

SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY SPECIAL
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** of the **Council** held at
6pm in the **Council Offices**, Sedgfield, on
Monday 3rd July 2017



Present

Cllr Mel Carr (Chair)

Cllr Gloria Wills (Vice Chair)

Cllrs Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, Jo Elliott, Alda Hummelinck, Chris Lines, Julie Towler and Alf Walton

Officer

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Mel Carr declared an interest in agenda item 3 due to a personal relationship and said that he would leave the meeting for the duration of this matter. Cllr Carr proposed that the chairmanship of this meeting now pass to the Vice Chair of the Council, Cllr Gloria Wills. Cllrs agreed. Cllr Carr also declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda items 4 and 5.

Cllr Gloria Wills took over as Chair.

No other Cllrs made any declarations of interest.

(Cllr Jo Elliott joined the meeting at this point).

(Cllr Mel Carr left the room at this point)

3. Appointment of 4 x Co-opted Councillors:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all the nominations forms which had been submitted by seven individuals who wished to be considered for the four casual vacancies currently available on the Town Council. All applications were then considered in detail and it was agreed that it was very encouraging to have so many people apply for the vacancies and to generate so much discussion as a result of the varying skills which they could potentially bring to the Town Council.

Cllr Vanessa Carmichael proposed that Mrs Ann Carr, Mr Tony Magee, Mr Leo McCormack and Mrs Mavis Wayman be co-opted to join the Council. Cllr Mark Cant seconded this proposal. This was then unanimously agreed by Cllrs. Cllrs also agreed that in the event of any of those selected declining the offer to join the Council that Mrs Helen Clifford-Brown would then be approached.

RESOLVED:

- i) Mrs Ann Carr, Mr Tony Magee, Mr Leo McCormack and Mrs Mavis Wayman be Co-opted as Councillors.**
- ii) The Clerk to inform Mrs Ann Carr, Mr Tony Magee, Mr Leo McCormack and Mrs Mavis Wayman of their appointment and to make the necessary arrangements for them to commence attending Committee meetings in July 2017.**
- iii) If any of the chosen candidates decline the offer of appointment the Clerk to then contact Mrs Helen Clifford-Brown.**
- iv) The Clerk to inform the two unsuccessful candidates and to thank them for their interest.**

(Cllr Mel Carr rejoined the meeting and proposed that agenda items 4 and 5 be considered in reverse order as information contained in agenda item 4 would provide answers to agenda item 5. Cllrs agreed).

5. Consideration of 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):

1 DM/17/01839/FPA – internal and external alterations, Crosshill Hotel and Restaurant, 1-2 The Square, Sedgefield:

2 DM/17/01840/LB - internal and external alterations, Crosshill Hotel and Restaurant, 1-2 The Square, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections to the internal alterations being proposed as part of this planning applications. The external alterations for this application relate to a proposed porch being erected at the front of the property and then to place sandstone paving around the property. Documentation held by the Land Registry clearly shows that the Crosshill Hotel property ends at the wall with the pavement and proposed area for the porch being areas of village green owned by the Town Council. Town Councillors would not give permission to build upon village green areas as this would create a very dangerous precedence for the entire Town. The Crosshill Hotel is a

Grade Two listed building, a heritage building and the porch being proposed would affect the character of the building and should therefore not be allowed, particularly when considering the Article 4 Directions which relate to this sensitive area of the Town. The design and scale of that being proposed is unacceptable and it is being proposed to build upon land which is not owned by the applicant. The applicant has made no request to the Town Council for permission or purchase. The Town Council objects to the building and does not give permission to use this area of village green. The Town Council also objects to the proposal to lay sandstone flagging around the building as again this land does not belong to the Crosshill Hotel property. In addition, the Town Council would object to the removal of an existing robust concrete path to be replaced by a material that will erode over time and pose a tripping hazard.

- 3 DM/17/01872/VOCMW – variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 3 (duration of the permission) to allow permanent retention of the MBT Plant and associated infrastructure, of planning permission No CMA/7/78 – Aycliffe Quarry, Aycliffe Village, Durham:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

- 4 DM/17/01873/VOCMW – variation of conditions 1 (approved plans) and 5 (restoration of the site) to allow permanent retention of the MBT Plant and associated infrastructure, of planning permission No MRA/7/3, Aycliffe Quarry, Aycliffe Village, Durham:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

- 5 DM/17/01914/FPA – loft conversion including full width flat roof dormer window to the rear, 3 Cunningham Court, Sedgfield:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

- 6 DM/17/01988/FPA – erection of single storey front/side/rear extension, 25 Oakdene Road, Fishburn:**

Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

RESOLVED:

The comments on planning applications 1-6 above to be submitted to DCC Planners.

- 4. Consideration of emails dated 15th and 16th June 2017 from Ms Becki Hoyland entitled “The Crosshill Hotel” Sedgfield:**

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all two emails from Ms Becki Hoyland dated 15th and 16th June 2017 relating to the Crosshill Hotel.

The email of 16th June 2017 asked if it was possible for the new owner of the Hotel to review

and request changes to the loading bay to the front of the building in order to provide better access for deliveries. Cllrs agreed that before such a request could be considered it was necessary to understand what proposed changes were being proposed.

The email of 15th June 2017 asked if it was possible for the new owner of the Hotel to place tables and seating on the village green area around the property. Cllrs agreed that they would not allow tables and seating to be put onto the village green as the Council already provides 8 seats around the central village green area and a further 7 at the outer edge. The Council does not allow anyone or organization to put seating upon its village green land for commercial purposes. Cllrs also expressed concern that by making such a request the new owner of the Hotel was also actually looking to extend the footprint of their licence to expand into the village green area.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to liaise with Ms Becki Hoyland and ask for specific information regarding the proposed changes to the loading bay at the front of the building in order to provide better access for deliveries. The Clerk to request this information as soon as possible in order that it can be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th July 2017.**
- ii) The Clerk to reply to Ms Becki Hoyland's email of 15th June 2017 regarding the request to put tables and seating on the village green area.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.01pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY MONTHLY MEETING** of the **Council** held at **7pm** in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 10th July 2017**



Present

Cllr Mel Carr (Chairman)

Cllr Gloria Wills (Vice-Chairman) and

Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Mark Cant, Vanessa Carmichael, Ann Carr, Jo Elliott, Chris Lines, Alf Walton and Mavis Wayman

Officer

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

Cllr Mel Carr, Chair, welcomed newly Co-opted Cllrs Ann Carr and Mavis Wayman to their first meeting and said he looked forward to working with them over the coming years.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Alda Hummelinck and Julie Towler.

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports

a. Minutes of Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group Meeting held 8th June 2017:

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

b. Minutes of Youth Working Group Meeting held 12th June 2017:

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

c. Minutes of Monthly Meeting held Monday 12th June 2017:

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

d. Minutes of P&R Committee held Monday 12th June 2017:

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

e. Minutes of Personnel Committee held 14th June 2017:

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

f. Minutes of the Community Development & Engagement Committee held Monday 19th June 2017:

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

g. Minutes of Environment Committee held Monday 19th June 2017:

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

h. Minutes of Estates Working Group Meeting held 26th June 2017:

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

i. Minutes of the Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group Meeting held 26th June 2017:

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

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

4. Matters of Information

4.1 Presentation of Foundation Level Quality Award

This achievement has been promoted on the Council's website with the logo incorporated onto each page of the site. An article has been submitted to CDALC for publication in their next Newsletter and will also feature in the next edition of the Extra. The Policy & Records Management Working Group will now consider the actions required to progress to the next stage of the Award Scheme and bring back further recommendation reports to the P&R Committee.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.2 Franziska Willer Ward, Sedgfield Community College:

County Cllr John Robinson to keep the Town Council updated following the County Cllrs meeting in Durham with Ms Jacques (Chief Executive – County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust). The Clerk has written to County Cllr Robinson requesting an update. A response is now awaited from County Cllr Robinson.

The Clerk reported that other correspondence relating to this matter had been received and would be considered under agenda item 9.5.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.3 Public Participation:

County Cllr John Robinson to keep the Town Council updated on proposals for a shallow wetland feature on Station Road Playing Field and DCC's progression of

application to register this area as village green. The Clerk has written to County Cllr Robinson requesting an update. A response is now awaited from County Cllr Robinson.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.4 Planning Application – NETPark:

The Clerk has written to Mr Colin Harding of DCC making him aware of the Town Council's disappointment at his recent correspondence and requesting evidence of when "worst case scenarios" have been used in other planning applications. A response is now awaited. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.5 External Report from DCC Members:

The Clerk has written to County Cllr John Robinson requesting answers to the questions raised by Cllr Lines. No response has yet been received. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.6 S106 Monies From Development of Eden Drive:

A meeting to discuss S106 monies for education has been scheduled with Mr Stephen Reed and Mr Graeme Plews of DCC on Tuesday 4th July 2017. Town Councillors have been invited to attend along with Head Teachers from Hardwick Primary and Sedgefield Primary School plus one observer from the SVAG. A report from this meeting can be found under agenda item 8.3.

Note: Mrs Andrea Cox is not leaving per position as Head Teacher of Sedgefield Primary School. It is Ms Caroline O'Neill who will be leaving her position as Head of Education at DCC to take up another position outside the County.

Cllrs Gloria Wills and Alf Walton expressed their dissatisfaction with the state of some of the photocopying in the July Committee packs whereby some

headings/information had been omitted and the Youth Working Group minutes had been issued in a tracked changes format. The Clerk noted these comments.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.7 The Sedgefield Plan:

With regards to the email read out at the recent Public Inquiry relating to the planning application for the former Community Hospital site, Mr Carter has confirmed this was in fact the emailed letter which he had sent to the Town Clerk on 4th April 2017. Mr Carter explained that when he sent this correspondence through to Mr Tom Bennett of DCC (who was at the Public Inquiry) when he opened it there was an auto-update section for the date, so it appeared as if the letter had just been written. It should have been explained to the Inspector that the letter had been emailed to the Town Clerk on 4th April, however, it is suspected that the Officer may have inadvertently stated 4th May 2017 instead. Mr Carter confirmed that no other correspondence had been supplied to the Inspector.

County Cllr David Brown to separately undertake investigation as to why the Neighbourhood Plan's progress is taking so long. County Cllr David Brown to update Cllrs.

See agenda item 10.2 for the latest position regarding the Plan.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.8 Co-option of Councillors:

A Notice of Casual Vacancies was issued by the Town Clerk on 17th May 2017 and was displayed across the Town as well as disseminated through the Residents Database, displayed on the Town Council's website and promoted in the Sedgefield Extra. The closing date for return of completed co-option applications was 12 noon on Friday 23rd June 2017. 7 nominations were received for the 4 vacancies. A Special Town Council meeting was held at 6pm on Monday 3rd July 2017 to consider applications received. Cllrs Ann Carr, Leo McCormack, Tony Magee and Mavis Wayman have now been duly co-opted.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.9 S106 Monies From Eden Drive:

As referenced earlier, a meeting to discuss educational monies via S106 took place on 4th July 2017. Mr Stephen Reed of DCC stated on 23rd May 2017 that his colleagues in Sport and Culture were still presently working through thoughts on the leisure aspect and will be happy to meet further to discuss these at the appropriate time and hopefully in the near future. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.10 Police Report:

The Clerk had duly written to Acting Sgt Seymour requesting details of the dispersal order. Acting Sgt Seymour had supplied this information electronically and the Clerk had forwarded to all Cllrs for their information.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.11 Public Participation:

Due to other work priorities, the Clerk is yet to schedule a date for the Policy & Records Management Working Group.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.12 Avant Homes Appeal:

Cllr Mel Carr has attended the Avant Homes Appeal at Sedgefield Racecourse representing the Town Council.

The Clerk has written to DCC to request an update on the current status of the ESRG Security planning application. On 26th June 2017 Mr Henry Jones of DCC reported that DCC have very recently received notification from the Planning Inspectorate that a public inquiry is to take place as the applicants have successfully lodged an appeal with them. See agenda item 9.4.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4.13 S106 Educational Monies:

Mrs Sally Newton (Hardwick Primary School) and Mrs Andrea Cox (Sedgefield Primary School) both attended the meeting with Mr Stephen Reed and the Town Council on 4th July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.14 The Hope Inn:

The Clerk had liaised with Ms Pratt of Padgett White Architects Ltd and requested specific written detail by no later than 12 noon on Monday 19th June 2017, however, none was received. Cllrs considered the amended planning application at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 19th June 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4.15 Current Planning Applications:

The Clerk has submitted to DCC Planning Officers all comments made by Cllrs in relation to planning applications 1-2.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings

Dates of the meetings taking place in July 2017 had been circulated prior to the meeting along with events scheduled for July 2017 – February 2018. The Clerk informed Cllrs that a further Estates Working Group meeting had been scheduled for 10.00am on Monday 17th July 2017 in the Council Offices to be followed by a Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group meeting at 11.15am.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles reported that she had informed the Clerk to expect an email from Mr Henry Jones of DCC regarding a near miss vehicular accident on Stockton Road which had been witnessed as the Planning Inspector and members of the public conducted a site visit for the recent Avant Homes Public Inquiry. This near miss was as a result of a truck pulling straight out onto the road, a situation exacerbated by the amount of muck on the road. DCC Officers present at the site confirmed that there are other issues causing concern as a result of Taylor Wimpey not getting permission for certain actions. DCC Officers were to deal with this situation and to write to the Town Council to keep them notified of the situation. The Clerk confirmed that as yet no correspondence had been received from Mr Jones. Mrs Bowles suggested the Clerk chase this matter. Mrs Bowles reported that with regards to the S106 agreement relating to the Avant Homes development it had been stated at the recent Inquiry that DCC should be consulting with the Town Council and Town's residents in order to determine how such monies are allocated. With regards to the £90,000 for open spaces it was felt this was too general and should instead be dedicated to community spending at the behest of the Town Council in-line with community wishes. The SVAG had reiterated their objections to such monies being spent across the Electoral Division. Mrs Bowles asked the Town Council to keep chasing this matter. She confirmed that SVAG members had attended all 5 days of the recent Avant Homes Public Inquiry and they felt hopeful that the development would be turned down. She reported that ESRG's appeal request has now been accepted and that the closing deadline date for comments is 27th July 2017. The SVAG are not in a position to undertake Rule 6 for the ESRG Public Inquiry and would like the Town Council to object strongly to this application and consider their use of Rule 6. Finally, Mrs Bowles said that she was aware of comments in the press regarding downgrading of services at Sedgefield Community Hospital. Cllr Mel Carr thanked Mrs Bowles for her comments and reported that the Town Council has spent considerable time with DCC Officers regarding S106 educational monies as will be reported later in this meeting. He also pointed out the ESRG appeal was to be considered later. Finally, Cllr Mel Carr confirmed that he had personally spoken to Mr Henry Jones of DCC and reminded him that there should be a public footpath open at Eden Drive.

Mr Howard Smith expressed his concerns regarding large groups of young people rampaging through the Town on Friday evenings. He had witnessed some damaging the

tubs on the village green which had recently been planted by school children and following this he had personally gathered up two carrier bags full of rubbish. He also highlighted recent events at the car park at Crispin Court where young people had been seen throwing bottles. Mr Smith asked that Durham Constabulary get this matter sorted as he is aware of many older people who do not want to go out into the Town at evenings as they feel intimidated by such behavior. Cllr Mel Carr thanked Mr Smith and noted that following Mr Smith's phone call to the police on the previous Friday evening there had been a presence from Police Officers in the Town.

Mr Andy Lister reiterated similar concerns to those of Mr Smith. Mr Lister had recently made two calls to 101 to report incidents. He commented that the path down the side of the primary school next to the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall had been strewn with bottles and takeaway food trays. Subsequently he noted that glass bottles had been thrown from this location onto the school playground. Mr Lister said that he did not want such activity to then escalate into some larger anti-social behavior and urged the Police to deal with these instances quietly and firmly. Mr Lister said that he understood that some young people may feel bored, however, this was not an excuse and their actions should not be at the expense of older people in the Town. Cllr Mel Carr urged all members of the public to keep complaining and reporting matters directly to the Police to ensure that such matters were logged. Mrs Julia Bowles reminded all that the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will take place on 11th July 2017 and at this meeting she was going to personally challenge the behavior of Police Officers who had not tackled underage drinkers at Sedgfield Showfield.

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

7. Internal Reports

7.1 Chairman's Report

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Chairman's Report which detailed the actions he had undertaken since the last Monthly Meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.2 Mayor's Report

The Clerk circulated to all a Mayor's Report which detailed the actions he had undertaken since the last Monthly Meeting. Cllr Allan Blakemore reported that he had deputized for the Mayor and had recently attended an evening song service at

Durham Cathedral as well as a Tea With The Mayor event at Bishop Auckland.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.3 S106 Monies Update Report by Town Clerk:

The Clerk circulated to all, and then talked through, a comprehensive report which she had prepared updating Cllrs on the discussions which had taken place at a meeting on Tuesday 4th July 2017 regarding S106 educational monies from the large-scale development at Eden Drive as well as those potentially available via S106 agreements relating to the former Community Hospital site and the Avant Homes development both in the Town. Cllr Chris Lines thanked the Clerk for a very comprehensive report. Cllrs agreed that the letter drafted by the Clerk be issued to Mr Stephen Reed of DCC.

Cllr Alf Walton asked how this approach to S106 monies related to that approach whereby woodland had been purchased with monies available from the development of Cunningham Court. Cllr Allan Blakemore, who had been present at the S106 meeting, replied that in-light of austerity measures DCC now undertake negotiations relating to S106 agreements in a very different environment to those conducted historically. Now there is clear focus upon impacts to infrastructure. With regards to the S106 educational monies available from the development of Eden Drive Cllr Blakemore expressed his concerns that only 15% of the pupils attending Sedgefield Community College live within the Electoral Division that will be impacted by this development. If all developments go ahead the College stands to get in excess of £3 million which he felt was immoral. Cllr Mel Carr confirmed that only 15% of the 1000 pupils attending Sedgefield Community College actually live in the Electoral Division.

Cllr Gloria Wills suggested that a copy of DCC's Pupil Place Planning In Durham Schools 2016 document be shared with Mrs Mildred Howell as she had attended the meeting on 4th July 2017 as an observer on behalf of the SVAG. Cllrs agreed.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive the information contained in this report.**
- ii) The Clerk to submit a letter to Mr Stephen Reed requesting DCC review the S106 educational monies agreement relating to Eden Drive and review the figures used to determine this original decision including the**

factoring of the impact of 70 houses at Fishburn.

- iii) The Clerk to request a meeting with Mr Stephen Reed and Mr Stephen Howell of DCC to progress general S106 monies allocation in the Town.**
- iv) The Clerk to invite Mr Stephen Reed and Mr Stephen Howell of DCC to a Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting for an update on the Sports Hub Project in Sedgfield.**
- v) The Clerk to share a copy of DCC's Pupil Place Planning In Durham Schools 2016 document with Mrs Mildred Howell.**

8 External Reports

8.1 Police Reporting by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a report to all informing them that in accordance with a directive from Durham Constabulary's Executive Management Team, with immediate effect there will no longer be a Police representative attending Town/Parish Council meetings as a standing agenda item nor the provision of a crime report. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Acting Chief Inspector Sarah Honeyman who had reiterated that this was a Force wide directive and that focus and reporting would now be via PACT meetings, however, if a Town/Parish Council had a particular concern they could request a Police representative to attend a meeting to discuss.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive this information.**
- ii) The Clerk to liaise with Acting Chief Inspector Honeyman and request a Police representative attends the Environment Committee meeting on 17th July 2017 to discuss public concerns regarding large groups of young people in the Town.**

9. Correspondence

9.1 Reply to letter dated 18th May 2017 (email from Acting Chief Inspector 517 Sarah Honeyman dated 13th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of an email from Acting Chief Inspector 517 Sarah Honeyman dated 13th June 2017 which was in response to the Town Council's recent letter expressing concern regarding rising crime and low detection rates.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

- 9.2 The Sedgefield Plan (letter from Mr Stuart Carter, DCC dated 26th June 2017):**
Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Mr Stuart Carter of DCC dated 26th June 2017 in response to the Town Council's letter of 2nd May 2017 regarding The Sedgefield Plan. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her annoyance that DCC had presented this item of correspondence as evidence at the Avant Homes Public Inquiry before it had been considered by Town Councillors. She felt this was unacceptable behavior and as a result had liaised with the Chair of the Council and Clerk to request this evidence be withdrawn which it duly way. The Clerk reported that she had made this request for withdrawl on 29th June 2017 and later that day received an email from Mr Stuart Carter in which he stated that he had received feedback from his legal team and they were of the view that as the letter was not sent in confidence it was not harmful for the Inspector to have sight of it at that time. Mr Carter apologized if this action infringed on the Town Council's timetabling of distribution but gave his assurance that his letter dated 26th June 2017 was not materially different to his letter prior to that insofar it re-affirmed DCC's views on the stage the Neighbourhood Plan needs to return to.

Cllr Allan Blakmore expressed his increasing frustrations at this latest letter from DCC and asked how many times, and in how many ways, can the Town Council keep reiterating that it wants the modified Sedgefield Plan to be sent to the Independent Examiner without any further consultation. Cllr Blakemore felt this was a further stalling tactic by DCC to which Cllr Alf Walton agreed.

Cllr Chris Lines said that an impasse had now been hit between the Town Council and DCC with DCC being seemingly able to stop the Plan progressing. Cllr Lines suggested the best way forward would be to undertake again, with immediate effect, the statutory consultation required for Regulation 14 based on the modified Plan which has now been prepared in accordance with the wishes of the Independent Examiner. Cllr Blakemore countered this with the proposal that the Town Council inform DCC that unless the Plan is sent to the Independent Examiner by a stipulated date the Town Council will go directly to the Secretary of State.

Cllr Wills noted that within Mr Carter's letter are references to lots of issues which do not relate to specific Neighbourhood Planning legislation and it is important that the

Town Council now deals with someone who has an understanding of the legislation underpinning this matter. Cllr Wills also expressed disappointment that the letter received had referred to Tattenhall when in fact the example quotes by the Town Council was that of Tattenhill. Cllr Wills gave a summary of the comments made by the appellant in their closing submissions at the recent Avant Homes Public Inquiry which had been very scathing about DCC's attempts at producing, and current lack of, a Local Plan.

Cllr David Brown said he felt it was important that the Town Council did not overlook the offer made within the final paragraph of Mr Carter's letter whereby a meeting with DCC's solicitor Clare Cuskin was offered. Cllrs agreed that it was important the Town Council be seen to accept this offer before approaching the Secretary of State, however, it was also agreed that a maximum time limit of 2 weeks be set.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to liaise with Ms Clare Cuskin of DCC to schedule a meeting within the next 2 weeks. If such a meeting cannot be scheduled within this timeframe, and answers cannot be obtained as to why The Sedgefield Plan cannot progress to Independent Examiner then this matter be referred to the Secretary of State.

9.3 The Hope Inn, Front Street, Sedgefield (letter from J M White, PW:a Architects dated 27th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from J M White of PW:a Architects dated 27th June 2017 relating to The Hope Inn, Front Street, Sedgefield.

Cllrs discussed this letter and the following points were made. The Town Council did not state it did not have sufficient time for a meeting. Regular comments from DCC Highways Officers appear to contradict the statement that the architect has had very positive negotiations thus far with the Planning Department at DCC. The statement that the wider revenue from the bedrooms is essential for the development of the bar and bistro is not relevant when considering planning applications. With regards to car parking and the statement that the number of car parking spaces on-site has increased from 9 to 13, does this mean that the parking spaces formerly allocated in the earlier bar/bistro planning application are being transferred to the letting rooms planning application. If so, does this make the original planning application invalid? The Town Council cannot sell the areas of

village green identified in this letter as sale of such land can only be on a like for like basis or better for inhabitants of the Town, i.e. the proposal being suggested would see car parking spaces on existing village green being taken away from the public and used instead by patrons of the bar/bistro and possibly lettings room area. The Right of Way at the front of the property is designated and would entail a very lengthy and costly legal process to be pursued as well as require consultation with those residents and users affected. The Town Council does not want any further trees within the Town. Finally, no Cllrs expressed an interest in touring The Hope Inn.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to Mr J M White of PW:a Architects as per Cllr comments.

9.4 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Section 78 – Notification of Planning Appeal (letter from Mr Stuart Timmiss, DCC dated 26th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Mr Stuart Timmiss of DCC dated 26th June 2017 informing the Town Council that ESRG have successfully lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate for their proposed large-scale development in Sedgefield. Dates and venue for this inquiry are as yet unknown. Cllr Mel Carr reported that the Town Council has previously objected to this application and proposed the Council continue with this stance and discuss this matter at the forthcoming Environment Committee meeting in order that a letter can be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 27th July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To discuss this matter at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th July 2017.

9.5 Sedgefield Community Hospital (email from Mr Peter Howarth, Sedgefield resident dated 7th July 2017):

The Clerk circulated to all an email received from Sedgefield resident Mr Peter Howarth dated 7th July 2017 in which he detailed the latest situation in relation to Sedgefield Community Hospital and expressed his concerns for the future. Mr Howarth's email had also been sent to Mr Phil Wilson MP and both County Cllrs Brown and Robinson.

Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her concern that this is the second time that the Town

Council has found out about changes to service provision at the Hospital via the public and press. It was agreed that it was important to convey Mr Howarth's concerns to Ms Sue Jacques (Chief Executive – County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust) and ask her to update the Town Council on the current situation at the hospital as well as the plans for the future of this facility in the Town. The Clerk was also asked to write to Mr Howarth to make him aware of the Council's actions and to keep him updated as to when Ms Jacques response is received.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to write to Ms Sue Jacques of the NHS Foundation Trust.**
- ii) The Clerk to write to Mr Peter Howarth.**

10. 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):

- 1 DM/17/02002/FPA – replacement gates to side, 5 Cross Street, Sedgefield:**
Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.
- 2 DM/17/01969/FPA – demolition of boundary wall and erection of single storey garage, 5 Church View, Sedgefield:**
Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.
- 3 DM/17/01981/FPA – erection of single storey rear extension, 17 Sycamore Road, Fishburn:**
Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.
- 4 DM/17/01990/FPA – demolition of existing building, erection of new dwelling and conversion of barn to associated garage and annex, Hall Farm, Mordon:**
Cllrs did not have any objections to this application.

RESOLVED:

The comments on planning applications 1-4 above to be submitted to DCC Planners.

The Clerk circulated to all the details of the following planning applications which had been published by DCC earlier that day:

DM/17/02078/FPA – demolition of existing garage, removal of tree and extensions and alterations to existing dwelling (resubmission) St Johns Presbytery, West Park Lane, Sedgefield

DM/17/02179/FPA – proposed detached private garage in front street, Glendale Bungalow,

Thorpe Larches

DM/17/02198/FPA – erection of front/side/rear single storey extension in place of garage including pitched roof over living room and erection of front porch, 56 The Meadows, Sedgefield

RESOLVED:

To consider the above planning applications at the Environment Committee meeting on Monday 17th July 2017.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.11pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES



Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY POLICY & RESOURCES** of the **Council** held following the Monthly meeting in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 10th July 2017**

Present Cllr. Gloria Wills (Chairman)
Cllr. Mel Carr (Vice-Chairman) and
Cllrs Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Mark Cant, Ann Carr, Jo Elliott,
Chris Lines, Alf Walton and Mavis Wayman

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Vanessa Carmichael, Alda Hummelinck and Julie Towler.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Chris Lines declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7.5 due to a personal friendship. No other Cllrs made any Declarations of Interest.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Creating a Mayor's Charity:

The Charity Commission have now responded to the Town Council's application to create a Mayor's Charity. Further work is now required on the constitution and a new application form needs to be submitted. In the first instance an update report will be presented to the Finance Working Group with a subsequent recommendation being brought to a future P&R Committee meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2 Station Road Playing Field:

The Clerk has written to NWL requesting they proceed with the offer made to County Cllr John Robinson in September 2015, stating they would make and pay for boreholes in Station Road Playing field and also conduct a dye test to find out where the drains go and how they flow in order to determine if there are any other blockages exacerbating the problem in either the drains themselves or the culverts. A response is now awaited. A further reminder letter has been issued to NWL. A response is still awaited. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3 Treeworks in Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds:

This matter was considered by the Estates Working Group at their meeting on 26th June 2017. The Clerk has been instructed to write to AW Treecare seeking a revised quotation which includes them directly hiring the cherry picker. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Cheques for Approval:

The Estates Working Group are to consider the Town's festive lighting requirements for December 2017 and bring an appropriate report back to a future P&R Committee meeting. The Council's existing electrician has been requested to inspect the existing lights the week commencing 26th June 2017 and submit a subsequent recommendation report. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.5 Zurich Insurance Renewal:

The Finance Working Group will ensure that a review of the Council's insurance policy and seeking of comparable quotes takes place in 2017/18 for 2018/19 and beyond with a recommendation report being brought to a future P&R Committee meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6 Grass Cutting 2017/18:

A competitive tendering exercise for grass cutting will take place in late 2017/18 for the 2018/19 grass cutting season. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.7 Parish Hall Cleaning:

Interviews for the position of Parish Hall Cleaner took place on 14th June 2017. One candidate has been offered a three week trial which the Personnel Committee has now reviewed and are offering this candidate a 6 month probationary contract. The Personnel Committee to oversee this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.8 Hardwick Hall Hotel – Premises Licence Variation:

The Clerk has informed Ms Helen Johnson and Ms Yvonne Raine of DCC that the Town Council does not have any objections to the variation being sought in relation to the premises licence for Hardwick Live but would request future events are scheduled so as not to clash with Sedgefield Show. The Clerk has also reminded these DCC Officers of item 4a in the Entertainment Noise Control Action Plan and requested that such information is provided to the Town Council. Ms Helen Johnson has confirmed receipt of the Town Council's correspondence. No further information has been received. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.9 Sedgefield Town Council Corporate Plan:

The Clerk to schedule a meeting with the Policy & Records Management Working Group to consider how the Council can develop a Corporate Plan. A report will be brought to a future P&R Committee meeting for consideration. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.10 Cheques For Approval:

The Projects & Media Co-ordinator is now reviewing The Sedgefield Plan website and will produce a recommendation report for transferring this information onto the Town Council's website. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.11 Annual Return 2016/17:

The Exercise of Public Rights notice will be displayed in the Town's noticeboards and on the Council's website from 19th June – 28th July 2017. The Clerk reported that the external auditors have requested some further evidence to underpin figures which were included in documentation accompanying the Annual Return. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.12 Letter from Mrs Julia Bowles:

This matter to be discussed at the next Policy & Records Management Working Group (yet to be scheduled) in conjunction with the development of a Council Corporate Plan and wider communication policy. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.13 SLA – Spennymoor Youth & Community Association and Sedgefield Town Council:

A Youth Update Report by the Youth Working Group was presented at the Community Development & Engagement Committee on Monday 19th June 2017. All youth matters will now revert to the Community Development & Engagement Committee agenda.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.14 Sedgefield Folk Festival:

This request is to be discussed at the Community Chest meeting on Monday 10th July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.15 CDALC AGM:

The Clerk has notified Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC of the Town Council's nomination of Cllr Allan Blakemore for the position of Vice President of CDALC.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.16 Future Training Sessions:

No further notifications were submitted by Cllrs to the Clerk requesting to attend forthcoming CDALC/SLCC training. The Clerk has now booked training places requested.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.17 Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent:

The Gardening Supervisor has accepted the formal offer by the Town Council to amend his job title, job description and rate of pay.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.18 Butterwick Road Cemetery – Ground Water Audit:

The Clerk has informed CDSL of their approved programme of Ground Water Audit work. A T1 Outcome Report is expected by Friday 7th July 2017 and at this point it will be known whether T2 work is required or not. The Butterwick Road Cemetery

Working Group to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.19 Butterwick Road Cemetery – Legal Representation:

The Clerk has informed Anthony Walters & Company Solicitors of their appointment and duly notified the others that they were not successful on this occasion. Anthony Walters & Company Solicitors have been asked to now await further instruction from the Town Council as future action will be dependent upon the outcome of groundwater audit work currently being conducted. The Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

4. Public Participation

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

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Parish Hall Refurbishment Update Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Parish Hall Refurbishment Update Report by the Projects & Media Co-ordinator. Several Cllrs reported that they had directly received from the public very positive feedback regarding the refurbished Fletcher Room.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.2 Ceddesfeld Hall Lease Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk circulated to all a Ceddesfeld Hall Lease Update Report by the Town Clerk reporting that the SCA Executive wish to accept the

composite lease presented to them in June 2017. The Clerk reported that a formal document is now being prepared and has been received from the Town Council's Solicitor. Prior to issuing this to the SCA, along with formal documentation for them to terminate their existing agreement, this formal document and composite lease will be cross-referenced to ensure accuracy.

Cllr Gloria Wills asked who was paying for the production of this lease as in her experience it was normal practice for a tenant to pay. Cllr Mel Carr and the Clerk were asked to liaise with Ms Yvonne Probert of Durham Community Action for further advice.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.3 Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group Terms of Reference Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all for information the Terms of Reference agreement for the Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group for 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to share with all new Co-opted Cllrs details of the Council's Working Groups so that they can consider which, if any, they would like to join.

Note: Reports related to information exempt from the public are considered under agenda item 8.

6. Financial Matters

6.1 Cheques for approval after 12th June 2017:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a cheques for approval list dated 26th June 2017. The Clerk distributed to all an update list feature cheques dated 26th June – 10th July 2017.

RESOLVED:

i) All cheques were approved for payment.

ii) Cllrs Carr and Wills plus the Town Clerk to duly sign the cheques.

6.2 Monthly Accounts: Income (as at 26th June 2017) / Expenditure (as at 26th June 2017 minus unapproved cheques after 12th June 2017):

Cllr Alf Walton asked whether all allotment holder have now paid their rent for 2017/18. The Clerk confirmed that all allotment income has now been received.

RESOLVED:

The monthly accounts as had been circulated were approved.

6.3 Debtors List as at 26th June 2017:

RESOLVED:

To receive the Debtors List as of 26th June 2017.

6.4 Edge Software Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Edge Software Update Report. It is hoped that following on-site training with Edge on Thursday 13th July 2017 that bank/cash reconciliations will become a standing agenda item from September 2017 onwards.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.5 Town Council Payroll Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Town Council Payroll Update Report which detailed the transfer of Thirsk Payroll to Messrs TP Jones of Harrogate.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive the information contained in this report.

ii) If any problems are experienced the Clerk to liaise with the Finance Working Group in the first instance.

iii) The Finance Working Group to review any revised charging/invoicing arrangements.

6.6 Council Tax Base and Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant 2018/19 Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Council Tax Base and

Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant 2018/19 Report informing Cllrs that DCC are considering changing their anticipated collection rate from 98.5% to 99% which could slightly increase the Tax Base for 2018/19. This could also negatively impact upon the Localisation of Council Tax Support Grant.

RESOLVED:

- i) To receive the information in this report.**
- ii) The Finance Working Group to consider information when received from DCC and to keep the P&R Committee updated.**

7. Correspondence

7.1 CDALC Secretariat Proposal for 2018/19 Onwards (email and attachment from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 14th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email and attachment from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC dated 14th June 2017 in which he outlined proposals for the future funding of the CDALC Secretariat from 2018/19 onwards. Cllrs agreed that they are happy with the approach being proposed by CDALC for approval at their AGM in October 2017.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to inform Mr Steve Ragg that the Town Council is happy to support CDALC's proposal to keep subscription fees as at present for 2018/19 and 2019/20, current reserves be used to meet the current deficit budget situation, reserve balances to be invested prudently to generate income and during 2019/20 arrangements to be introduced to ensure continuity of the service provided to Council members.

7.2 Durham County Council Open Space Study – Town/Parish Council Survey (email and attachment from Mr Paul Greatorex dated 19th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Durham County Council Open Space Study - Town/Parish Council Survey received from Mr Paul Greatorex dated 19th June 2017. Cllrs agreed it was important to participate in this survey and Cllr Chris Lines volunteered to complete on behalf of the Town Council as well as seek the views of members of the community and young people prior to the deadline completion date of Monday 31st July 2017. Cllrs accepted Cllrs Lines offer and thanked him.

RESOLVED:

Cllr Chris Lines complete the survey and to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

7.3 Draft Revised Charter Between DCC and Local Councils in County Durham (email and attachment from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 21st June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC, accompanied by a Draft Revised Charter Between DCC and Local Councils in County Durham, as dated 21st June 2017. Cllrs considered this document and noted with particular interest points 2.2 and 3.3 in relation to Neighbourhood Planning. Cllrs agreed that more important than the document itself was the actions that would then be taken to make this an operational document with appropriate training, dissemination and future view.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to inform Mr Ragg that the Town Council is supportive of this Charter but would like further information as to what training will underpin this Charter to ensure that all relevant Officers are aware of it and will work in accordance with it, how the Charter will be disseminated down through the County Council and across the Town/Parish Sector and the protocol for future review of the Charter.

7.4 Good Councillors Guide On Finance and Transparency (email and attachment from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 20th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC dated 20th June 2017 and a full copy of the Good Councillors Guide on Finance and Transparency. It was acknowledged by all that this is a very good publication and the Clerk requested all Cllrs store their copy within the Welcome Pack they received following their election in May 2017 (and for Co-opted Cllrs received in July 2017). Cllr Mel Carr pointed out the reference to S106 agreements and community infrastructure on page 32.

RESOLVED:

All Cllrs to retain copies of the Good Councillors Guide on Finance and Transparency in their Welcome to Sedgefield Town Council pack.

7.5 Durham House, Sedgfield – Notice of Determination (email and attachments from Ms Yvonne Raine, DCC dated 20th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email and attachments from Ms Yvonne Raine from DCC dated 20th June 2017 detailing the Notice of Determination relating to Durham House, Sedgfield following consideration at County Council Licensing Sub-Committee on 15th June 2017. Cllr Mel Carr reported that he had attended this Committee as the Town Council's representative. He noted that a licence has been granted with conditions that relate to those areas of concern expressed by the Town Council and local residents, i.e. the maximum number of guests will be limited to 22 with the car park at the rear of the property being able to accommodate 10 cars meaning that no car parking problems are expected and that no drinking outside will be permitted after 10pm and will be monitored by on-site staff. Cllr Mel Carr believed these conditions set out what the Town Council wanted to achieve and also set the standard for any other licence applications to be submitted within the Town.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7.6 Durham Association Newsletter (June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the June 2017 Durham Association Newsletter. Cllrs noted the reference on page 1 to the Town Council's attainment of the Foundation Level of the Quality Award and Cllr Wills attainment of the new CiLCA on page 3.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

Cllr Gloria Wills explained that due to the confidential nature of the following items these would be discussed under Exempt Information and said that had members of the public or press been present they would have been asked to leave the meeting at this point (Section 1 Sub Section (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960).

8. Consideration Of Reports Exempt From Public:

8.1 Butterwick Road Cemetery – Pre-purchasing Graves Recommendation Report by Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Butterwick Road Cemetery –

Pre-purchasing Graves Recommendation Report by the Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group. This report outlined the current concerns regarding capacity in the existing Butterwick Road Cemetery and suggested how such capacity can be protected as much as possible until the new area can be brought into use, hopefully in 2019/20. Cllr David Brown expressed his objection to the recommendation contained in this report and suggested that a waiting list system be introduced instead. This was considered but Cllrs felt this would be more problematic.

RESOLVED:

That with immediate effect, and for the foreseeable future, the pre-purchasing of grave plots be suspended. The only exception to this rule will be that a spouse can pre-purchase a grave plot to be next to their already interred partner.

(Cllr Mark Cant left the meeting at this point)

8.2 Recommended Tables and Chairs for Fletcher Room Report by Estates Working Group:

The Clerk reported that work is on-going in relation to this matter and it has not been possible to identify options upon which all members of the Estates Working Group yet agree.

RESOLVED:

The Estates Working Group to continue working towards developing an appropriate recommendation for a future P&R Committee.

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

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held following the Environment Committee meeting in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 17th July 2017**.

Present	Cllr. Allan Blakeman (Chairman) Cllr Chris Lines (Vice Chair) and Cllrs Allan Blakeman, Mark Cant, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, Alf Walton, Mavis Wayman and Gloria Wills
Officer	Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs David Brown, Vanessa Carmichael, Jo Elliott and Alda Hummelinck

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 DRAFT Sedgefield Grant Funding Policy:

The Community Development Officer will continue to progress this Policy upon her return to work. The Community Development Officer to keep Cllrs updated.

Feedback is has now been received from the WarMemorials.org who have requested further specific information as to the work being required. The Clerk recommended that this matter is now considered by the Estates Working Group in the first instance. Cllrs agreed. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2 Snow Party 2017:

The Projects & Media Co-ordinator has now issued meeting requests to both the Town's Primary Schools plus the SCA in order to draft a programme for this year's event. The Projects & Media Co-ordinator to keep Cllrs updated.

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.

Mrs Julia Bowles reported that the SVAG will be strongly objecting to the removal of any street lighting in Sedgefield as they view this to be a duty of DCC. In relation to the proposed large-scale development of the former Community Hospital site, the developer has been told to include lighting as part of the plans and for this to extend some way onto the Sedgefield to Fishburn road with responsibility for maintenance lasting 60 years. Mrs Bowles said such an approach sets a very dangerous precedence across the County. She pointed out that lighting was originally installed on that road in response to concerns about pedestrian safety and it was wrong in her opinion not to consider the safety of pedestrian but only to focus upon driver safety. With regards to the ESRG appeal, Mrs Bowles said that she would be disappointed if the Town Council did not obtain Rule 6 Status as without this they would not be able to challenge information and comments put forward by developers during the inquiry. She felt the community would want the Town Council to apply for this. Finally, Mrs Bowles noted the current situation with reduction of beds at Sedgefield Community Hospital and asked the Town Council to consider setting up a campaign in relation to this matter as well as for a roundabout at Stockton Road.

Mr John Hannon commented that in relation to community engagement he would like the Town Council to consider ways in which it might support Parish Hall users in accessing the Hall. Cllr Allan Blakemore informed fellow Cllrs that a letter had been received recently from the Sedgefield Lyrics which had been discussed at the Estates Working Group meeting earlier that morning. A further Parish Hall User Forum meeting is to be called for early September to report on a range of issues relating to the Parish Hall including the requirement for clear gaps between bookings and restricting access to facilities which have not been hired. Mr Hannon thanked Cllr Blakemore for his reassurance in this matter.

Mrs Julia Bowles commented that Mr Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner, was due to attend the Neighbourhood Watch stand at the forthcoming Sedgefield Show if anyone wanted to approach him directly with their concerns.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Youth Update Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

The Clerk circulated to all a Youth Update Report by the Projects & Media Co-ordinator which detailed the outcome of the first session of the Sedgefield Youth Club held on Monday 3rd July 2017. The Clerk gave a verbal update regarding the second session of the Youth Club and the actions which had been agreed at the Youth Working Group meeting held earlier that day. Cllrs said they were happy with the progress made to date. A meeting is now to be scheduled with Mr Michael Parkin of Fishburn Youth Service to review the sessions to date and plan for the summer period and September onwards. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information contained in this report.

5.2 Town Council Coach Trip Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Town Council Coach Trip Report detailing the outcome of the latest trip to Keswick on Wednesday 14th June 2017. Suggestions are now being sought for the destination of the November/December 2017 coach trip.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information contained in this report.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Sports Hub Meeting (minutes of meeting held 3rd May 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sports Hub meeting held on 3rd May 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.2 Sports Hub Meeting (minutes of meeting held 13th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all copies of the minutes of the Sports Hub meeting held on 13th June 2017.

Cllr Gloria Wills thanked Cllr Allan Blakemore for continuing to represent the Town Council at these meetings and sharing minutes, however, she asked if now was the time for the Hub to actually undergo some form of public consultation before it gets to advanced. Cllr Wills said she was mindful that the area of Town being proposed for the Hub was within the Conservation Area and historic parkland, issues which residents felt very passionate about. Cllr Blakemore said that he did not believe that the project was sufficiently advanced enough yet to be able to do this and believed that it was possible that the Cricket Club, which owns a significant part of the land in this location, may be considering withdrawing from the Hub approach in favour of talking directly to individual groups as a Hub may impact too much upon their own future plans and identity. Cllr Wills said that any future funders would expect to see hard evidence of community consultation and felt this was the time when the Town Council needed to liaise with DCC. The Clerk reminded all that in the recent letter sent to Mr Stephen Reed of DCC a request was contained within that for him to arrange a meeting with Sedgfield Town Council, himself and colleague Mr Stephen Howell to discuss this very matter. Cllr Mel Carr also reminded Cllrs that the wording of the S106 agreement relating to Eden Drive does make it clear that such monies could be shared amongst a number of organisations and not necessarily those all in one location.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated as to when Mr Stephen Reed and Mr Stephen Howell would like to meet with the Town Council to update on the Sports Hub project.

6.3 Invite for Half-day Dementia Seminar – County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service (email from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 27th June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email and attachment from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC dated 27th June 2017 promoting a Dementia Seminar hosted by County Durham & Darlington Fire & Rescue Service. Cllr Allan Blakemore reported

that he has attended two dementia meetings to-date the purpose of which are to look at the work that is required in order to make a dementia friendly town. The Fire & Rescue Service are now behind this County wide project and have volunteered the use of their premises for dementia cafes. To date there are such cafes in Shildon and Spennymoor. To date the Town Council has not been approached to provide any premises or funding for such a facility.

RESOLVED:

Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Ann Carr to attend this seminar.

6.4 Sedgefield Business Network (letter from Mr Chris Lines on behalf of the Sedgefield Business Network):

Cllr Chris Lines declared an interest in this matter.

The Clerk circulated to all a letter from Mr Chris Lines of behalf of the Sedgefield Business Network. The Network was established over 18 months ago and has an active core of local businesses and sole traders to attend network events. On a quarterly basis the Network holds the Sedgefield Business Breakfast as an opportunity to meet, share ideas and create links. The Network likes to move the breakfasts to different locations in order to highlight the range of businesses and venues in the Town. The Network asked if the Town Council would consider providing free of charge the newly refurbished Fletcher Room from 8am – 9.30am on Tuesday 12th September 2017 as a venue for such a meeting and to not only show support for local businesses but also showcase the facilities in the Parish Hall.

Cllr Gloria Wills stated that other requests to provide the Parish Hall free of charge had been turned down previously and she did not want to set a precedence for the future. Cllr Wills suggested that an approach be made to the Community Chest for funding, however, Cllr Lines pointed out that such monies were not available to pay for room hire fees. Cllr Mavis Wayman asked if this would be a one off event which Cllr Lines confirmed would be the case. Cllr Ann Carr asked if only local businesses within Sedgefield would be attending and Cllr Lines confirmed this would be the case. Cllr Allan Blakemore believed that supporting this event would not set a precedence as what was actually being requested was for the Town Council to sponsor this one off event with the spin off benefits of promoting local businesses and the potential for future Parish Hall bookings. Cllr Mark Cant agreed. Cllr Wills disagreed and said that the cost of the room hire would only be a minimal £18. Cllr Alf Walton agreed it was

dangerous to set a precedence of free room hire.

Cllr Lines offered to withdraw the Network's letter. Cllr Blakemore disagreed and said he believed this event should go ahead with the Town Council's support as a way of promoting local businesses and did not need to set any precedence for future requests. He felt that by not supporting this event a negative message was being sent out by the Town Council. Cllr Wayman said that as a retired local business person it was important for the Town Council to be seen to support the local economy and that it was very narrow minded to refuse this request.

Cllr Lines withdrew the Sedgefield Business Network's letter.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.32pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY ENVIRONMENT** of the
Council held at **7pm** in the **Council Offices**, Sedgefield, on
Monday 17th July 2017.

- Present** **Cllr Alf Walton (Chair)**
 Cllr Mark Cant (Vice-Chairman) and
 Cllrs Allan Blakemore, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, Chris Lines, Leo McCormack, Julie Towler,
 Mavis Wayman and Gloria Wills
- Officer** Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs David Brown, Vanessa Carmichael, Jo Elliott and Alda Hummelinck

2. Declaration of interest

Cllr Julie Towler declared an interest in items 6.4 and 6.5 as she receives hospitality from Sedgefield Racecourse. No other Cllrs made any declaration of interest.

3. Matters of Information

3.1 Tractor Maintenance Report:

The Gardening Supervisor is preparing a maintenance schedule for all other gardening equipment. The Finance Working Group and Gardening Supervisor to commence discussions in relation to potentially trading in existing tractors and purchasing a new medium sized machine. The Gardening Supervisor and Cllr Alf Walton have started to investigate potential options. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Cllr Alf Walton and the Gardening Supervisor to bring to a future Committee meeting their recommendation for future tractor servicing to take place on-site rather than the current system of off-site.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.2 Village Green Footpaths:

The Community Development Officer, upon her return to work, will continue liaising with Cllrs Walton and Mel Carr to prepare a grant funding application. The Community Development Officer to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.3 Installation of Self-Watering Tubs:

Work is on-going to install bases and self-watering tubs on grassed areas. The majority of the new tubs are now in-situ. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Hardwick Hall Hotel:

The Town Council to continue to respond to noise complaints from the public in relation to Hardwick Hall Hotel. Cllrs to monitor this situation.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.5 Rat Infestation:

DCC have agreed to put in place a control programme to resolve the issue of rats on land next to St Edmund's Church. The Town Council has requested updates. No updates have been received as yet. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.6 Headstone Safety Testing 2016/17:

Town Council staff to schedule work to lay flat those 7 headstones identified as

Category 1. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.7 Premier Taah Convenience Store:

Whilst the state of the premises do not warrant formal enforcement action by DCC, Ms Sally McDyer has written to the proprietor seeking their co-operation in repairing the windows and painting the window frames within 6 weeks. The Clerk reported Ms McDyer had provided a further update on 12th July 2017 in which she stated the owner of the property has replaced the two windows on the first floor. Whilst a small area of the second floor window remains boarded, this is considered not to warrant formal enforcement action and therefore the enforcement case has been closed.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.8 Signage Within Conservation Area:

The Clerk to schedule a walk around when co-option appointments have been made. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.9 Land Between Sedgefield Primary School and Ceddesfeld Hall Wall:

The Clerk has written to Mr Andrew Jackson of DCC asking if this area of land could be considered as part of their wildflower planting programme. The Clerk has requested that Mr Jackson respond directly to Mr Mitchell of Hornby Avenue with a copy to the Town Council for information. The Clerk has also written to Mr Mitchell making him aware of the Town Council's actions. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.10 St Edmund's Green:

The Clerk has referred Mrs Thompson's letter to Mr Stephen Red of DCC with a

request that he investigate this matter and reply directly to Mrs Thompson as well as given an update to the Town Council. The Clerk has also written to Mrs Thompson making her aware of the Town Council's actions. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.11 Unfinished Building on Butterwick Road:

Mrs Sandra Cummings has now arranged a meeting with Mr Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner. This will take place in her home at 1pm on 1st August 2017 and Cllr Gloria Wills will attend to represent the Town Council. Cllr Allan Blakemore reported that this matter had also been discussed at the previous week's Neighbourhood Watch meeting. Cllr Wills to keep the Council updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

3.12 Salters Lane, Sedgefield:

The Clerk has informed Ms Smith of DCC that the Town Council does not have any objections to the parking restrictions being proposed for Salters Lane, Sedgefield.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.13 Emails from Ms Becki Hoyland relating to The Crosshill:

These items of correspondence were discussed at the Town Council's Special Town Council meeting on Monday 3rd July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.14 Planning Applications:

The additional planning applications circulated by the Clerk were discussed at the Town Council's Special Town Council meeting on Monday 3rd July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.15 Amended Planning Application – The Hope Inn, Sedgefield:

The Clerk has submitted to DCC Planning a letter reiterating the Town Council's previous objections to this planning application (i.e. this application is over-development of the site which falls within the Town's Conservation Area and will have a detrimental effect upon parking in the centre of the Town) and reiterated that a shared access and right of way for private residents runs along the existing pavement outside the front of The Hope Inn adjacent to the village green.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation

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

Mrs Julia Bowles reported that the SVAG have been invited to send two representatives to a meeting on 18th July 2017 at County Hall, Durham to discuss the street lighting between Sedgefield and Fishburn. Mrs Bowles also reported that she is led to believe that a planning meeting will be held at County Hall on 25th July 2017 to consider the latest Taylor Wimpey layout of houses and roads at Eden Drive. Previously the SVAG had expressed their safety concerns regarding vehicles being backed off drives straight onto the main road through this development. It now appears that some changes have been made to the design which would reduce the number of such instances, however, the SVAG still feel the layout is unsafe.

Mrs Liz Mitchell reported that she had been told the Premier Shop would be closing in August. The current manager has cancelled his contract with Premier after three years. He had contacted the building owner to see if he would be willing to half the shop but had been told this was not possible.

Mr Howard Smith thanked Cllr Alf Walton, Mr Stephen Young and Mr Ben Gray for working alongside the Sedgefield In Bloom group in getting the Town ready for this year's Northumbria In Bloom judging on Wednesday 19th July 2017. Cllr Alf Walton thanked the Bloom Group for their sterling work and wished them well for the coming week.

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

5. Reports

5.1 Street Lighting Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Street Lighting Update Report which had been produced as a result of the Town Council's meeting with Mr Kevin Robson, DCC's Senior Project Manager on Monday 26th June 2017. The Clerk read out the content of this report which included the background to this meeting, the reason for the delay in progressing this matter, the key points of note from the meeting, DCC's confirmation that they have no intention at this time of replacing the street lighting columns removed from Salters Lane to Fishburn albeit there was a possibility that some lighting could be put in place if the proposed large-scale development at the former Community Hospital site was granted. Attached to this report was a copy of DCC's Cabinet Report entitled Street Lighting Policy Review dated 20th November 2013. Cllrs expressed their concern that, with the exception of a road crossing point, there is no legal requirement for a school walking route to be lit and that the risk assessments underpinning this work only take into consideration the safety of drivers and give no consideration to pedestrians.

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the proposal to remove 4 lighting columns from Station Road (from a point 98m north west of the A689 junction give way line, heading in a north westerly direction for 122m) remains open to consultation and will be considered under agenda item 6.3.

The Clerk commented, that linked to Mrs Bowles comments in Public Participation, she had earlier that afternoon spoken to County Cllr John Robinson who informed her that a meeting was to take place between Officers and invited attendees at 9am on Tuesday 18th July 2017 in County Hall to discuss the street lighting between Fishburn and Sedgefield. The SVAG have been invited to send 2 representatives in addition to invited representatives from Fishburn. County Cllr Robinson had already invited Cllr Allan Blakemore to this meeting as Chair of the Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting and would like to offer one further place to the Town Council. Cllrs agreed that Cllr Blakemore should attend to represent the Town Council, however, due to the short notice given no-one else was available to attend.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) Cllr Allan Blakemore to keep Cllrs updated on the outcome of the meeting at County Hall on 18th July 2017.

5.2 Parking Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Parking Update Report which detailed the discussions that had taken place between Cllrs and DCC Officers Danny Harland and Lee Mowbray on 29th June 2017 plus Mr John Fitzpatrick of the Sedgefield Development Trust and Mr Phil Broomhead of the SCA. This had been a very productive meeting and there was general consensus that it was a very timely opportunity to review the existing parking restrictions across the Town, most importantly those in and around Rectory Row, in order to then consider whether these are still fit for purpose and accurately reflect need. The Clerk confirmed that the current position is that Mr Mowbray is going to produce a map detailing all current parking restrictions across the Town. Once received this map will be shared amongst Cllrs, the Trust and SCA for comment and Mr Mowbray will collate responses so that a further meeting can then be scheduled. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

Cllr Mark Cant commented that resurfacing had recently taken place near the racecourse and whilst the dotted white lines in the middle of the road had been reinstated no yellow lines had been reinstated. This would affect future enforcement work. The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with Mr Danny Harland of DCC.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to liaise with Mr Danny Harland of DCC regarding yellow lines near the racecourse.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Allotments and Registration of Your Allotment Sites on DCC Map (email from Mr Steve Ragg, CDALC dated 21st June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Mr Steve Ragg of CDALC dated 21st June 2017 in which DCC were offering Town and Parish Councils the opportunity to display their allotments sites on a DCC map. It was agreed that this would be a useful way to further promote the Town Council's sites.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council to request its Butterwick Road and Winterton allotment sites be displayed on the DCC map and a hyper link from the Town Council's website to DCC's website be created on the allotments page.

6.2 Management of Fishburn Woods (email from Ms Sue Mullinger, DCC dated 23rd June 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Sue Mullinger of DCC dated 23rd June 2017 outlining arrangements for the management of Fishburn Woods.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.3 Consultation to Proposal to Remove Street Lights (letter and attachments from Mr Kevin Robson, DCC dated 6th March 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had re-circulated to all a Consultation on (the) Proposal to Remove Street Lights from Mr Kevin Robson of DCC dated 6th March 2017. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that this matter had been due to be discussed with DCC some time ago, however, Mr Robson had advised that due to purdah for the local council elections and then the general election this had not been possible. The Clerk informed Cllrs that the deadline for submission of comments regarding this particular proposal had been extended until 18th July 2017 to allow for the Council's Environment Committee meeting. This proposal related to the removal of four lighting columns at Station Road, Sedgefield (some Cllrs believed this would have been more appropriately called Stockton Road) from a point 98m northwest of the A689 junction give way line, heading in a north westerly direction for 122m. The mitigation measures proposed to be put in place if these columns were removed included rationalization of road signs and making safe the electrical supply.

Cllrs did not wish to see any reduction in lighting in this area of the Town as this area is a very busy crossing point for both drivers and pedestrian accessing a wide range of facilities in this outer lying area including the petrol station, the Indian restaurant and the Travel Lodge. It is felt that removal of lighting in this area would create significant hazards for both drivers and pedestrians. The Town Council would urge that a site visit to this location takes place in order to understand this location more.

Pedestrians walk this route day and night.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to submit the Town Council's comments to Mr Kevin Robson of DCC on 18th July 2017.

6.4 S170865 Ladies Evening Race Meeting at Sedgefield Racecourse 31st August 2017 (email from Ms Jill Williamson, Sedgefield Racecourse dated 3rd July 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Jill Williamson of Sedgefield Racecourse dated 3rd July 2017 giving prior notice of a Ladies Evening race meeting at the course on 31st August 2017. This matter had also been referred to DCC's Safety Advisory Group.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.5 S170966 Jazz and Soul Charity Evening and Ladies Charity Lunch at Sedgefield Racecourse 8th and 9th September 2017 (email from Ms Jill Williamson, Sedgefield Racecourse dated 3rd July 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Jill Williamson of Sedgefield Racecourse dated 3rd July 2017 giving prior notice of a Jazz and Soul Charity Evening and Ladies Charity Lunch at the course on 8th and 9th September 2017. This matter had also been referred to DCC's Safety Advisory Group. Cllrs acknowledged that it would be the responsibility of DCC's Licensing and Environmental Health Officers to monitor these events.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.6 Changes to Loading Bay, Crosshills Hotel, Sedgefield (email from Ms Becki Hoyland dated 7th July 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Becki Hoyland dated 7th July 2017 in which she provided the Town Council with the more detailed information they had previously requested regarding the changes being proposed to the loading bay at the Crosshills Hotel in Sedgefield.

The Clerk reported that Mr Wilkes the owner of The Crosshills Hotel has requested an opportunity to meet with the Town Council in order to explain not only his plans for the property but his aim for this to become a community building as well. Cllrs agreed to invite Mr Wilkes to the next Environment Committee meeting.

Cllr Mel Carr commented that The Crosshills property ends at its exterior walls and all land around it is village green. As a result of this designation there are considerable limitations for the use of such land. The Town Council is able to relocate the boulders and stones which are currently on the village green to make it easier for access to all properties in this area. Currently there is space for 9 vehicles in this area of the Town. Whilst some time ago parking bays were marked these have now worn away, however, this does not stop parking. The current yellow lines allow for 30 minutes for vehicles unloading. Cllr Carr proposed the existing yellow lines remain in place, the worn off bay markings be removed and the boulders and stones on the village green be repositioned. Cllrs also suggested that it would be appropriate to invite Ms Hoyland to the Council's next meeting with DCC Parking Officers. Cllr Ann Carr suggested that when the marked parking bays were clearly displayed this had been an asset to the area, however, Cllr Gloria Wills commented that as this area is village green then if such bays are marked out the Town Council then takes on the liability for people parking in them. Cllr Wills reiterated that the purpose of village green is for the benefit of all inhabitants and not for customers/visitors. Cllr Mel Carr suggested that what should be explored is a wider scheme that looks to improve and enhance this entire area of the village green using the same approach which was used when refurbishing the Church Turning Circle. Cllrs agreed.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to reply to Ms Becki Hoyland.**
- ii) The Clerk to invite Mr Wilkes to attend the Council's September 2017 Environment Committee meeting.**
 - i) Cllr Alf Walton, the Clerk and Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent to review location of current boulders and stones in order to determine future positioning and seek quotations for moving.**
 - ii) Ms Becki Hoyland be invited to attend the next meeting with DCC Parking Officers.**
 - iii) The Estates Working Group to consider a programme for enhancement of**

this area of the village green.

6.7 The County Council of Durham (Public Bridleway No 31 Sedgefield Parish) Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2017 (letter from Ms Loraine Holding, DCC dated 7th July 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from Ms Loraine Holding of DCC dated 7th July 2017 enclosing the finalised notice of making for the above Order together with a copy of the Order and relevant plan as made.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.8 Sedgefield In Bloom (minutes of meeting held 5th July 2017):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all minutes of the Sedgefield In Bloom meeting held on 5th July 2017.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.9 Noise App Helps Residents Tackle Noise Disturbance (email and attachments from County Cllr John Robinson dated 14th July 2017):

The Clerk circulated to all an email and attachments from County Cllr John Robinson dated 14th July 2017 giving information regarding a new app through which people in County Durham can now record and report noise disturbances via their mobile phones. Cllr Gloria Wills expressed her disappointment that DCC do not provide a 24 hour manned telephone line for reporting such matters and felt that it was questionable whether older people would be comfortable enough using the necessary technology to access the app now being promoted. Cllr Chris Lines recommended this information is shared through the Residents Database. Cllrs agreed.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to disseminate this information through the Residents Database.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

A1. ESRG Appeal

The Clerk reminded Cllrs that at the previous week's Monthly Meeting it had been agreed to defer the consideration of the notification from DCC that ESRG have successfully lodged an appeal which will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate in the form of a forthcoming Public Inquiry. Cllr Chris Lines proposed that the Town Council reiterate its earlier submitted objections to this planning appeal and request to be able to speak at the Inquiry. Cllrs agreed. Cllr Lines also reminded Cllrs that the SVAG have already notified the Town Council that for this forthcoming Public Inquiry they will not be seeking to take up Rule 6 Status and questioned if the Town Council should do so. Cllr Gloria Wills stated that the SVAG, through Rule 6 Status, had done a tremendous job at the last two Public Inquiries but for both the same arguments had been used and the downfall had been the lack of a County Durham Plan. Cllr Wills said that due to the considerable workload she had undertaken during the two previous inquiries she would not be attending the ESRG appeal. Cllr Lines offered, depending upon the timings of the inquiry, to attend speaking on behalf of the Town Council as he believed this particular application was the biggest threat to the Town in terms of size and scale. Cllrs thanked him for volunteering to attend.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to the Planning Inspectorate reiterating the Town Council's previously submitted objections in relation to this planning application and to request the opportunity for the Town Council to speak at this Inquiry.

A2. Current Planning Applications:

DM/17/02078/FPA – demolition of existing garage, removal of tree and extensions and alterations to existing dwelling (resubmission), St Johns Presbytery, West Park Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections.

DM/17/02179/FPA – proposed detached private garage in front garden, Glendale Bungalow, Thorpe Larches:

Cllrs did not have any objections.

DM/17/02198/FPA – erection of front/side/rear single storey extension in place of garage including pitched roof over living room and erection of front porch, 56 The Meadows, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objections.

RESOLVED:

The comments on planning applications above to be submitted to DCC Planners.

A3. Request for Durham Constabulary to attend meeting:

The Clerk reported that following the previous Monthly meeting she had contacted Acting Chief Inspector Honeyman and requested that a member of the Neighbourhood Policing Team attend this Environment Committee meeting in order to discuss public concerns regarding anti-social behavior. It had not been possible for the Police to send a representative to the meeting, however, Acting Chief Inspector Honeyman had submitted a statement which the Clerk read out. Sedgefield Neighbourhood Policing Team have been working to address the issues of anti-social behavior in the Town. Over the past few weeks the team has been issuing dispersal notices to youths. The team have been targeting the ringleaders. These notices only move the youths on from the town centre and police are aware that they have been congregating at Hardwick Park and around the David Westbury Centre. The team have also escorted youths home on buses and have seized fair amounts of alcohol. The alcohol is drying up week by week. The team also has the support of a team of Special Constables who are assisting particularly on weekends when there is no one on duty from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Team is mindful that the 6 week summer holidays are almost here and the team will continue to target anyone causing anti-social behaviour during this period so that villagers can enjoy the summer in their community. It should also be reminded to residents that young people do tend to congregate in groups and not all young people cause trouble, however, Officers will be targeting those who do cause trouble.

Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Gloria Wills confirmed that they had spoken to PC Keith Todd at the previous week's Neighbourhood Watch meeting to reiterate the public's concerns.

Cllrs reiterated their concerns that no future Police Reports would be sent to the Town Council. Cllr Allan Blakemore proposed that a letter be sent to Mr Ron Hogg expressing these concerns and reminding him that Town and Parish Councils offer a very close link to local communities, a link which does help neighbourhood policing. Communities need to receive a service from their neighbourhood policing. Cllrs agreed with this proposal. Cllr Blakemore also suggested that this matter be discussed at a future Larger Councils Forum meeting to get the views of other Councils.

RESOLVED:

- i) The Clerk to write to Mr Ron Hogg, Police & Crime Commissioner.**
- ii) The Clerk to request this matter be discussed at a future Larger Councils Forum meeting.**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.