

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **APRIL ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held following the Community Development and Engagement committee in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 22nd April 2014.**

Present

Cllr. Mel Carr (Chairman)

Cllr. Mark Cant (Vice-Chairman) and

Cllrs. David Brown, Lynne Dentith, Tim Jeanes, Chris Lines, Maxine Robinson, Ian Sutherland, Alf Walton, ~~Dudley Waters~~, *(as amended at the April Monthly meeting)* Gloria Wills

Officer

L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Robinson, Dudley Waters, Allan Blakemore, Rebecca Hagan

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Matters of Information

All covered by the agenda.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr. Mel Carr closed the meeting whilst the public gave their views and comments.

4.1 Woodland: Neville Drive

Mrs. Julia Bowles Chairman of Residents' Forum commented on a letter she had received in respect of the woodland at Neville Drive which she had forwarded to the Town Council.

4.2 Hardwick Hall Licensing

Mrs. Bowles asked if there would be representation from the Town Council at the Licensing Committee in respect of the above.

4.3 Dog Fouling

Mrs. Julia Bowles commented on the increase in dog fouling particularly on the footpath near Homebryth.

4.4 Flooding Station Road Field

Mrs. Scott of Station Road said she had felt it necessary to write another letter to the Town Council stressing the need for the Town Council to keep on investigating the problem of the flooding on Station Road field and seeking assurance that the Council would continue to look into this.

4.5 Anti-Social Behaviour

Mr. Howard Smith, Chairman of Sedgefield in Bloom commented that whilst the tubs outside the Black Lion have now been removed the pavement is now littered with cigarette ends and glass.

4.6 Church Wall Repairs

Mr. Howard Smith, Chairman of Sedgefield in Bloom asked that any repairs to the Church Wall would be deferred until after the judging of the Northumbria and Britain in Bloom. In addition he thanked the Town Council for the work and cooperation with the new polytunnel which is now situated at the Cemetery.

The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Meeting with Sedgefield in Bloom

Information had been circulated. Cllr. Ian Sutherland informed Members that a member of the public had donated 24 concrete beams which are now at the Cemetery and can be used by the Town Council.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

5.2 Driving Tractors: Safe Working Practice

A report on the above had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

5.3 Allotments

A report from Cllr. Alf Walton, Allotments Champion had been circulated.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

5.4 Station Road Flooding

A letter from Northumbrian Water had been circulated. This indicated that Northumbrian Water had already dye tested the surface water drains and did not feel it necessary to have a site meeting. The letter from Mrs. Scott as previously mentioned in Public Participation had also been circulated and in addition the Clerk reported that DCC had not responded re the second request under Freedom of Information in respect of the geotechnical survey in respect of Ivy Row.

Members expressed concern that the answers to the questions have still not been answered and suggested that if DCC have not responded with the necessary information for the next Environment committee then there would be a need to go to the Freedom of Information Commissioner.

RECOMMENDED

- i. To receive the information.**
- ii. To write another letter to Northumbrian Water and ask them to identify on a clearly marked plan which surface water drains they have tested.**
- iii. To ask Northumbrian Water to confirm that they have tested the privately owned drains within the curtilage of Ivy Row.**
- iv. If Northumbrian Water intend to carry out this work then Cllrs. Mel Carr and Alf Walton wish to be present when this is done.**

6. Correspondence

6.1 Greenhouses on Allotments

A letter has been received from DCC confirming that greenhouses will be allowed on the Butterwick Road allotment site.

Cllr. Alf Walton reported that there are now an increasing number of greenhouses being erected on the Winterton site.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

6.2 Tree: Station Road Playing Field

A letter has been received from Mr. Lamb in respect of works to trees near his property on Hornby Avenue.

RECOMMENDED

- i. Cllr. Alf Walton to give a report on the works that are needed.**
- ii. To then seek a price for the works.**

6.3 Roundabout Sponsorship

A response has been received from Durham County Council in respect of the sponsorship monies which they receive from the roundabouts and confirming that this money contributes to a larger pot.

6.4 Woodland, Neville Drive

A letter and accompanying information has been received from the Residents' Forum in respect of work carried out through 106 monies for the above. Members felt that the costs of the works carried

out did not amount to the overall costs as indicated by DCC.

RECOMMENDED

- i. **To keep this item on each Environment agenda until the matters are dealt with.**
- ii. **To ask for a copy of the Bat Survey from Durham County Council.**
- iii. **To ask for a site meeting with Mr. Barton from DCC. (The Clerk to circulate details).**

7. Financial Position

The Clerk had circulated the final balances for the Environment committee for the year ending 31st March 2014.

RECOMMENDED

To receive the information.

8. Licensing

It was pointed out that the Licensing committee for the Hardwick Live is 29th April.

RECOMMENDED

Cllr. Gloria Wills and Cllr. Mel Carr to represent the Town Council at the committee meeting.

9. Dog Fouling

Problems associated with the increase in dog fouling were raised. The Clerk pointed out that it is necessary to report all incidents to Customer Services at DCC as the amount of calls then triggers visits by the Neighbourhood Wardens.

RECOMMENDED

To forward the complaint to Customer Services and also include an article in the next Sedgfield Extra.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.