

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the proceedings of the **FEBRUARY**
MONTHLY MEETING of the **Council** held at
7 p.m. in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday**
8th February, 2016.

Present **Cllr. Mel Carr (Chairman)**
Cllr. Gloria Wills (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Vanessa Carmichael, Chris Lines, Ian
Sutherland, and Alf Walton

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Mark Cant, Lynne Dentith, Tim Jeanes, John Robinson and Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Chris Lines declared an interest in Item 12 as planning application 6 related to his home.
There were no other Declarations of Interest.

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a. Report of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting (9th November 2015) / Environment Committee Meeting (9th November 2015) / Monthly Meeting (7th December 2015) / Environment Committee Meeting (7th December 2015):

These were confirmed as a correct record. (GW / A B)

b. Minutes of Special Town Council Meeting to Consider Amended Proposals From Avant Housing held Monday 11th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AW / M Carr)

c. Minutes of Monthly Meeting held Monday 11th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (IS / AB)

d. Minutes of P&R Committee held Monday 11th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (IS / M Carr)

e. Minutes of Estates Working Group Meeting held Thursday 14th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AW / GW)

f. Minutes of Community Development & Engagement Committee held Monday 18th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AB / IS)

g. Minutes of Environment Committee held Monday 18th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AW / M Carr)

h. Minutes of Personnel Committee held Thursday 21st January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (GW / AB)

i. Minutes of Finance Working Group held Wednesday 27th January 2016

These were confirmed as a correct record. (GW / AB)

RESOLVED: To accept all of the minutes as above and recommendations contained therein.

4. Matters of Information

4.1 Planning Applications:

The option of developing a Planning Committee is currently being investigated and, as agreed, will be considered at a future P&R Committee. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.2 Spring Lane – Formal Complaint:

The Clerk reported that County Cllr John Robinson has forwarded to her a copy of a letter he has sent to Mr Don McLure, Director of Resources at DCC stating the Town Council have expressed their concern at the way in which this complaint was handled and processed. The Clerk pointed out the Town Council had not asked County Cllr John Robinson to investigate how their complaint in relation to Spring Lane had been investigated but to investigate and confirm that all planning and particular enforcement practices had been used correctly in relation to this particular situation. It was agreed to await further information from County Cllr John Robinson.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.3 ID Planning:

The Clerk has requested further information from Mr Jonathan Dunbavin (10th December 2015) regarding his proposal to present to the Town Council. No response has yet been received and a follow-up request was issued on 4th

January 2016 by the Clerk. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.4 Current Planning Applications:

All comments have been submitted to DCC Planning Officers in relation to applications 1-7.

Land to the South of Beacon Lane, Sedgefield (Avant Housing proposal) – the Clerk had submitted a letter of objection to these revised plans based upon the Council's earlier objections. Cllr Mel Carr had represented the Town Council at DCC's recent Planning Committee to consider this application.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.5 Amended Planning Application –Land South of Harap Road:

This application had been discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on 18th January 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates of the meetings taking place in February 2016 had been circulated prior to the meeting along with events scheduled from February – November 2016. In addition, a calendar for Committee meetings in 2016/17 had also been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Police Report

Sgt John Seymour presented the Police report for the period 12th January 2016 – 8th February 2016. Over this period there have been 12 reported crimes as follows:

Burglary 0

Criminal damage 2:

- Overnight of the 17th January 2016 a window had been damaged in Wykes Close.
- 12th January 2016 domestic related damage had been caused at Whinfield Farm.

Theft 4:

- 14th and 29th January 2016 thefts reported from the Co-op
- 22nd January 2016 attempted theft of a vehicle in Woodland Mews
- 29th January 2016 theft of wheel trims at The Lane

In addition to the above there have been 3 x assaults (2 are domestic related), 2 x possession of drugs (cannabis), an employee theft and 1 x harassment offence.

Crime in Sedgefield is up by 27% with a 30% detection rate for year to date. There have been 6 incidents of anti-social behavior for the reporting period, 5 of which are youth related. This is a 26% reduction in the year to date.

The next PACT meeting will take place on Tuesday 9th February 2016 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall at which the priority will be determined.

Sgt Seymour reported an additional item of note, the Police have been monitoring on-going issues surrounding the youth shelter and the surrounding area. A male has been identified and is to be interviewed for possible driving and public order offences.

Cllr Gloria Wills made Sgt Seymour aware of the appalling state of the youth shelter which has been filled with litter over several weeks recently. Volunteers from the Town have been picking up this litter, however, this situation was unacceptable. Sgt Seymour said his location had been a regular point of interest to the Police over recent weeks and as a result one person has been identified as a ring leader and the Police have spoken to this person. The situation is being monitored and it is felt that things are starting to improve.

Cllr David Brown requested clarification regarding the crime reported at Whinfield Farm as this is not within the Sedgefield boundary. Cllr Brown asked if this means that local Police are now having to cover a wider area. Sgt Seymour replied this Farm is on the border

between two Police Areas and it is included within the crime reporting area for Sedgefield.

Cllr Vanessa Carmichael asked for clarification regarding a recent incident at Beckwith Drive in Trimdon. Sgt Seymour replied that someone is now in custody in relation to this incident.

Cllr Mel Carr thanked Sgt Seymour for his report and time.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles said that she looked forward to an update in relation to The Sedgefield Plan. Mrs Bowles urged the Town Council to be proactive in the appointment of an Independent Examiner and said that DCC should not be allowed to delay this process. Mrs Bowles recommended the Town Council push to proceed with identifying an Examiner through the Neighbourhood Plan Independent Examiners Forum rather than allow DCC to appoint someone who was a former employee or associate. She said it was essential to ensure DCC follow the rules when identifying an Examiner. Once such an Examiner is appointed they can start to look at the Plan regardless of whether or not DCC have concluded their 6 week statutory consultation process. Mrs Bowles said that she was in touch with Mr Jonathan Dunbavin on ID Planning who is preparing a planning application that will be submitted for consideration very soon in relation to a brownfield site within the Town's built up area boundary. Mrs Bowles said she had advised Mr Dunbavin to liaise with the Town Council in order to present his proposals.

One gentleman said he agreed with Cllr Gloria Wills statement said some time ago that Sedgefield will get some development. At the time of the last Eden Drive planning applications he had written a letter outlining his objections to those proposals and said that plans should be improved. He said that after considering the latest plans now submitted for Eden Drive he felt these revised plans were much better, that views had been listened too and taken into consideration. Therefore he said he was happy to support these plans and wished for his comments to be placed on record.

Mrs Janet Spalding asked if the Town Council were aware that the Spring Lane planning application previously refused by DCC had now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for appeal. Cllr Mel Carr said the Council were aware and this matter was to be considered later in the meeting.

Another gentleman said he had moved into Sedgefield in 2000 and in the intervening time he had greatly enjoyed living in the Town which has a village feel to it. He said in an ideal world the Town would resist development, however, the reality is the population is growing and increasing and therefore DCC want to build new houses in desirable areas such as Sedgefield. He commended the Town Council in its work to reduce the original application for Eden Drive from 450 dwellings to the now proposed 300 dwellings which coupled with the money now being offered for education, sport and community use would benefit the Town greatly. He felt this application would be the best outcome for the Town as it would be contained in an area without any opportunity for further spread and therefore he would support this application and resist others.

Mr Ean Parsons spoke from two perspectives with regards to the potential housing developments in the Town. Firstly, from the perspective of an owner of an expanding business with 18 staff and the desire for future expansion and the Sedgefield Business Club and secondly, from the perspective of previously having been involved in numerous voluntary organisations in the Town. The Eden Drive application in 2012 was for 440 houses and the proposed application is now 300. Mr Parsons congratulated the Town Council on limiting the number of houses which will also be of a higher quality of build and incorporate open space. Mr Parsons believed that with NETPark, a world class technology park on the edge of the Town that is environmentally friendly and sustainable will employ 3000 people in 10 years. It would be desirable for Sedgefield to have these employees living locally, travelling less and supporting the local economy. The way to achieve this is to have affordable housing in the Town. From this local schools and businesses will thrive and young people would have a chance of getting employment locally and staying in the Town rather than graduating and having to move away to get such employment and remove their skill set from the local area. The Chair requested Mr Parsons sum up his comments. Mr Parsons concluded saying that when he moved to the Town many years ago there were lots of facilities which were being promised to residents but none of which had every come to fruition. The population of the Town is increasing and this is impacting upon the volunteering culture in the Town. Mr Parsons said he had looked at all plans for development within the Town and felt that the Town Council had done a lot to improve the proposals relating to the Eden Drive site.

Mrs Elliott of 2 Church View expressed her concerns regarding the planning application DM/16/00117/FPA proposing to build a two storey dwelling at land at West Park Lane, Sedgefield. Mrs Elliott outlined her objections based upon residential amenity/surrounding property impact, intensification of the use of the access road and highway safety, conservation area impact, heritage impact, historic impact, conservation of wildlife and proposed layout and design. Of particular concern to Mrs Elliott was the potential loss of the Town Wall and garth/long garden, both of which are key features in the Town's Conservation Area. Mrs Elliott informed the Council that she had employed the services of an independent historic environmental consultant to assist with the compilation of their objections and summarized the advice received. The Clerk reported that Mrs Elliott had supplied the Town Council with a copy of this information, however, as it had been received after the production of Monthly Committee pack copies of this additional information would be circulated to all under agenda item 10.3. Mrs Elliott expressed her concerns that whilst a two storey dwelling is proposed the accompanying plans outlined a 5th bedroom in the attic and 3rd storey, all of which are far too big for this site. Mrs Elliott explained there is currently a constructed wooden building on this site, believed to belong to the Church, however, this in reality is more like a garden shed type structure. The Chairman suggested that as she had written in to the Council already and this information been circulated she should conclude. Mrs Elliott concluded that a former application to build on land behind Barclays Bank was rejected in 2006 and the design of that house was almost identical. This was rejected on the grounds that the loss of rear garth/gardens was detrimental to the Town's character and then refused on planning appeal due to the loss of the Town Wall.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and re-opened the meeting.

8. Internal Reports

8.1 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported that over the past month he had attended 9 Council meetings and several other Estates related meetings pertaining to the Parish Hall.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

8.2 Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported that over the last month she had not attended any civic events. However, she had attended two 80th Birthday celebrations and the Sedgefield Harriers

recent fund raising event which had been very successful. The Clerk reminded Cllrs of the Mayor's forthcoming events as detailed on the dates sheet circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

8.3 Ceddesfeld Hall Lease Update Report by Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Ceddesfeld Hall Lease Update Report which informed Cllrs that the SCA are happy to accept the Town Council's proposal to proceed with resolving the Ceddesfeld Hall lease through independent mediation with Durham Community Action. The Clerk explained that she has requested from Mrs Maxine Robinson the names and contact details of those members who will be representing the SCA in this process (in the same way that the Clerk and Cllr Mel Carr have already been identified to represent the Town Council) in order that instruction can be given to Durham Community Action and meetings set up as quickly as possible. To date this information has not been supplied. The Clerk will keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Cllr Ian Sutherland commented that if the Town Council wished to see the responses which the SCA have received to their recent questionnaire exercise he was sure the SCA would be happy to provide an analysis of the results received. Cllrs noted this.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. External Reports

9.1 Minutes of CDALC Executive Committee Meeting held Friday 11th December 2016 at Glebe Centre, Murton

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all the minutes of the CDALC Executive Meeting held on Friday 11th December 2016 at the Glebe Centre, Murton.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Notification of Proposed Application at land to the South of Eden Drive, Sedgefield from Story Homes/ Durham Diocesan Board of Finance (letter from DCC dated 20th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 20th January 2016 informing the Council that planning application DM/15/03808/OUT have been submitted by Story Homes and Durham Diocesan Board of Finance in relation to land to the South of Eden Drive, Sedgefield. The Clerk confirmed this particular planning application is for consideration later at this meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10.2 Notification of withdrawal for DM/14/01210/FPA – land near Mordon and Bradbury and Preston Le Skerne Bradbury Isles Bradbury (letter from DCC dated 21st January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 21st January 2016 informing the Town Council that EON Climate And Renewables have withdrawn their planning application for the Isles Wind Farm.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10.3 Planning Application DM/16/00117/FPA (email from Mr and Mrs Elliott, The Old Registry, 2 Church View, Sedgefield dated 20th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Mr and Mrs Elliott of The Old Registry, Sedgefield dated 20th January 2016 in which they stated their objections to planning application DM/16/00117/FPA. The Clerk reported that since Committee packs had been issued Mr and Mrs Elliott had submitted to the Town Council a further email along with several attachments expanding further upon their objections. Copies of this were duly distributed to all Cllrs. The Clerk confirmed this particular planning application is for consideration later at this meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

11. Sedgefield Plan

11.1 Sedgefield Plan Update Report by Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Sedgefield Plan Update report making Cllrs aware of the actions which had taken place in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan following the Town Council's approval of the revised Part 3 (Consultation Statement). Since production of this report the Clerk confirmed that The Sedgefield Plan website has been updated to inform readers that the Town Council's statutory consultation has concluded and DCC's statutory consultation has commenced. The website has been updated with the revised Part 3 and the latest evidence base uploaded. Mr Stuart Carter of DCC has confirmed that DCC's statutory consultation process will commence by no later than Friday 12th February 2016. DCC's current focus is upon ensuring they achieve all the requirements of their statutory consultation and as soon as this has started (with leaflets to all houses in the Town possibly being delivered by the same volunteers who distributed information on behalf of The Sedgefield Plan Steering Group) then focus will immediately switch to working with the Town Council to appoint an Independent Examiner. Mr Stuart Carter confirmed that he and Mr Gavin Scott (also of DCC) are already investigating how other local authorities have identified an Independent Examiner. The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs information which had been forwarded to the Town Council by Mrs Julia Bowles, via Mr Mort Spalding, which had been taken from the Planning Advisory Service website entitled "Examination of Neighbourhood Development Plans". The Clerk confirmed this information had also been shared with Mr Scott and Mr Carter both of which were already aware of this. Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Mel Carr plus the Clerk will keep the Council updated.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) The Clerk to schedule a Special Town Council Meeting (if required) to approve the appointment of an Independent Examiner.**

12. Current Planning Applications

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):

8 DM/16/00194/TPO – fell 1 no conifer and 1 no silver birch, TreeTops, 5 Durham Road, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

7 DM/16/00117/FPA – 2 storey dwelling at land to the South of St Johns, West Park Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllr David Brown said that as a resident living very near to this proposed application he had not been informed by DCC of this application. Cllr Brown understood it was a legal requirement for DCC to notify those who would be impacted by a planning application. Cllr Brown said this lack of public communication was very concerning and DCC as the Planning Authority are out of order. Cllr Brown proposed the Town Council contact DCC to determine if (and how) this application has been promoted to the public. Cllr Ian Sutherland seconded this proposal and Cllrs agreed. Cllr Mel Carr questioned whether there is such a legal duty upon DCC as the Planning Authority but agreed that such communication should be in place. Cllr Brown then said the location of this proposed application falls within the Conservation Area, an Area which he knows that Cllr Maxine Robinson through her role with the Civic Trust has passionately fought to defend. Previous planning applications have been refused because of Conservation Area constraints as it is paramount to maintain the Town's background. Whilst Cllr Brown did not want to destroy anyone's aspirations it is vital that rules are applied consistently to all. This planning application cannot be an exception. Cllr Brown proposed that the Town Council object to this application and noted County Cllr John Robinson had already called the application in.

Cllr Allan Blakemore said he felt the Catholic Church had been ill advised to sell this land as building land. He had looked at the site and was very concerned as to how it would be accessed as the only way to do this was through the Presbytery unless the Town Wall was going to be removed/altered. Cllr Blakemore said the Town Wall was a major feature of the Conservation Area and could not be removed as it would have significant impacts elsewhere. Cllr Blakemore also proposed the Town Council object to this application. Cllr Ian Sutherland said he agreed with Cllrs Brown and Blakemore but asked if anyone knew more information about the temporary building that was already on the site. (At this point Mrs Elliott circulated photographs of the building and area). Cllr Chris Lines commented that the temporary building is a wooden structure and is significantly different to the two storey dwelling being proposed. Cllr Ian Sutherland felt the application being considered was over-development of the site.

Cllr Mel Carr also expressed concern about access to the site and reminded Cllrs that the Planning Authority has already set precedence for building work within the Conservation Area despite the Town Council expressing their objections. He gave the example of the loss of the long gardens as a result of The Hope Inn's planning application to build two houses.

Cllr Gloria Wills reminded Cllrs of the additional information submitted to the Town Council by Mr and Mrs Elliott (distributed in 10.3 of the meeting). This contained very important documentation which must be given due consideration by Cllrs. The Planning Authority have already given a precedence to development within the Conservation Area and cited The Hope Inn and West Park Lane as examples. If the Town Council are to object to this particular application then such an objection must be on the correct grounds. Cllrs agreed with this. Cllr David Brown said that ecology and the colony of bats in this area were also key issues to consider.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to inform Mr Mark O'Sullivan of DCC that the Town Council will be objecting to this application but will need additional time to prepare this objection. This application will be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 15th February 2016.

- 6 DM/16/00076/FPA – erection of first floor/two storey side/front extension, front porch/canopy extension and 2 no single storey rear extensions including terrace and raised garden area, 41 Whitehouse Drive, Sedgfield:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

- 5 DM/16/00060/FPA – single and two storey extensions to the front, external alterations, demolition of existing garage and erection of double garage with accommodation above and single storey rear extensions, 5 The Leas, Sedgfield:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

- 4 DM/16/00017/FPA – erection of single storey rear extension, 20 Brockwell Close, Fishburn:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application as it is outside of the Parish.

- 3 DM/15/03951/FPA – change of use to 3 no retail units including new shop frontages, 14 Maughan Terrace, Fishburn:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application as it is outside of the Parish.

2 DM/15/03857/AD – erection and display of non-illuminated V board and hoarding sign and 2 no flags, land to the north of roundabout, junction of A689 and A177, Sedgefield:

Cllrs objected to this application on the grounds of the signage being proposed being out of keeping with the area and the distraction this would cause to drivers and subsequent impact upon highway safety.

1 DM/15/03808/OUT – application in outline with all detailed matters reserved except access for up to 220 dwellings (Class 3) and detailed application for a further 80 dwellings (class 3) with associated access, landscaping and works, land to the south of Eden Drive, Sedgefield:

Cllr Mel Carr commenced discussions by stating that he is passionate about Sedgefield and knows that over many years housing development has taken place within the Town. He said the Town needs to grow in order to retain young people and attract new people as there is an ageing population. The Town is currently facing 5 proposed large scale developments at different location (not including that relating to the Community College site or stand-alone applications). To date 3 of those proposed applications have been refused and gone to appeal. A further application has just been refused by DCC Planning Committee on 2nd February 2016 and it is possible that may also go to appeal. The final application remains current and is now for consideration. Cllr Carr said it is important the Town now gets the best site for large scale development and the right number of houses for the Town. He gave the example of Yarm where the stance was taken that no development was to be accepted and the end result was the Town was inundated with building development. Cllr Carr said now is the time for the Town Council to have a say in getting the right number of houses in the best of the locations and the best deal for Sedgefield. The last large scale development in the Town took place 15 years ago when Winterton Estate was built. The current planning application to now be considered relates to revised plans for the land to the south of Eden Drive. Originally these plans were for 400 dwellings. The Town Council objected on several grounds. The revised plans incorporate many of those former objections with the proposal now being for 300 dwellings with a mix of affordable homes, bungalows and an adjusted % of private market, the through road having a reduced width and for buses only, the Stockton Road/A689 junction will remain, there is a £250,000, contribution for community use added to the £300,000 contribution to sports facilities. A great deal of detailed environmental information including evidence that shows only minor visual impact on the views to the approach and the Church included in this submission. Having viewed DCC's Planning Portal Cllr Carr had noted that from the 386 public who had been

consulted, 53 were opposed to this application and 3 were in favour. The Police have stated they have no major issues with this proposed development. Cllr Carr concluded by urging the Town Council to now think very carefully about this application. He said that whilst the emerging Sedgefield Plan may help the Town to restrict other developments taking place the Town Council cannot continue to object to all developments. Cllr Carr then opened the meeting to other Cllrs for comment.

Cllr Allan Blakemore said the Town has conceded that over the next 20 years the Town will need to take 300 houses. The Sedgefield Plan intentionally does not state locations for these developments but instead defines an area within which development would be accepted. Cllr Blakemore said if the Town Council accepts this planning application now being considered it would contradict The Sedgefield Plan as it would allow building on the green belt. Such a decision would weaken the Town's Neighbourhood Plan which is yet to go to an Examiner and Referendum and could even render the Plan useless.

Cllr Chris Lines said he had been brought up in Sedgefield and had no desire to see the Town be over developed but now is the time for the Town Council to look at the circumstances it faces by recognizing we have a growing population which means more homes are needed and Sedgefield will need its share of those. Reducing a planning application from 450 houses to 300 houses is a significant achievement for the Town Council. Cllr Lines said that regardless of the status of a Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan the Town Council cannot delay planning application determination any longer. He said that sites within the proposed Built Up Area Boundary are not available now for development and this makes the Boundary unachievable. It has previously been said that if those sites within the Built Up Area Boundary are not available then the Eden Drive site would be the next preferred option. Approving other developments would potentially open up the other side of the Town in a way that could not be limited. The revised plans now being considered have changed significantly and reiterated the ways given earlier by Cllr Carr. In addition, Cllr Lines made reference to the impact on the views of this development upon the Church. Cllr Lines shared amongst Cllrs photographs which he had taken half a mile from Sedgefield, approaching the roundabout, at the roundabout and approaching Sedgefield on Stockton Road all of which he felt showed that this development would not impact in any way upon the existing views as in many cases this view was already obscured by trees. Cllr Lines accepted the arguments made regarding protecting the Town's Green Wedge, however, this land was classified as such in 1996 and

circumstances are now changing. The land in question is not cherished in the same way that the three corner field is. In summary, Cllr Lines said he believed this development offered the best option for Sedgefield. An option which the Town Council could work with in order to provide much needed facilities for young people. Cllr Lines reminded Cllrs that the ESG application is still waiting in the wings and he believed this would allow even more housing in an area of the Town that was very vulnerable to subsequent sprawling development. Cllr Lines concluded that whilst he objected to the first application for Eden Drive he believed the Town Council should support this revised application for Eden Drive.

Cllr Gloria Wills said this was a very complex situation facing the Town Council. She said a Neighbourhood Plan is not just about developing new housing but should be about land use. Cllr Wills said she felt the focus of The Sedgefield Plan had changed from this to become a tool for stopping development rather than about being about policy on how to accept development, the type of development, mix of development and what the community wants. Sedgefield has been inundated by developers. Cllr Wills said she understood people's passion to remain the Town's village theme and feel. Cllr Wills did not agree that Eden Drive was the correct site because it is a greenfield site and could open up a new boundary to the Town in a different direction. Cllr Wills said that if the three corner field application was allowed to proceed on appeal then the implications of such a decision were huge. Cllr Wills said that if the Council agreed to this application then they could not stop development elsewhere. Cllr Wills said the Town Council now needs time to make a decision on this important issue. Cllr Mel Carr agreed with this and said the Town Council now needs to be careful or could end up in an all or nothing situation.

Cllr Ian Sutherland said the current planning application is the best which has been presented for the Eden Drive site, however, he said the Town Council had spent a considerable amount of money and time on producing The Sedgefield Plan and this cannot be thrown away. Cllr Sutherland said the Town Council needs to focus upon fighting to get its Neighbourhood Plan made. Cllr Blakemore reiterated his earlier comments that the Town will accept 300 houses but the 300 houses being proposed in this application are outside of the boundary defined in The Sedgefield Plan. Cllr Blakemore said if the Town Council did not object to this application then what is the point of The Sedgefield Plan? He reiterated the Plan states the community wishes to see houses in various locations within the boundary and said the Town Council could not agree to something which goes against this. Cllr Ian Sutherland agreed with these

views. Cllr David Brown also agreed with Cllr Blakemore and said that each planning application must be considered on its merits and an objection can only be made on material and sound grounds.

Cllr Chris Lines reminded Cllrs that the Town Council has written on several occasions to DCC in relation to this site and whilst objections have been made in relation to the planning applications being proposed at no time has the Town Council said this site is unsuitable for housing development. Cllr Allan Blakemore said strong representation had been made by the public when the original plans had been submitted for the Eden Drive site. The importance of the green wedge had been highlighted by the QC who undertook the health check on The Sedgefield Plan. Cllr Blakemore said the Town Council must object as the planning application contravenes the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Gloria Wills stated the Neighbourhood Plan does not provide any protection to the Town at the moment.

Cllr Ian Sutherland said there was a very obvious diverse range of opinion and suggested Cllrs vote on whether to object or not object to this application. Cllrs instead agreed to go away and consider the application and to discuss at next week's Environment Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) This planning application to be discussed at the start of the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 15th February 2016 to determine what material grounds upon which to object to this application.**
- ii) The Clerk to inform Mr Henry Jones of DCC that the Town Council will be discussing this application and comments will follow after 15th February 2016.**

RESOLVED:

The comments on planning applications 2,3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 above to be submitted to DCC Planners.

Planning applications 1 and 7 to be discussed at the start of the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 15th February 2016.

ADDITIONAL ITEM: Planning Appeal Spring Lane, Sedgefield:

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that she had issued to them all electronically on 3rd February 2016 a letter

from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 2nd February 2016 making the Town Council aware of an appeal being lodged in relation to planning application DM/15/01122/FPA for the proposed change of use of existing building to form 1 no dwelling at the caravan, Spring Lane, Sedgfield. This appeal would be heard by The Planning Inspectorate and dealt with by the written representations procedure.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to The Planning Inspectorate to reiterate the Town Council's objections to this application.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.33pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES

Minutes of the proceedings of the **FEBRUARY POLICY & RESOURCES** of the **Council** held following the Monthly meeting in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 8th February 2016.**



Present **Cllr. Gloria Wills (Chairman)**
Cllr. Mel Carr (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Chris Lines, Ian Sutherland and Alf Walton

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, Lynne Dentith, Tim Jeanes, John Robinson and Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Woodland, Old Durham Road:

Information received from Ms Susan Porter of DCC was discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on 18th January 2016. Cllrs agreed this answered all questions. The Clerk has written to Mr Ean Parsons and attached a copy of Ms Porter's email.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.2 Epitaph Training:

Training for the Clerk and the Gardening Supervisor is to be scheduled upon the Gardening Supervisor's return to work.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3 Creating a Mayor's Charity:

The Charity Commission have posed a series of questions in relation to the Council's application to set up a Mayor's Charity. These will need to be progressed through the Finance Working Group. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Title Deeds and Documentation at Meikles:

A proposal for an alternative option for the future storage of Title Deeds and Documentation was presented to the Estates Working Group on 14th January 2016. The Working Group have requested more work on this matter. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.5 Outstanding Fairhurst Invoice:

Discussions between the Town Council and Mr Dominic Waugh of Fairhurst are continuing. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6 Terrace Hill Funding:

The Clerk has drafted a letter to each Group with unclaimed Terrace Hill funding. This draft wording was agreed by the Finance Working Group and letters have now been issued. Groups with unallocated money by 1st January 2017 to be contacted to give a presentation to the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.7 New Town Council Website:

The Clerk has circulated the latest hyperlink to all Cllrs and Cllrs have had the opportunity to give their feedback. Cllr Chris Lines and the Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.8 Folk Festival 2016:

A donation of £100 has now been sent to the Folk Festival.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.9 2016/17 Precept Request:

An article has now been published in the Sedgefield Extra.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and close this matter.

3.10 Request for CAB Funding:

The Clerk has contacted Mr John Hannon of Sedgefield Charities to ask what their financial donation to CAB will be in 2016/17. Mr Hannon has replied that they are awaiting figures from CAB as the Charities Trustees have asked for not just the money CAB need but also the numbers they have been serving in Sedgefield, Trimdon and Cornforth. Mr Hannon will not be able to answer the Council's questions until the Trustees meet in March 2016.

Investigation work has started into the conditions attached to the sale of the Town Council Offices in relation to CAB.

This matter will be progressed by the Estates Working Group and an update report brought back to a future P&R Committee.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.11 Royal Garden Party 2016:

Full details for Cllrs Dudley Waters and Ian Sutherland had been forwarded and included in the CDALC draw for places to attend the Royal Garden Party in 2016. Unfortunately neither Cllr had been selected with places going to Cllr Clarke (Middridge Parish Council) and Cllr Zair (Bishop Auckland Town Council).

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.12 Letter to Mr G Roper – Relocation of Sedgefield Post Office:

The Clerk has written to Mr Roper informing him of the Council's discussions in relation to this matter. Cllr John Robinson to investigate with DCC Highways the option for time limiting the layby near Bells Stores. The Town Council to monitor parking in this area following Post Office relocation.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.13 Use of Residents Database:

Work has not yet started on preparing a protocol for usage of the Residents Database, however, the Clerk is considering requests upon receipt and to date several requests from the Sedgefield Village Action Group have been received and disseminated through the Forum. The Clerk and Policy & Records Management Working Group to develop a protocol and bring to a future P&R Committee meeting for approval.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.14 Metal Gate to Rectory Row Church Wall:

An order has now been placed for the purchase of the fittings and installation of this gate. Mr Brian Mutch has been informed. Investigation work continues into previous contributions to the Church Lighting Fund. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.15 Queen's Birthday Beacons:

The Clerk has forwarded this information to Mr Geoff Tonks of the Scouts.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.16 CDALC Regional Training:

Places have now been booked for Cllrs Maxine Robinson, Allan Blakemore, Mel Carr and the Clerk to attend this event. The Clerk to report back to P&R Committee following attendance at this event.

RESOLVED;

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.17 RTPI North East Rural Planning Event:

No Cllrs attended this event.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.18 Cemetery Lodge – Front Door:

The work is due to take place soon. Dowens and the tenants have been informed.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr Gloria Wills, closed the meeting for the public to give views and comments.

Mrs Scott said that following the Town Council's meeting with Mr John Reed and Mr Bryan Featherstone of DCC on 13th January 2016 she would like to know if any feedback has been received as Mr John Reed did state that he would give such information. Mrs Scott asked

when the next meeting would take place regarding Station Road Playing Field and requested an assurance from the Town Council that they would not renege on their objective to resolve this situation. Mrs Scott then informed the Council that recently a Mr Dean Blackburn of DCC had visited the field and had told Mr Scott that Northumbrian Water Ltd have been contacted by Mr Reed's Deputy and an indication was given that NWL have accepted responsibility for their failure to maintain the balancing tank and the nearby broken sewer. Mrs Scott confirmed that despite high rainfall recently the water has drained away from the field, however, Mr Blackburn had said that NWL's system was at capacity and any additional discharged put through the system would lead to overflow and flooding problems. Mrs Scott concluded that the issue of capacity is still very real. Cllr Gloria Wills reiterated the Town Council's commitment to seeking a resolution for the issues at Station Road Playing field. The Clerk confirmed that she had earlier that day received a verbal update from Mr Reed and would report this under agenda item 5.2.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and re-opened the meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Cemetery Lodge Update Report by Town Clerk

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a Cemetery Lodge Update report to all Cllrs making them aware of the exit date for the current tenants and the issuing of instruction to Dowens to find a tenant for a further 6 month let. Since the issuing of this report an enquiry had been received asking if the Council would consider allowing a 12 month let. Cllrs discussed this and agreed.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to contact Dowens and inform them the Town Council will permit a 12 month let based upon all relevant vetting of potential tenants.

5.2 Station Road Playing Field Update Report by Estates Working Group

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Station Road Playing Field Update Report which detailed the discussions and outcomes from the meeting held on 13th January 2016 between members of the Town Council's Estates Working Group, Mr John Reed and Mr Bryan Featherstone of DCC and then joined at the latter part of the meeting by Mr and Mrs Scott representing the Station Road/Ivy Row Residents Alliance. The Clerk reported that since the production of this report she had spoken via telephone to Mr John Reed on 8th February 2016 who had confirmed that he was

very near to finalizing a response to questions raised by members of the Residents Alliance and would send a copy of this to the Town Council for information. Mr Reed is making good progress with gathering all the information required from NWL and will share this with the Town Council when it is all collated (note some of this information was requested at County Cllr John Robinson's meeting held in September 2014. Cllr Gloria Wills requested a copy of these minutes, however, the Clerk does not have a copy). Finally, Mr Reed confirmed that Mr Stuart Timmiss is happy to meet with the Town Council to discuss the issue of the lease for Station Road Playing Field and Mr Reed's PA will contact the Clerk in order to schedule. The Estates Working Group to keep the P&R Committee updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Monthly Accounts: Income (as at 1st February 2016) / Expenditure (as at 1st February 2016 minus unapproved cheques after 11th January 2016)

Cllr Ian Sutherland asked how the Town Council's reserves are reported. Cllr Gloria Wills and the Clerk explained these are presented in the Council's end of year accounts which are also made public.

Cllr Gloria Wills explained that when the new Mayor's Charity is created all Mayoral income and expenditure will be presented in a separate format making it easier for the reader to interpret.

RESOLVED:

The monthly accounts as had been circulated were approved.

6.2 Cheques for approval after 11th January 2016

Details of cheques for approval after 11th January 2016 – 1st February 2016 had been circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk circulated copies of cheques for approval from 2nd – 8th February 2016.

RESOLVED:

All cheques were approved for payment and duly signed by Cllrs Wills, Carr and the Clerk at the close of the meeting.

6.3 Sedgefield Town Council 2016/17 Precept Request (email from Ms Susan Oliver, DCC dated 20th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Susan Oliver of DCC dated 20th January 2016 confirming receipt of the Town Council's 2016/17 precept request of £243,165.39 which is equivalent to a Band D charge of £133.18 representing a 2.6% increase on the 2015/16 Band D.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.4 Proposed 2016/17 Fees and Charges Report by Finance Working Group

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Proposed 2016/17 Fees and Charges Report by the Finance Working Group in which recommendations were made in relation to dog bags, hire of allotments, photocopying service, Parish Hall hire fees and cemetery fees.

RESOLVED:

- i) To approve all recommendations contained in this report.**
- ii) The Clerk to undertake necessary work to promote these 2016/17 Fees and Charges.**

7. Correspondence

7.1 Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings – 15th January 2016 (email from Mr Jonathan Owen, NALC dated 15th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the NALC Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings dated 15th January 2016 for their information.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.2 Agenda and Papers – NALC Policy Committee 9th February 2016 (email from Ms Claire Fitzgerald, NALC dated 26th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all the agenda and papers for the NALC Policy Committee meeting on 9th February 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.3 Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings – 29th January 2016 (email from Mr Jonathan Owen, NALC dated 29th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the NALC Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings dated 29th January 2016 for their information.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.4 Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings – 5th February 2016 (email from Mr Jonathan Owen, NALC dated 5th February 2016)

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the NALC Bulletin on National Developments and Meetings dated 5th February 2016 for their information.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.5 County Durham Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow Invitation (email from County Durham Partnership dated 8th February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of a County Durham Neighbourhood Plan Roadshow email from Durham Partnership dated 8th February 2016 extending an invitation to a free training event on Thursday 3rd March 2016 at Bowburn Community Centre.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.58pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **FEBRUARY ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held following the Community Development and Engagement committee in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 15th February 2016.**

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

- 1. Apologies**
Cllrs. Mark Cant, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson
- 2. Declaration of interest**
None.

At this point Cllr Alf Walton handed over the Chairmanship to Cllr Mel Carr. Cllr Mel Carr reminded Cllrs that at the last Monthly Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2016 it had been agreed to defer making a decision on two planning applications and to discuss these further at the start of this evening's Environment Committee meeting.

Planning Application DM/15/03803/OUT – application in outline with all detailed matters reserved except access for up to 220 dwellings (Class 3) and detailed application for a further 80 dwellings (Class 3) with associated access, landscaping and works, land to the south of Eden Drive, Sedgefield:

Cllr Mel Carr reminded Cllrs of the current status with regards to large scale planning applications within the Town. Cllrs have now had time to consider the information previously circulated to all in Committee packs by the Clerk and to think about the discussions which had taken place at the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 8th February 2016. Cllr Carr invited comments from Cllrs.

Cllr Alf Walton said he was against all housing being proposed as were the majority of the public in the Town. Initially people in the Town had said they wanted no more than 50 houses. Cllr Walton said he felt like the Town Council would be selling its soul to the devil by accepting this application and he was not happy with the associated financial bribes being offered. Cllr Walton said he would object to this application.

Cllr Lynne Dentith supported the comments of Cllr Walton. She said the residents do not want this development. She also felt the revised combined application was not significantly different to the original applications submitted and considered.

Cllr Vanessa Carmichael said that she had read into this application and said that references were contained within documentation still referring to 450 houses. Cllr Carmichael felt the exact detail of this application was hidden within the accompanying text. She felt that if the Town Council allowed this application to proceed this would open the door to all other developments.

Cllr Allan Blakemore said that his view had not changed to that which he had clearly expressed at the last Monthly Meeting. The area upon which this application relates is green wedge and expands beyond the boundary of The Sedgfield Plan's Built Up Area Boundary. He urged the Town Council to stick with The Sedgfield Plan and not to undermine it.

Cllr Dudley Waters said he had not been at the last Monthly Meeting, however, he was very surprised that this application was being considered as the revised plans contain very little change compared with the originals which were unanimously rejected. He felt the proposed bus gate was entirely unworkable. Cllr Waters said the planning objections submitted previously by the Town Council were still valid.

Cllr Tim Jeanes said there were plenty of other potential sites within the Town that would have less visual impact than the site being proposed in this application.

Cllr Gloria Wills used the meeting's room projector facility to show all Cllrs the Master Design Code for this planning application which clearly shows there are 3 sites within this application, i.e. a third element which is still there just hidden within the detail. Cllr Wills expressed her concern that if this application is allowed to proceed then all three sites be developed taking the total number of houses to 450. Cllr Wills proceeded to display the visuals that had been created from a desk top study and these showed how the planting will increase in 10 years when the views of the church will be entirely hidden. Cllr Wills said this development does not protect the village. The mound

area within the proposed development has to be left untouched due to archaeological findings and there is nothing within this proposal for children in terms of a play area. Cllr Wills read out from the "Planning Consultation Statement" information relating to the wider allocation, information which clearly referred to the as was County Durham Plan and the delivery of 450 dwellings. The remainder of the allocation would be by a third party, however, an application in relation to this third site could come forward and could be linked to the development now being considered. If this application goes through and the Town Council do not oppose it then the full allocation of 450 houses will be built. Cllr Wills said that whilst going through the documents in relation to this current planning application she had found reference to a meeting taking place between the developer and DCC Officers as well as a subsequent presentation given by developers to DCC Members on 21st October 2015. Cllr Wills has requested under FOI to DCC clarification regarding about this latter presentation as she did not believe that anyone could present to a Member who could potentially be on a Planning Committee.

Cllr Dudley Waters said that when the developers had last presented to the Town Council they had referenced a meeting they had with DCC Officers, however, nothing had been said about DCC Members. He agreed this was concerning. Cllr Wills confirmed that it was for this reason she had submitted an FOI request, however, it would take time for a response to then be received. Referring back to the application being considered Cllr Wills expressed concerns that within this are only 2 affordable semi-detached bungalows with the other bungalows being proposed being of a dormer nature. The Town Council needs to make a decision based upon the facts presented. Cllr Wills asked what is the Town getting that is of value with this application. A bus lane with a bus gate that could be changed at a later date? £250,000 for what? How will it be allocated? Cllr Wills concluded that she agreed with Cllr Walton that the Town Council would be selling its soul supporting this application.

Cllr David Brown gave a short history of the current status of the County Durham Plan and expressed his disappointment that The Sedgefield Plan had not progressed at the speed desired and it was as a result of this situation that the Town was facing such large planning applications. Cllr Brown's concern was that if this planning application was approved then it would defeat the work and money spent on The Sedgefield Plan. If the Town Council is going to object to this application it must be done on sound material planning grounds.

Cllr Chris Lines said that the community of Sedgefield had reluctantly agreed to accept up to 300 houses. He reminded all that the Town Council have written to DCC on several occasions agreeing that the site being considered is suitable for housing albeit with a smaller allocation than

the 450 originally proposed. The Sedgefield Plan has not been inspected or approved. The Built Up Area Boundary within that Plan does not provide sites that are available for development now and Cllr Lines reminded Cllrs that at a Town Council meeting last year the then Chair and Vice Chair of the Plan's Steering Group had conceded that development on Eden Drive would be the least worst option for the Town. DCC have already identified Eden Drive as their preferred site for development and The County Durham Plan is likely to resurface at some point. Cllr Lines said the Town Council has spoken and has influenced this new application by seeing a reduction to 300 homes. He believed this new application is significantly different to the original one and brings with it opportunities for the Town. He said DCC Planning Officers had previously recommended approval for the last application at Eden Drive unlike the applications by Avant and for the three corner field which had been recommended by Planning Officers for refusal by Planning Committee. Cllr Lines said the Town Council had strongly objected to the Graden and ESRG application due to size and location and he was still concerned that this application is still lurking. Cllr Lines concluded by saying he felt this application represented the best option for Sedgefield in light of the circumstances the Town faces.

Cllr Ian Sutherland said he had considered this application long and hard and listened to all points. Whilst he agreed with some of the comments made by Cllr Lines he felt this planning application contradicted The Sedgefield Plan. The Plan relates to 300 homes and no more, however, comments made by Cllr Wills suggested that by accepting this application the Town could get more than that number. Cllr Sutherland was worried that if the Council does not accept this planning application the Town could get something that we don't want. After careful consideration Cllr Sutherland said his view was to reject this application as an area of key concern for him was the bus lane and it's policing.

Cllr Alf Walton proposed the Town Council object to this application and this was seconded by Cllr Gloria Wills. Cllr Chris Lines said he was against this proposal, however, all other Cllrs agreed to object to the application.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to submit a letter of objection to this application based upon the following:

- **The objections already submitted in relation to this site are still valid as the plans have not changed substantially in our opinion for us to change our objections;**
- **There is the potential for additional homes to be added to this development at a later date via the third site;**
- **The Inspector specifically stated his concerns regarding the number of homes being**

allocated to Sedgefield in the County Durham Plan and this application does not reduce those figures;

- **The green wedge remains a key factor;**
- **The concerns regarding the gated bus lane and its policing;**
- **The changes in types of housing being proposed is negligible;**
- **There are brownfield sites within the Built Up Area boundary which are the preferred choice of the community as per the basis of The Sedgefield Plan.**

Planning Application DM/16/00117/FPA – 2 storey dwelling at land to the South of St Johns, West Park Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllr Blakemore said this land could not be accessed without interfering with the Town Wall. He said the Town Wall was an integral feature of the Town which must be protected in accordance with the requirements of the Conservation Area and therefore the Town Council should object to this application. He believed there was the potential for over development of this site. Cllr Lynne Dentith supported this view and also said that no consideration had been given to impacts upon wildlife, particularly bats. Cllr Lines commented that whilst the developer was happy to ruin the view of the house at the front of this development they wanted to reduce the height of the wall at the other side in order to improve the view from the proposed dwelling. Cllr Ian Sutherland agreed that this would be over development within the Conservation Area.

Cllr Alf Walton said that other houses have been built in similar locations. Cllr Dudley Waters said that he is happy with the proposed development so long as the Town Wall is protected. Cllr David Brown said that other developments have taken place on West Park Lane, however, these were built before the Conservation Area was introduced. He said that no such development should be allowed unless there were exceptional circumstances. Cllr Brown said that the impact of this development would be felt by several houses as well as the rear of the Manor House which is a Grade 2 listed building. Cllr Brown said that if such a development was allowed it must be built with old Victorian bricks, no plastic and have provision for wildlife and bats. Cllr Mel Carr supported these concerns regarding the building materials being proposed. The roof specified clay for tiles but has VPC windows, guttering and fall pipes. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her concerns regarding over development of this area and the imposing effects this 2.5 storey building would have upon nearby residents. The Town Council had a responsibility to try to preserve the remaining Town Wall and retain the character which is still left.

RESOLVED:

- i) **The Clerk to submit a letter of objection to this application based upon the following:**
 - **Over development in the Conservation Area;**
 - **Impact upon Town Wall and long gardens both of which are key features of the Town's character;**
 - **The impact upon wildlife and bats;**
 - **The proposed building materials;**
 - **The impact upon surrounding properties including Grade 2 listed building.**
- ii) **Cllrs David Brown and Gloria Wills to represent the Town Council at any Planning Committee meeting to discuss this application.**

Notification of Potential Planning Application – former Sedgefield Community Hospital:

The Clerk informed Cllrs that an email had been received from Ms Claire Shannon of ID Planning Ltd informing the Council that they are putting together a planning application on behalf of Stella Property Investments for housing on the land at the former Sedgefield Community Hospital, Salters Lane, Sedgefield. ID Planning would welcome the opportunity to present to the Town Council and they also asked for advice regarding potential venues in the Town for a public consultation event.

RESOLVED:

- i) **A Special Town Council meeting be held on Monday 14th march 2016, 6.15pm-6.45pm, in the Council Offices for ID Planning to present their proposals.**
- ii) **The Clerk to suggest the Parish Hall, Ceddesfeld Hall and Manor House as potential venues for a public exhibition.**
- iii) **The Clerk to include within the letter to DCC objecting to the planning application on Eden Drive that the Town Council has become aware of a forthcoming application relating to a brownfield site which could be in line with the wishes of the community and neighbourhood plan.**

DCC Statutory Consultation: The Sedgefield Plan:

The Clerk informed Cllrs that DCC's Statutory Consultation period in relation to The Sedgefield Plan commenced on Monday 15th February 2016 and will run until Tuesday 29th March 2016. Leaflets have been prepared which will be distributed to all homes in the Town over the coming days. The Clerk confirmed that a more detailed update will be presented to Cllrs at the March 2016 Monthly Meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

Cllr Mel Carr closed this part of the meeting and handed back the Chairmanship for the remainder of the Environment Committee meeting to Cllr Alf Walton.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr Alf Walton, closed the meeting for the public to give views and comments.

Mrs Julia Bowles said that she wished to speak about events at the recent Monthly Meeting held on 8th February 2016 which had seemed to be a very orchestrated event at which some never before present members of the public had spoken along with a Councillor in favour of a planning application. In addition the press had been present at this meeting and Mrs Bowles asked if the press had been made aware prior. Mrs Bowles commented that she noted no press were present at this evening's meeting. Going back to the Monthly Meeting Mrs Bowles said those members of the public who spoke in favour of the planning application have had months in which to express their views. Mrs Bowles said that Cllr Chris Lines had highlighted the increasing population as a justification for more housing, however, he had not pointed out that the North East population is stagnant and in some areas decreasing. She felt that Cllr Lines had emphasized the number of houses needed but not that local authorities have over estimated the number they need. Mrs Bowles questioned if the cause for this could be the new homes bonus which DCC see as a funding stream for them in light of reduced budgets. The Inspector examining the County Durham Plan had said that the new dwellings allocation to Sedgefield was too high. With regards to the bus route Mrs Bowles said cars could use each controlled area either side of this. With regards to education and community facilities Mrs Bowles asked if some of those who spoke in favour of the application would also be seeking some of that money? Mrs Bowles also asked if the community as a whole were asked if they wanted this development would they want it? The Sedgefield Plan was built upon the majority view of the community. Sedgefield Town Council accepted and endorsed the content of that Plan and should now be supporting this. Mrs Bowles asked why the Town Council are reluctant to support this and said their current actions are undermining the Plan. She urged the Town Council to look at the reasons why DCC turned the planning applications down at Eden Drive and urged them to take the views of residents into consideration and to regain some credibility.

Mrs Liz Mitchell said those supporting the planning application at Eden Drive were linked to Sedgefield Harriers who were wanting money to fund their running track.

Mr Eamon Murtagh said that any group had the right to seek this funding and felt that Mrs Mitchell was getting personal in her comment.

One lady living on Thurlow Road spoke about her concerns regarding Northumbrian Water Ltd's capacity. She said that consideration must be given to NWL's capacity regardless of any proposed development as it will be 2020 before they are able to give any further capacity to the Town. The remaining capacity of 300 has already been allocated to the caravan park when this comes on-line. This lady made Cllrs aware of the sewerage issues and smells problems already in place at Thurlow Grange. She said that encouraging developers to build more could lead to an environmental catastrophe.

The Chairman thanked the public for their comments and re-opened the meeting.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 North End Grass Verge:

Cllr Alf Walton is continuing to monitor this area. No further rat activity has been witnessed. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2 Rat Boxes:

Cllr Alf Walton is continuing to monitor this situation at Ceddesfeld Hall grounds. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed regarding this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3 Tree works at Butterwick Allotments and North End:

Mr Roy Cairns has been asked to monitor the recycling bays to ensure the correct materials are put into each. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed regarding progress.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Roundabouts:

The Clerk has written to Mr Oliver Sherratt of DCC with regards to the state of the two larger roundabouts on the outskirts of the Town and issued a further follow-up request on 1st February 2016. The Clerk circulated to all for information a letter received from Mr Alan Patrickson (covering Mr Sherratt's job on an interim basis) dated 10th February 2016 in which he state this matter had been discussed and considered at a meeting with County Cllr John Robinson prior to Christmas.

RESOLVED:

Cllrs to consider this information and discuss at the March 2016 Environment Committee meeting.

3.5 Budget for Ceddesfeld Grounds:

As per Cllr Sutherland's request, investigations are underway through previous accounts post-5 years to identify the allocation previously set by the Town Council. The Finance Working Group to recommend a suitable budget for Ceddesfeld grounds and to take a proposal to a future P&R Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6 Tractor Maintenance Report:

The Gardening Supervisor is to commence preparing a maintenance schedule for all other gardening equipment. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.7 A177 Junction:

Cllrs to continue to monitor this location.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.8 Headstone Safety Testing:

Next of kin letters have now been issued. An advisory article has been printed in the

Sedgefield Extra. Appropriate notices are displayed in the cemetery noticeboard. The Clerk and Gardening Supervisor to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED;

To receive this information.

3.9 Eden Drive Playground Safety Reports:

The Clerk reported that Mr Roy Cairns had met with Mr Craig Fowler at the Eden Drive Play area on 15th February 2016 and this had resulted in the DCC Officer suggesting additional signage was required in relation to the enclosed play area for younger children. The Clerk will liaise with Mr Fowler to get more details and costings to bring back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.10 Sedgefield Blues Club:

The Clerk has written response letters to all those who wrote to the Town Council supporting the Sedgefield Blues Club. A copy of this letter has been sent to Mr Garry Jacobs. A copy has also been sent to Mr and Mrs Cook along with an explanation of the work undertaken to date in relation to noise at the Parish Hall. The Estates Working Group continue to progress this matter and will bring an appropriate report back to the Environment Committee.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.11 Memorial Benches:

This matter to be progressed upon the Gardening Supervisor's return to work. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.12 Grass Along 28-36 North End:

An appropriate article has now been published in the Sedgefield Extra requesting no

vehicles are driven on, or parked on, the village greens. The Clerk has written to Mrs Wright informing her of the Council's actions. Cllrs to monitor this situation.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.13 Footpath Outside Hope Inn:

The Clerk has written to Mr John Adamson requesting a timetable for refurbishment of The Hope Inn. No response has yet been received. The Clerk, Cllr Mel Carr and Community Development Officer have had an on-site meeting with Mr Alan Ramsey of DCC on 3rd February 2016. Cllrs Mel Carr and Alf Walton plus the Community Development Officer have now met with the DCC Conservation Officer and are exploring options for a temporary fix for this location as well as working on a funding application to Lafarge for a wider remit of footpath refurbishments.

The Clerk has written to Mrs Smith informing her of the Council's actions in response to her letter.

The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.14 Tree at 4 South View:

The Clerk has written to the property owner informing her the Town Council has ensured all necessary permissions have been given by DCC and stating what work can be done and obtained an example quotation. However, undertaking the work and paying for this work is the responsibility of the homeowner.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.15 Trees at Winterton Cottages:

Work including stump grinding to be carried out as soon as possible. The Clerk and Cllrs Walton and Cant agreed to the quote. The contractors have been informed of their successful quote, issued with a Purchase Order and asked to schedule the work as soon as possible. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.16 Trees on Front Street:

The contractors have been informed of their successful quote, issued with a Purchase Order and asked to schedule the work as soon as possible. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.17 Land on Old Durham Road, Sedgefield:

The Clerk has written to Mr Ean Parsons and provided him with a copy of Ms Susan Porter's email.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

5. Reports

5.1 Grass Cutting Tendering Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all Grass Cutting Tendering Report detailing the actions undertaken by the Council in order to put the 2016/17 Grass Cutting contract out to tender. The Clerk confirmed that the deadline for submission of quotations was 12 noon on Monday 15th February 2016 and that under exempt information at the close of this meeting Cllrs would need to consider these tenders.

Cllr Alf Walton suggested that over the course of 2016/17 consideration is given as to how many times each area actually requires cutting. For example, he believed that Winterton Cemetery cuts could be reduced from 16 to 12 per year. Cllrs agreed.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.2 Village Green Footpaths Report by Community Development Officer:

The Clerk circulated to all copies of a Village Green Footpaths Report by the Community Development Officer which outlined the work to date in relation to identifying those within the Town which required refurbishment, the consultations that

have taken place with DCC Officers and potential funders. The recommendations in this report were approved. The Community Development Officer to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) To temporarily make safe the footpath outside The Hope Inn.**
- iii) To receive DCC advice and specifications.**
- iv) To invite tenders from contractors for all village green footpaths.**
- v) To submit a grant funding application for all footpaths.**
- vi) The Community Development Officer to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.**

6. Correspondence

6.1 Sedgefield Conservation Area Consultation (emails from Town Clerk dated 27th January 2016 and Ms Judith Miller, DCC dated 26th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Judith Miller of DCC dated 26th January 2016 informing Cllrs that a community consultation drop-in event in relation to the draft character appraisal for the Sedgefield Conservation Area will be taking place at Ceddesfeld Hall on Tuesday 16th February 2016. The deadline date for submission of any comments in relation to the draft appraisal is Friday 27th February 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.2 Street Lighting Energy Reduction Project (email and attachments from Mr Tony Ward, Senior Project Manager, DCC dated 26th January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email and attachments from Mr Tony Ward, Senior Project Manager, DCC dated 26th January 2016 making the Council aware of proposed removal of street lights in our locality. Cllr Mel Carr pointed out these proposals would see the removal of 3 lamps from the A689 but of more concern would be the removal of 29 lamps from Sedgefield to Fishburn along with lighting for signage. Cllr Dudley Waters said Great Aycliffe Town Council had paid and taken on responsibility for lighting which had been due to be removed in their area, however, thi

had been costly and was not an option for ourselves. Cllr Alf Walton said he had spoken to several people in Fishburn who had been unaware of this proposal, however, Cllr Dudley Waters had said there had been references within local press. Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding the safety of walkers, cyclists and road users on the Sedgefield to Fishburn road.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to Mr Tony Ward to express the Town Council's concerns.

6.3 Sedgefield In Bloom (minutes of meeting held Wednesday 3rd January 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sedgefield In Bloom meeting held on Wednesday 3rd January 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.4 Sedgefield In Bloom Ceddesfeld Hall Project Update:

The Clerk read out to Cllrs an update from Mr Howard Smith, Chair of the Sedgefield In Bloom Group, informing the Town Council that their project to refurbish the car park area at Ceddesfeld Hall will commence on Monday 22nd February 2016 with the clearance of the ivy from this area. This work is expected to take 2 days. DCC will deliver cones on Friday afternoon (19th) and the Bloom Group will cone the necessary area off to prevent any cars being parked adjacent to where the work is being carried out on Sunday afternoon. DCC will also display notices to make the public aware that workers and machinery are working in this area. Cllr Gloria Wills requested clarification as to what is happening with the ivy that is removed. Cllr Ian Sutherland replied that DCC will be taking the ivy away from the site for disposal. Cllr Gloria Wills reminded Cllr Sutherland that before any sculptures could be put in place the requirements of the Conservation Area must be considered.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllrs Dudley Waters and Ian Sutherland to liaise in order to ensure that a planned event at Ceddesfeld Hall on Sunday morning is not impacted by this project.**

7. Tenders – Grass Cutting 2016/17:

Had any members of the press or public been present at this point they would have been asked to leave the meeting in order that the grass cutting quotations received be considered. The Clerk circulated to all Cllrs a comparison table comparing quotations received.

RESOLVED:

i)

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **FEBRUARY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held following the Environment committee in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield,
on
Monday 15th February 2016.

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

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs. Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 The Sedgefield Plan:

Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Mel Carr, the Clerk and Mr Mort Spalding met with Mr Stuart Carter of DCC on Wednesday 27th January 2016. An update report was presented to the Monthly Meeting on 8th February 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.2 Presentation by Investing In Children:

The EDRC AAP Youth Forum's Report has now been received and was considered by Cllrs Chris Lines and Lynne Dentith plus the Clerk on 3rd February 2016 in order that a proposal could be presented later at this meeting's agenda under item 5.5.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.3 Draft Grant Funding Policy:

Cllr Allan Blakemore and the Community Development Officer have met to progress this Policy and will bring a revised draft to a future CD&E meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed of progress.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Apple Orchard (Tree Policy):

The Estates Working Group have been tasked to consider and draft a Town Council Tree Policy to be brought back to a future Environment Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.5 Grant Funding Update Report:

The Community Development Officer has been tasked to explore the feasibility of Lafarge being approached to fund footpath refurbishment work in the Town. Cllrs Mel Carr and Alf Walton are also assisting in this task which has to date included in on-site meetings with DCC Officers. The Community Development Officer to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6 Grant Funding Update Report:

The Clerk has written to Dr Lorraine O'Donnell of DCC accepting the Delivering Differently Grant Funding. The Clerk reported that DCC have now decided that

rather than run a Cost/Benefits Workshop which needed to be attended by each successful applicant they will instead submit to DCLG one overarching Cost/Benefit Analysis for the Delivering Different grant as a whole. Notification has been received that Mr Andrew Jackson of DCC has already submitted an order to purchase the self-watering tubs while Mr James Bennett is liaising with the Community Development Officer and Cllr Alf Walton regarding the winter gritting equipment.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.7 Orchard Progress:

Replacement trees were delivered on 21st January 2016 and are currently potted in the Council's polytunnel. They will be planted at the Community Orchard by Mr Roy Cairns and Cllr Alf Walton when the weather conditions allow. At the time of planting suitable tree guards will also be fitted.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and the close this matter.

3.8 Amateur Photography Competition:

There has been no time for Cllr Lines and the Clerk to develop a proposal. This work will be scheduled as soon as possible and a proposal presented to a future CD&E meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.9 Sedgefield 700+:

Any Cllrs willing to volunteer for this year's Sedgefield Day to contact the Community Development Officer as quickly as possible.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.10 Lambs Hill Inaugural Liaison Committee Meeting:

Cllr Mark Cant will attend this meeting on behalf of the Town Council. The Clerk has

notified Banks Renewables and forwarded the necessary paperwork to Cllr Cant. Cllr Cant to update Cllrs at the next CD&E Committee meeting.

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. The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

5.1 Grants Funding Update Report by Community Development Officer

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Grants Funding Update Report by the Community Development Officer.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.2 Outdoor Fitness Report by Community Development Officer

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Outdoor Fitness Report by the Community Development Officer. Cllr Allan Blakemore confirmed that he had liaised with the Community Development Officer and despite real efforts to engage with the community no feedback had been received supporting the proposal to install outdoor fitness equipment at the Eden Drive play area. Cllr Dudley Waters asked how the public consultation had been undertaken as he had seen nothing in the press or received anything through his door. Cllr Blakemore explained that a questionnaire had been compiled and then issued to different groups in the Town. He reiterated that the purpose of this had been to get evidence of support for the installation of adult fitness equipment at the Eden Drive play area allowing the Town Council to supplement the available Section 106 money with funding from other sources. However, as no support had been found alternative proposals being suggested were a bike/scooter lane/circuit to be installed within the play area or to reconsider entirely the proposed use of Section 106 money. Cllr Lynne Dentith asked if the Section 106 money was time limited the Clerk confirmed that she is unaware of any such

constraint being attached to it. Cllr Chris Lines questioned whether the right people had been consulted and said he was happy to undertake more consultation and to write an appropriate article for the Sedgefield News. Cllr Dudley Waters said he was also happy to be involved in this process. It was felt that the Town Council should continue with the original proposal of outdoor adult fitness equipment at this moment in time.

RESOLVED:

- i) Cllrs Lines and Waters to write an article for the Sedgefield News and to undertake additional consultation work.**
- ii) The Community Development Officer to forward to Cllrs Lines and Waters the questionnaire which had been devised and details of where this had been circulated to date.**
- iii) Cllrs Lines and Waters to keep the Committee updated on this matter and to call upon the services of the Community Development Officer as necessary to support.**

5.3 Community Association for Sedgefield Community College Verbal Report by Cllr John Robinson

Cllr John Robinson was not present at the meeting and had not supplied any verbal update on this matter to either the Clerk or the Chair.

5.4 Citizen of the Year Award 2015 – Proposal Report by Cllr Allan Blakemore

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a proposal report from Cllr Allan Blakemore in which he suggested ways in which the Citizen of the Year Award 2015 could be enhanced by the inclusion of a small budget being allocated and limited drinks and nibbles being provided. Cllr David Brown pointed out this is an event run in conjunction with the Sedgefield Development Trust and the Rotary so their opinions should be considered. A discussion took place. Cllr Tim Jeanes suggested that a free drink could be provided and then from that point onwards a charging bar be operated whilst Cllrs Gloria Waters and Lynne Dentith said they felt last year's event had a very nice feel to it, although Cllr Ian Sutherland said he agreed with Cllr Blakemore and the event had lacked atmosphere after the Award was made.

RESOLVED:

This matter to be discussed by Town Council, Development Trust and Rotary representatives when they meet as a Selection Panel to determine this year's

Award winner. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

5.5 Progression of Youth Concerns – Proposal Report by Cllrs Chris Lines and Lynne Dentith:

The Clerk circulated to all a Progression of Youth Concerns Proposal Report written by Cllrs Chris Lines and Lynne Dentith. Cllrs Lines and Dentith talked through this report and explained how they had reached the series of recommendations which were contained within. Cllrs were very supportive of this report and considered this was a sensible way forward. In addition, Cllr Gloria Wills requested that some consideration be given to the creation of a Junior Mayor. Cllrs Lines and Dentith took this comment on board but said it would be up to the young people of Sedgefield whether or not they wanted such a role.

RESOLVED:

- i) To establish firm ongoing links with the AAP Youth Forum.**
- ii) To organise a youth event in the Parish Hall on Saturday 30th April 2016, to engage with young people in Sedgefield and establish their priorities.**
- iii) Use the findings from the event to be the starting point for actions for the next 12 months.**
- iv) Use the ring fenced Youth Forum money in the Town Council budget to achieve the above.**
- v) Make provision in the Town Council's 2016/17 budget and beyond for sustaining this programme of activity.**
- vi) Continue to organise meetings of the Youth Working Group (all Councillors welcome to attend) and invite external individuals and organisations to attend and contribute as appropriate.**
- vii) Cllrs Lines and Dentith to provide Cllrs with an update at the next Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting regarding the programme/format of the event on 30th April 2016.**

6. Correspondence

6.1 Sedgefield Village Games Volunteers Evening (letter from Mr Simon Hill dated 21st January 2016)

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Mr Simon Hill, Secretary of the Sedgefield Village Games dated 21st January 2016 thanking the

Town Council for supporting its recent Volunteers Evening.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.2. Royal Navy Presentation – 10th March 2016 (email from County Durham Partnership dated 9th February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all an email from the County Durham Partnership dated 9th February 2016 inviting Councillors to a special presentation by the Royal Navy to take place in County Hall, Durham on 10th March 2016.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllrs to book their own place if they wish to attend this presentation.**

6.3 Financial Inclusion (email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 2nd February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all an email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 2nd February 2016 which detailed information about NEFirst Credit Union and the Prince Bishops Community Bank. The Clerk informed Cllrs that hyperlinks within this email would take them to further supplementary information or alternatively copies were held in the Council Offices if Cllrs wished to view them.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.4 NE Community Led Development Network Workshop 20th April 2016 (email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 10th February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all an email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 10th February 2016 on behalf of the Homes and Communities Agency inviting Cllrs to attend a workshop in Northumberland on 20th April 2016 regarding community led housing.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) Cllrs to inform the Clerk if they wish to attend this event.**

6.5 DCC's Chairman Medal (email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 11th February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all an email from Mr Stephen Ragg, CDALC dated 11th February 2016 informing Cllrs that a young people category has been created for this year's DCC's Chairman Medal awards. The deadline for nomination for both Chairman's Medal and Young Person's Medal is Monday 14th March 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.6 Northern Gas Networks – Local Depot Open Day (email from Northern Gas Networks dated 12th February 2016):

The Clerk circulated to all an email from Northern Gas Networks dated 12th February 2016 inviting Cllrs to attend the Tees Depot Open Day on Friday 18th March 2016.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.59pm.