

# **SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Cllr. Chris Lines (Chairman)</b> <b>Cllr. Gloria Wills (Vice-Chairman) and</b> Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Mart Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, Mel Carr, Lynne Dentith, Rebecca Hagan, Tim Jeanes, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson, Ian Sutherland, Alf Walton, Dudley Waters
<b>Officer</b>	L. K. Swinbank (Town Clerk)

Councillor Alf Walton congratulated the Mayor on the recent Mayor's Charity Dinner and Dance which had been held at the Hardwick Hall the previous Friday.

## **1. Apologies**

None

## **2. Declaration of interest**

None

## **3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports**

### **a) Minutes of the Community Chest Meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014:**

These were confirmed as a correct record. (VC, GW)

### **b) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

These were confirmed as a correct record. (AB, Mel Carr)

### **c) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

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

### **d) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

These were confirmed as a correct record. (Mel Carr, IS)

### **e) Minutes of the Community Development committee meeting held Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

These were confirmed as a correct record. (VC, RB)

### **f) Minutes of the Personnel committee meeting held Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014. These had not been circulated.**

**RESOLVED**

**To table these in April.**

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

**4. Matters of Information**

**4.1 East Park Access**

The Clerk reported that no response had been received from English Heritage.

**RESOLVED**

**To close the matter.**

**4.2 Spring Lane**

Cllr. Alf Walton said he had contacted Susan ~~Oliver~~ Porter (*as amended at the April Monthly meeting*) at DCC Planning re the above but there had been no progress.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

**5. Dates of Meetings**

These had been circulated. The Chairman pointed out changes re the Sedgefield Plan meeting which has been moved from April 21<sup>st</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. He also reminded Members of the Public meeting which was held that evening and the next evening, Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March in the Parish Hall.

**6. Police Report**

Sgt. Alex Clarke gave the report and answered all questions. He said he was meeting an Officer from Durham County Council later in the week to discuss alcohol in public places and he also informed Members that Mrs. Chris Mills is starting a Youth Café which will be held 7 – 9 pm on a Monthly basis on a Friday evening in one of the premises in Sedgefield.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Clarke for his report.

**7. DCC County Plan**

DCC County Councillor John Robinson commented on the recent information from Geoff Ayre re 2000 new houses in Sedgefield. He suggested exploring the costings of a Planning Consultant. The Clerk informed Members that Mr. David Bowles the Chairman of the Steering Group has suggested developing a Neighbourhood Plan on the Eden Drive site alone and a further plan would then be developed in parallel for the rest of Sedgefield.

The Chairman Cllr. Chris Lines reported that a meeting had been held between David Bowles Chairman of the Steering Group together with Mort Spalding Vice-Chairman of the Steering Group and Phil Wilson MP which he had also attended.

**RESOLVED**

~~To draw up a list of possible Planning Consultants and to draw up a specification for the work in respect of the possible application for 2000 houses in Sedgefield.~~

- a) *To draw up a list of possible Planning Consultants.*
- b) *To draw up a specification for the work in respect of the possible application for 2000 houses in Sedgefield. Cllr. John Robinson to liaise with the Clerk over the specification.*

*(As amended at the April Monthly meeting).*

## **8. Public Participation**

None

## **9. Internal Reports**

### **9.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he was currently undertaking some work with Mrs Norma Neal from the History Society re World War I.

The Chairman also informed members that he had received the formal letter of resignation from the Town Clerk.

Lesley Swinbank has given three months notice and will leave on 30th June; however with holidays and time owed this will see her leave on 10th May which is at the end of the Town Council's Civic Year. Lesley Swinbank said she had enjoyed very much the past thirty four years with the town council and thanked members for their help, support and the opportunities for professional development over this time. She wished the new Town Clerk, the Town Council and the Community best wishes for the future and said she would be happy to help /give assistance over the transitional period.

### **9.2 Mayor's Report**

Details of recent events that the Mayor has attended recently: -

February

- Chilton Town Council , Mayors Valentines Charity Night (NSPCC local, and Local projects within Chilton)
- Great Aycliffe Town Council Mayors Charity Civic Dinner (Cardiothoracic Unit at James Cook Hospital and St Clare's Food Bank)
- Sedgefield in Bloom Coffee morning at Parish Hall
- Planting trees in field/hedgerow at Sedgefield Racecourse with pupils from Sedgefield College and Sedgefield in Bloom

March

- Northumbria in Bloom, Spring Meeting at Newcastle Racecourse. The start of “50th Anniversary Celebration” Gold theme this year.
- Mavis Wayman retirement from her business after 31 years, presentation at the Dunn Cow
- Veteran's coffee morning at Parish Hall
- Sedgefield Town Council Annual Civic Ball, proceeds to Parkinson's UK Durham and Teesside and local groups and organizations.

In addition the Mayor thanked everyone who had attended the Mayor’s Charity Dinner and Dance and the Clerk and all the staff who had helped with the arrangements.

## **10. External Reports**

### **10.1 Report from DCC Members**

Cllr. John Robinson reported on the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding monies. These included:-

- Cricket Club £5000
- Scouts £5000
- Youth Work (Ellen Guest) £5000
- Musical Group (Dance / Art) £3000
- Friends of Hardwick £2000

In addition Cllr. Robinson is looking at monies for Youth Provision for 2014 and 2015.

### **10.2 Larger Council Meeting**

The report on the Larger Local Council Meeting which the Clerk attended with Cllr. Allan Blakemore held on 4<sup>th</sup> February at Murton had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

### **10.3 Local Council Committee Meeting Feb 2014**

The Minutes of the EDRC AAP Local Council committee which was held at 7 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the Council Offices, Sedgefield had been circulated.

**RESOLVED**

**To receive the information.**

## **11. Correspondence**

### **11.1 East Durham Leader**

Information had been received from the East Durham Leader project.

**RESOLVED**

- i. **To receive the information.**
- ii. **To ask for information in regard of their recent consultation.**

#### **11.2 NALC: Business Rates**

Information had been from received from Steve Ragg (CDALC) re the above.

##### **RESOLVED**

**To support Severn Oaks Town Council in their proposals under the Sustainable Communities Act re securing a percentage of those rates to be paid directly to Parish and Town Councils in the Country.**

#### **11.3 EON Windfarm(s) proposal at the Isles**

Information re the above and in particular inviting representatives to attend the next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am in the Parish Hall had been circulated.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Cllrs. Rebecca Hagan and Gloria Wills to attend on behalf of the Town Council.**

### **12. Planning: New Large Scale Development**

The Chairman, Cllr. Chris Lines suggested that this should be a standing item on the agenda in view of the ongoing / expected applications for development in Sedgefield.

##### **RESOLVED**

**Planning: New Large Scale Development to be a standing item on each Monthly agenda.**

### **13. Applications**

#### **13.1 Current Applications**

A schedule of the current planning applications had been received and circulated.

##### **RESOLVED**

**The comments are as attached and are to be forwarded to DCC.**

#### **13.2 Heley House Application**

The Clerk informed Members that she had emailed the Planning Department on two occasions seeking clarification on this application in respect of “plant”. However no response had been forthcoming. Cllr. David Brown informed Members that the word plant has now been withdrawn from the application.

##### **RESOLVED**

- i. **To receive the information.**
- ii. **The Clerk to press for a reply re the meaning of “plant” in any application.**

### **14. NALC Larger Councils Committee**

A letter has been received from Cllr. Bill Jeffries who is the Vice-Chairman of the Larger Local Councils Committee NALC asking if local towns and parish councils have items they wish him to raise.

The Clerk suggested that it would be appropriate for Cllr. Jeffries to keep pressing for a postal vote for the elections of representatives to the Larger Local Councils committee.

**RESOLVED**

**The Town Council to ask that postal votes for the Larger Local Councils Committee continues to be raised.**

**15. Reports for meetings**

Cllr. Vanessa Carmichael asked that Members provide written reports which can be circulated before the meeting in order that Members have information beforehand.

**RESOLVED**

**Members to provide written reports as appropriate for future meetings.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.