

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **DECEMBER ENVIRONMENT** of
the **Council** held following the Policy and Resources committee in the
Council Offices, Sedgefield, on
Monday 7th December 2015.

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

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies**

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

2. **Declaration of interest**

None.

3. **Matters of Information**

3.1 **North End Grass Verge:**

Cllr Alf Walton continues to monitor this area. There has been no further rat activity since the last meeting. Monitoring will continue. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2 **Sedgefield Cemetery:**

The Clerk reported that a response has now been received from Ms Deborah Jobling of DCC on 2nd December 2015 advising the Town Council that the area of land questioned is not declared surplus and is currently aligned to DCC Children and Adult Services. The site would need to be declared surplus prior to any disposal and

therefore full consultations would need to be carried out. At this stage DCC would not be permitted to gift the land to the Town Council and there would also be fees payable to cover legal and surveyors costs. This would amount to £1410 on top of any land value. The Clerk had informed Ms Jobling not to take any further action until this matter had been considered by the Town Council.

RESOLVED:

This information to be considered by the Estates Working Group and a report to be brought back to a future Environment Committee meeting.

3.3 Public Participation:

Work is on-going to determine the ownership of lane/paths opposite the Dunn Cow. The Clerk to inform Cllrs of the findings from ownership investigations.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 4 South View:

Mrs Hilary Sperring of DCC has now confirmed that approval has been granted from DCC regardless of whether work is undertaken to the east or west side. The Clerk has now requested clarification from AW Treecare if there is any change to their original quote due to the significant lapse in time since submitted. The Clerk also reported that County Cllr John Robinson had written asking for the latest situation in regard to this matter. The Clerk had duly replied to him.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to consider this matter at the January 2016 Environment Committee meeting.

3.5 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.

3.6 Grass Cutting Map:

The draft map produced by DCC has now been checked by the Gardening Supervisor and confirmed as correct. Copies of the map have been requested and are now ready for collection from Meadowfield.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.7 Tree works at Butterwick Allotments and North End:

AW Treecare will undertake this work as soon as possible (plus chip the trees in the recycling bays at Sedgefield Cemetery at the same time). Their work has been delayed due to the recent bad weather. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed regarding progress.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.8 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. A reply is yet to be received. The Clerk to keep Cllrs informed regarding progress.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.9 Dog Fouling On Village Green:

The Clerk reported that in response to Mr Roger Clubley's recent letter regarding dog fouling on the village green she had liaised with Mr Jimmy Bennett of DCC and requested increased surveillance in this area in order to then consider if dog bins are required. Mr Richard Brown, Neighbourhood Protection Co-ordinator for DCC South, reported on 27th November 2015 that he had investigated this complaint. He had inspected the green, spoken to local businesses and then undertaken random patrols throughout the day, particularly early evening, and ascertained there is not as dog fouling problem in this area. This complaint is now closed.

RESOLVED:

To write to Mr Clubley with an update and to close this matter.

3.10 Budget for Ceddesfeld Grounds

The Community Development Officer has been requested to locate a copy of the agreement entered into by the Town Council when grant funding was awarded for the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. When/if found this will be considered by the Finance Working Group. Cllr Dudley Waters commented that this would have been a green or blue form submitted to the National Lottery by the Town Council and will have contained a box at the bottom of the page in which the Town Council will have stipulated what commitment (in kind or service) they will be making as part of the project. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.11 Tractor Maintenance Report:

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

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.12 Commemoration Trees:

The Clerk had written to Mr Alan Thompson informing him the Council does not allow commemorative trees to be planted, however, he has been offered the opportunity to instead have a memorial bench when one of the existing benches in the Town requires refurbishment. No response has been received as yet. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.13 Notification of Planning Appeal – Land South of Beacon Avenue/Beacon Lane:

The Clerk had written to the Planning Inspectorate on 22nd October 2015 requesting this appeal be a hearing because it related to a major development in the Town upon an area of land with great importance to residents. A letter had now been received in

response which had been put onto the Monthly Agenda for December 2016 for consideration by Council.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.14 Electricity Supply on Village Green:

This supply has now been installed and Cllr Mel Carr reported that it worked very successfully at the Farmers' Market held on Sunday 6th December 2015.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.15 Headstone Safety Testing:

The Clerk reported that work has now commenced on this year's annual headstone safety testing. A findings report will be presented to a future Environment Committee meeting for consideration.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.16 Yew Tree on Church Bank:

Quotations are still being sought for this work. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated regarding this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.17 Gardmondsway Wind Turbines:

The Clerk had written to DCC objecting to this planning application. The Clerk had made Mr Jeff Pike aware of the Council's objections and supplied him with a copy of the letter sent from the Town Council. The Clerk has informed DCC Planners that there are no objections to the planning application in relation to Sprucely Farm, Sedgefield.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.18 Proposed Relocation of Sedgefield Post Office:

The Clerk had written to the Post Office supporting the proposed relocation of Sedgefield Post Office in order to retain this service in the Town. An acknowledgement letter has now been received from the Post Office thanking the Council for its comments.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.19 NALC Larger Councils Committee:

The Clerk had voted for the two County Durham candidates. Cllr Smith from Horden had been duly elected and Cllr Quinn from Shildon has been appointed as first reserve.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.20 Noise at Parish Hall:

Meetings are now being arranged between the Town Council (Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Gloria Wills) and the Blues Club and New Generation Church. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter. The Clerk reported that over recent days 11 letters of support for the Blues Club events have been received at the Town Council offices. Cllr Allan Blakemore asked for the locations of those people who have written in. The Clerk where cited locations included Billingham, Middlesbrough, Cornwall, Birmingham, Solihull and Saltburn.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) This matter to be considered further following individual meetings with the Blues Club and New Generation Church.**

3.21 A177 Junction:

This situation continues to be monitored by Cllrs. Cllr Alf Walton confirmed that he has not witnessed any further accidents or near misses to date. This matter to be discussed at a future meeting if required.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4. Public Participation

The Chairman, Cllr Alf Walton, closed the meeting for the public to give their views and comments. There were no members of the public present. The meeting was then re-opened.

5. Reports

None.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Consultation Regarding Bin Collections From Properties Situated On Private or Unadopted Lanes and Farm Tracks (email from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 12th November 2015 previously circulated to all Cllrs for consideration)

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that prior to meeting information regarding a current live DCC Consultation regarding bin collections from properties situation on private or unadopted lanes and farm tracks had been circulated to all for consideration. Cllr Alf Walton expressed concerns in relation to the proposed siting of new bins at Hardwick Hall. Cllr David Brown gave examples of implications of such changes upon people who live along unadopted lanes and farm tracks.

RESOLVED:

Those Cllrs who wish to make a response to this consultation to do so on an individual basis before the end of the consultation period on Monday 11th January 2016.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.