive the information.**
- ii) **Mrs Angela Simpson and Mr Roger Clubley to develop a proposed programme for the Snow Party with appropriate costings for presentation to the next Community Development & Engagement Committee.**

9. Financial Position: Community Development and Engagement committee

The Community Development and Engagement Committee financial position had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.04p.m.