

# **SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the **OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7 p.m.** in the **Council Offices**, Advice & Information Centre, Sedgefield, on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014.**

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

**Officer**                    Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs. Rebecca Hagan, John Robinson, Maxine Robinson and Vanessa Carmichael

**2. Declaration of interest**

None

**3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports**

**a) Minutes of the Community Chest Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014:**

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

**b) Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

**c) Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

**d) Minutes of the Community Development and Engagement committee meeting held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

**e) Minutes of the Environment committee meeting held Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

**f) Minutes of Fireworks Working Group held Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

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

The Chair thanked members of this Working Group for their sterling efforts in ensuring the delivery of this year's Annual Fireworks Display.

**g) Minutes of Joint Open Spaces and Estates Working Group with Mr Stephen Young held Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2014**

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

Cllr Ian Sutherland voiced his concerns regarding the tone of language used within the minutes when referencing the Sedgefield In Bloom Group and stated that the Bloom Group is there to support the Town Council. Other Cllrs did not see anything wrong with the wording used in the minutes of this meeting and reiterated that the work of the Bloom Group is appreciated.

**h) Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Due to the Personnel Committee meeting having to be re-scheduled due to lack of Cllrs able to attend it had not been possible to circulate these minutes in advance to all Cllrs. It was agreed to defer these minutes until the next Monthly meeting.

**RESOLVED: To accept all of the minutes as above and recommendations contained therein with the exception of the Personnel Committee minutes which will be considered at the November Monthly meeting.**

**4. Matters of Information**

**4.1 Spring Lane Mobile Home and Caravans**

The Clerk reported that no further information had been received from Ms Susan Porter since the September Monthly meeting. Cllrs expressed their concerns regarding this site and the time that has elapsed since this matter was first raised with DCC and the lack of any enforcement action being undertaken by DCC.

**RESOLVED:**

**The Clerk to provide County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon with the background to this matter in order for Cllr Lumsdon to investigate with DCC and report back to the Town Council.**

**4.2 Death of Dr Elisabeth Sutherland**

Details of Dr Sutherland's memorial gathering have been placed in Council noticeboards, forwarded to the Sedgefield News and shared with the Residents Forum Database.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information and close this matter.**

**4.3 Sedgefield Community College**

Cllr Chris Lines had sent congratulatory letters to the Heads of Sedgefield Community College, Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary School in response to the College's status as the highest performing school in County Durham.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information and close this matter.**

**4.4 NETPark Ambassador**

Cllr Chris Lines has informed Dr Goon that he will be the Town Council's NETPark Ambassador.

**RESOLVED:**

**Cllr Lines to keep Cllrs informed of this work with NETPark via future Chairman's Reports.**

**4.5 Current Planning Applications**

Comments made on planning applications considered during the September Monthly Meeting had been submitted to DC Planning Officers, including objections to the 3 Corner Field proposal and a request that this be considered by the Planning Committee. On 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 an email was received from Cllr John Robinson stating the 3 corner field application is to be taken forward to a Planning Committee.

**5. Dates of Meetings**

Dates for meetings and events taking place in October 2014 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**6. Police Report: Sgt Alex Clarke**

Sgt Alex Clarke verbally delivered a Police Report for the period 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014. In this period the following crimes had been recorded:

- Overnight on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014, the rear window of a silver Renault Clio was damaged whilst parked up in The Lane, Sedgefield.
- Between 2am – 4am on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, unknown persons have thrown items at a bungalow in The Garth, Sedgefield. Damage was caused to a window frame.
- On 19<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a domestic incident occurred in Bradbury involving a couple driving through the area. The male was arrested for common assault and was bailed to later this month pending further enquiries.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a minor assault was reported at the Hardwick Live event involving a woman being pushed following a dispute over a taxi. Later the victim declined any police involvement.

- Overnight on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a Peugeot badge was removed from a black Peugeot 107 motor vehicle parked in the High Street, Sedgefield.
- On the afternoon of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2014, a wallet was stolen from the changing rooms at Sedgefield Cricket Club. The club are putting target hardening measures in place for next season in the form of security safes in both dressing rooms.
- There has been one drive-off offence at the Total Garage on the A689. Police have identified a suspect from Hartlepool and an arrest is expected shortly.

Crime in Sedgefield is down 32% on the same time last year with nearly one out of every two crimes being solved (46% detection rate for year to date).

64 incidents of anti-social behavior occurred in September 2014 compared with 85 in September 2013 (a reduction of 25%). 29 incidents of youth anti-social behavior occurred in September 2014 compared to 45 in September 2013 (a reduction of 36%).

The next PACT Meeting is on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7pm in the Fletcher Room of the Parish Hall.

Sgt Clarke reported two other issues of note:

- From a policing perspective the recent Hardwick Live event had passed off without any real incident. One minor assault when dealing with over 14,000 people over two days must be considered a success.
- There have been complaints from residents on the Winterton Estate concerning licensing issues surrounding the old church. An event took place on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014, which caused a number of parking and access problems and led to abuse towards several residents from those attending the event. The event was unlicensed and the Licensing Unit and DCC are investigating.
- A Youth Café has now opened at Toshacks every other Friday evening with support from the local NPT.

Cllr Dudley Waters asked if the Police were aware of an incident within the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 when a group of 150-200 older teenagers congregated in the area and caused a disturbance which lasted for some considerable time. Sgt Clarke replied that over recent weeks a number of big gatherings have taken place in Trimdon which have been coordinated via social media. He suspected that the location had been changed to Sedgefield in this instance, however, he noted this incident and would keep an eye on the situation.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**7. Public Participation**

The Chairman closed the meeting for public participation.

There were no comments from the public present.

The meeting was then re-opened.

**8. Internal Reports**

**8.1 Chairman's Report**

The Chair reported that over the past month he had:

- Attended the first ambassador meeting at NETPark. It is envisaged such meetings will take place every 3-4 months. NETPark have large scale ambitions which are due to be revealed to the public in November 2014. These ambitions reflect the significant increase in the on-site workforce over the last 12-18 months. Cllr Lines had requested that such information is shared with the wider Sedgefield community to encourage integration. Cllr Lines proposed that a representative of NETPark be invited to attend a future Council meeting to explain the purpose of the site and their plans for the future. Cllr David Brown seconded this proposal. Cllr Mel Carr asked if the Council could also have a visit to the site to get an even better understanding of the facility. County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon offered to organise such a visit.
- Prepared for the County Durham Plan Examination in Public process.
- Sedgefield Rugby Club are currently seeking new players and would be grateful if this message could be spread around the Town.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) To receive the information.**
- ii) Cllr Chris Lines to invite a representative of NETPark to attend a future Monthly Meeting to share the future ambitions of the site.**
- iii) County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to arrange visit to NETPark.**

**8.2 Mayor's Report**

Details were circulated of the following recent events recently attended by the Mayor:

September:

16 <sup>th</sup>	Northumbria In Bloom awards ceremony at Newcastle Racecourse, 6 gold awards in total for Sedgefield.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Rotary Swimathon presentation night at Spennymoor (Sedgefield Junior School, Rectory Row, achieved award for swimming the greatest number of lengths)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Durham County Council "Shafts of Light" mining art exhibition at Bowes Museum
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sedgefield Mayor's Civic Service at St Edmund's Church
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Stockton Mayor's Charity Event at Preston Park
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Supporting Sedgefield Inner Wheel Charity Fashion Show in Parish Hall
28 <sup>th</sup>	Spennymoor Town Council, Mayor's Civic Service at Tudhoe

October:

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunflower awards presentation to children at Hardwick Primary and Sedgefield Primary
5 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Sedgefield Farmers Market
5 <sup>th</sup>	Willington Town Council, Mayor's Civic Service

The Clerk reminded Cllrs of the forthcoming Mayor's Quiz on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014 for which a limited number of tickets are still available.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive the information.**

**9. External Reports**

**9.1 Report from DCC Members (RL)**

County Cllr Rachel Lumsdon reported the following:

- Part of the outline planning permission proposed for Eden Drive included a new road as well as the closure of Stockton Road. Cllr Lumsdon had met with Mr Ian Thompson of DCC and he has confirmed that if planning permission was approved at Eden Drive a new road would be put in, however, Stockton Road would not close which was important in safeguarding that area of the Town. Cllr Chris Lines asked if this information would be put in writing and Cllr Lumsdon confirmed that this will be. She also stressed that this road issue is not part of the County Durham Plan nor the current EIP. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her concerns that in relation to this application DCC Highways had stated that a new road needed to be included and she has concerns regarding the associated increase in traffic coupled with the potential traffic dangers of two roads in the area with significant traffic flow particularly in relation to the proposed road leading out by the Stables onto Stockton Road. Cllr Gloria Wills thanked Cllr Lumsdon for her work on this matter.
- DCC are issuing a notification of a proposed 9 day road closure commencing 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014 for re-surfacing on Stockton Road. Cllr Lumsdon will share this with

the Clerk and if any Cllrs have any concerns please liaise with Cllr Lumsdon.

- Cllr Rachel Lumsdon is working with DCC Officers to consider the site used by travellers for the recent Durham Horse Fair. Steps are being taken to ensure this event does not return next year. There are plans to target harden the site.
- Sedgefield Community College have made a decision to alter their subsidy for school transport and this will result in children from Fishburn having to pay to travel to school. There is considerable concern within Fishburn over this matter.
- Cllr Lumsdon still has money available in her Neighbourhood Budget and Cllr Chris Lines had made an initial suggestion that play equipment could be purchased for Winterton Estate. Further discussions are needed but in the meantime Cllr Lumsdon is keen to receive requests for funding. Cllrs suggested that the Clerk inform Sedgefield Churches Together of this potential funding source.
- The new DCC website is due to go live from late afternoon on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The Clerk confirmed that she had already circulated to all Cllrs electronically details of how to access this new site.
- Cllrs Rachel Lumsdon and John Robinson are liaising to ensure that one will be present to lay a wreath at the forthcoming Remembrance Service at Sedgefield.
- Cllrs Rachel Lumsdon and John Robinson are looking into concerns regarding parking at and near Bolams as the festive season approaches. Town Cllrs stressed this is an issue throughout the year, particularly on Fridays and Saturdays.
- DCC are currently informing the public of changes to the garden waste collection service. Cllr David Brown commented that no mention is made to VAT and whether this is included in the price currently being stated by DCC. Cllr Rachel Lumsdon agreed to investigate this matter.
- Public concerns have been expressed regarding fly tipping in the smaller pond near to the grounds of Ceddesfeld. This is being progressed with DCC and Livin.
- Cllr Rachel Lumsdon reported that several home owners have approached her questioning whether DCC has responsibility for a tree with a TPO when it is within the grounds of a privately owned property. Cllr Lumsdon has informed these home owners that they are solely responsible for this issue.
- A considerable amount of work is currently being undertaken in order to try and co-ordinate the budgets of various health related providers (e.g. health services, social care, third sector etc) with particular emphasis upon activity and physical education. Cllr Rachel Lumsdon is going to investigate the possibility of mental health therapies being provided at Hardwick Park and will keep the Town Council updated.

Cllr Gloria Wills informed Cllr Rachel Lumsdon that travellers have been present at the old Stockton Road site for approximately 3 weeks prior to vacating. Cllr Wills had informed DCC who had been unaware of this. By the time DCC had arranged to visit the site the travellers had left by which time there had been considerable fly tipping and rubbish left on-site. During the period of occupying the site dogs had been freely roaming the site and local residents had

felt intimidated. Cllr Wills had taken photographs and would email these to Cllr Lumsdon. Cllr Lumsdon agreed to investigate this matter. Cllr David Brown suggested that double yellow lines on both sides of the road would act as a deterrant and again Cllr Lumsdon agreed to investigate this option with DCC. Town Cllrs agreed to start documenting any traveller issues in future. Cllr Allan Blakemore encouraged people to attend the forthcoming PACT meeting.

Cllr Alf Walton asked Cllr Rachel Lumsdon if DCC were selling off their farms. Cllr Lumsdon explained that a review of such properties is underway and that some are being sold to tenants. This is being undertaken in order to create revenue for DCC.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) **To receive this information.**
- ii) **Cllr Rachel Lumsdon to keep Town Cllrs informed regarding developments in the above discussed matters.**

**9.2 Sedgefield Plan (Steering Group minutes 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014)**

Minutes from the Sedgefield Plan Steering Group in relation to the Sedgefield Plan had been previously circulated.

The Clerk reported that no Progress Report had been submitted by the Steering Group to the Town Council as they were concentrating upon preparing their draft Plan.

**RESOLVED:**

**To receive this information.**

**10. Correspondence**

**10.1 Woodland Parish Council: Woodland and Hamsterley Against Windy Banks Wind Farm Proposal**

The Clerk circulated copies of an email received from Cllr Alistair Rutter of Woodland Parish Council. Woodland and Hamsterley Parish Councils are trying to gather support for their opposition against Windy Banks scheme to build four 125m turbines and control buildings opposite Hamsterley Forest on the edge of the North Pennines AONB. Cllrs considered the content of Cllr Rutter's email, however, did not feel in a position to comment due to lack of knowledge of the area in question and instead suggested the Windfarm Working Group be a more suitable source of support.

**RESOLVED:**

- i) **The Clerk to thank Cllr Rutter for making the Town Council aware of this**



development and to suggest he liaises with Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC to seek support/involvement from the Windfarm Working Group.

**11. Planning: New Large Scale Development**

**11.1 County Durham Plan Public Examination Timetable and Town Council Representation (Report by Town Clerk)**

A report by the Clerk had been circulated to all prior to the meeting detailing the County Durham Plan Examination in Public timetable and the Town Council's agreed representation for each hearing.

**RESOLVED:**  
**To receive the information.**

**12. Current Planning Applications**

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated.

**1. Hutton House, Sedgefield Station**

This application is outside of the Boundary of Sedgefield Town Council, however, due to its close proximity Cllrs did consider this application and did not have any objections.

**RESOLVED:**  
**The above comment to be forwarded to DCC Planning Officers.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.