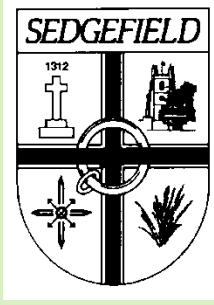
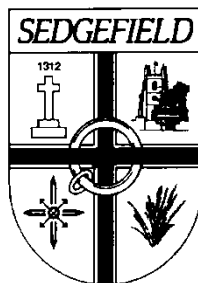


Annual Report 2016/17



Sedgefield Town Council



Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report 2016/2017

The purpose of this report is to explain how the Town Council has operated during 2016/17, the work it has undertaken during this time and to provide you with an understanding of the Council's envisaged work in the coming financial year.

The publication of this Annual Report will coincide with the Council's Annual Town Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. This meeting will be an opportunity for the Council to not only present this Report but also to answer any questions from the public. The Council's annual accounts will also be available at this meeting.

For those who are reading this Report separately from attending the Annual Town Meeting there is still the opportunity for you to raise any questions or concerns with the Council through the 'Public Participation' items on all Council Monthly and Committee meetings throughout the year. Agendas for the Monthly meetings are displayed on the Town Council notice board in front of the library along with the dates to all other meetings. Agendas can be requested from the Council Offices or viewed at our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk. Alternatively any issue or question can be submitted via the Town Clerk whose contact details appear later in this Report.

Sedgefield Town Council:

Sedgefield Town Council serves the town of Sedgefield which includes Thorpe Larches, Foxton and Embleton. The Council comprises of 15 elected Councillors. Each year in May at its Annual General Meeting the Council elects a Chair of the Council and a Mayor. In May 2016 Cllr Mel Carr was elected as Chair of the Council and Cllr Chris Lines as the Mayor.

The Council conducts its business through a Committee system as follows:

Committee:	Meetings Held:
Monthly Meeting	2 nd Monday of every month
Policy & Resources	After each Monthly Meeting
Community Development & Engagement	3 rd Monday of every month
Environment	3 rd Monday of every month
Personnel	As required
Sedgefield Extra	As required
Community Chest	As required

(Please note: in some instances dates are changed because of Bank Holidays. No Committee meetings are held in August. An annual meetings calendar is displayed in the Council Offices, Town noticeboard and on the Council's website).

Details of the work of each of these Committees is contained later in this Report.

In addition to the Committees are a series of Working Groups which undertake research and investigation to propose recommendations for consideration by all Councillors at the relevant Committee. During 2016/17 the Council had Working Groups covering Estates, Finance, Policy & Records Management, Fireworks and Youth.

How To Contact Sedgefield Town Council:

The Town Council operates from the Town Council Offices on Front Street, Sedgefield and is open to the public:

Monday	9am – 12 noon
Tuesday	9am – 12 noon
Wednesday	9am – 1pm
Thursday	9am – 12 noon
Friday	9am – 12 noon

Enquiries can also be made via the following:

Post: Town Council Offices, Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT

Telephone: 01740 621273 (24 hour answerphone service available)

Email: town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

We aim to respond within 5 working days to all such enquiries.

The Town Council also operates a residents email database through which we cascade information including planning applications, neighbourhood planning updates, crime watch information etc. If you would like to register with this database please contact jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk



Sedgefield Town Councillors:

During 2016/17 the following Councillors held office:

Cllr Allan Blakemore 32 Beacon Avenue, Sedgefield 01740 621820	Cllr David Brown Town Farm House, 3 West End, Sedgefield 01740 622894	Cllr Mark Cant Mordon Moor Farm, Sedgefield 07818 243774
Cllr Vanessa Carmichael 47 Cunningham Court, Sedgefield 07889 219195	Cllr Mel Carr 3 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 629070	Cllr Lynne Dentith 10 West End, Sedgefield 01740 622179
Cllr Tim Jeanes 5 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 623456	Cllr Chris Lines 41 White House Drive, Sedgefield 01740 623090	Cllr John Robinson 28 White House Drive, Sedgefield 01740 620042
Cllr Maxine Robinson 28 White House Drive, Sedgefield 01740 620042	Cllr Ian Sutherland 19 Claremont Grove, Sedgefield 01740 622532	Cllr Alf Walton New Dawn, Low Hardwick Farm, Sedgefield 01740 620640
Cllr Dudley Waters 45 The Meadows, Sedgefield 01740 620607	Cllr Gloria Wills Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield 01740 622447	Cllr Jo Elliott The Old Registry, Sedgefield 07881 807012

Message from the Chairman of Sedgefield Town Council - Cllr. Mel Carr



This year has again been another busy and enjoyable one as my role of Chair of Sedgefield Town Council.

It is good that we have such an active and enthusiastic community. Sedgefield Day 2016 is an example of this and was only possible due to the large number of the individuals and organisations coming together with the Town Council and delivering a successful day. Many thanks to all involved.

The Citizen of the Year will be taking place again at the Annual Town Meeting which is jointly run by the Town Council, Sedgefield Development Trust and Sedgefield Rotary Club.

The Sedgefield Plan is still progressing, not as fast as anticipated due to the many procedures required to ensure it will be compliant but we hope this will conclude in 2017. This will help the Town Council when presenting any future comments regarding planning matters. The progress will continue to be reported through the Council website and the Sedgefield Extra. Many thanks to all who are assisting with this.

The Town Council has represented the views of residents in regard to planning applications and appeals with the aim to restrict building of more dwellings in and around Sedgefield when inappropriate. The Town Council participated in the Public Inquiry relating to the application for 300 dwellings at Eden Drive. The Town Council is now working with Durham County Council to ensure the Section 106 agreement from this development, the agreement which details the financial contribution that the developer is making to reduce the impact on the community, is allocated as fairly as possible in relation to education, the community and sport.

The Parish Hall is now undergoing alterations to improve the Fletcher Room with the aim to provide improved facilities for existing users and also create a self-contained facility from which young people can have a dedicated youth club organised by a professional youth leader.

Annual Report 2016/17

During the year we were pleased to welcome Ben Gray to work with the Town Council's Gardener Stephen Young, they work together with Sedgefield in Bloom members who continue to keep Sedgefield looking at its best with flower displays and weeding. This resulted in another successful year in the Northumbria in Bloom awards 2016, winning Gold in the Champion of Champions category and six individual premises awards.

Work is progressing with plans to extend Butterwick Road Cemetery for the future. The Town Clerk together with Stephen Young and the Environment Committee are working on this.

The allotments have continued to thrive and look good. A Challenge Trophy awarded to the best plot at both Winterton and Butterwick Road allotment sites was keenly contested with four awards presented this year.

The Annual Fireworks Display and Halloween Howler Competition was well supported again with lots of fantastic fireworks and amazing carved pumpkins on show.

The Town Clerk, Dr Jane Ayre, has been busy ensuring that all the various Committees and Working Groups, comprising Estates, Finance, Policy & Records Management, Fireworks, Youth, run smoothly, so vital to the running of the Council.

We are pleased to welcome Natalie Chowns- Smith permanently to the Town Council team as Projects & Media Co-ordinator. She has been working in the Council Offices as an administrator and gained her NVQ Level 3 in Business Administration in 2017.

Mrs Joanne Elliot was co-opted onto the Council this year, having lived in Sedgefield for 12 years, with a young family and working at Durham University she has brought a valuable different perspective to our meetings.

To conclude, I would like to thank the Town Councillors, the Council staff and residents of Sedgefield for their support over the past year.

2016 / 2017 Mayor's Report

Cllr. Chris Lines



My year as Mayor of Sedgefield has been extremely rewarding and enjoyable. Before I stepped into the role, I was already very aware of the large number of groups and individuals in Sedgefield who help to sustain our wonderful community, many of whom are volunteers. During the last 12 months, I have had the opportunity to find out even more about the work that they do, and that has been a great experience. I have also enjoyed meeting other civic dignitaries, either welcoming them to Sedgefield, or at events around the North East. It is always a huge pleasure to show off our town to visitors!

From the very start of the year, I set out to try and reach out to a new audience as Mayor. Building on the excellent work of my predecessors, I wanted to do things a little less formally at times, and that informed much of my approach to the role. However, I hope that I achieved this while at the same time fully respecting the traditions that come with the position. It was certainly a huge honour to represent the community on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, and other moments in the year that are very important to the people of Sedgefield, including me.

Meanwhile, I did my bit to invest a sense of fun into some events involving the mayor. I hope that the community will forgive me for my personalised Santa hat at the Snow Party and the printed chains of office on my Mayoral Marathon running vest!

Of course, one of the privileges of being Mayor was that I was able to raise money for good causes during the year. I chose three charities that are close to my heart for different reasons – The Lullaby Trust, Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Friends of Sedgefield Harriers – and also promised to support other local good causes. Through a series of events during the year and also thanks to some individual donations, I managed to raise over £7,000, which will be shared among the three charities and community groups. This was only possible thanks to the many people who supported my events (in many different ways) and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed.

On the topic of thanks, it is dangerous to start a list, as someone is usually missed out (in honest error!), but I must highlight a few people. The team at Sedgefield Town Council has been incredibly supportive at every stage. I owe them a huge debt of thanks and should also point out that their wider contribution to the vibrancy of our community is very significant. Likewise, many of my fellow Town Councillors have attended or supported my events, as have County Councillors and civic dignitaries from around the region, and of course a large number of Sedgefield residents. Numerous businesses have provided prizes for events or helped publicise my initiatives, and that has been very helpful, while venues such as St. Edmund's Church have been invaluable. Sedgefield's schools have also helped to spread the word about mayoral events, and provided performers who have been the highlight of civic events.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my family and friends, who have played a huge role in my year as Mayor of Sedgefield. Whether volunteering at or attending events, or contributing in other ways, they have provided more assistance than I can adequately acknowledge. In particular, I am enormously grateful to my sons Ciaran, Charlie and Samuel, and to my amazing wife and (reluctant but dedicated!) Mayoress of Sedgefield, Catherine. Whether they want me or not, they can have me back now!



Chair of Committee Reports:

Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee - Cllr Gloria Wills (Chair)

Once again this has been an extremely busy and productive year for this Committee.

The P&R Committee is responsible for the finance and governance of the Council. It's remit is to ensure that the Council meets its fiduciary duties in terms of the spending of public finances. It is also responsible for ensuring that policies and procedures are in place to fulfil our legal obligations.

In line with our Standing Orders, and to ensure we are up to date with legislation we have reviewed our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, together with a Delegation Scheme, and have developed and adopted a Corporate Risk Management Schedule and a Council Debt Management Policy. The Policy & Records Management Working Group met to consider all our Policies and Procedures.

During the term of office of this Council we have created a number of Working Groups which are essentially there to allow focussed debate and discussion on defined aspects of the business of the Council. There are no decisions made at these Groups, only recommendations, which are taken to Full Council or P&R Committee for additional debate and approval.

Up until 2013 we were working within a budget set by our predecessors. We were also working with financial procedures which were in need of review. We have also invested in a five year financial software package together with training for our staff.

A great deal of work has been undertaken by our Town Clerk and Financial Assistant to ensure that all of our systems are up to date and fit for purpose, and more importantly ensure that we comply with the audit requirements. The work done by the Finance Working Group has been crucial in achieving progress in this area. The Finance Working Group continue to report directly to the P&R Committee on a monthly basis. The Finance Working Group meet with the Council's Internal Auditor to receive reports on assurances to comply with our legal obligations and regulations, in line with an agreed work programme. This gives the Council added assurance that proper controls are in place to safeguard the public purse.

The introduction of Working Groups has enabled better use of Committee time and allowed more in depth debate on issues whilst allowing the monthly main committee meetings to be focussed and structured to make best use of Councillor's time. All Town Council members receive comprehensive minutes to ensure they are informed of all debate and discussion which takes place within those Groups, and ensures they are able to make an informed decision when asked to do so.

The introduction of Working Groups has given an opportunity to all Councillors with special areas of interest to get involved in issues upon which they feel they can add value and expertise.

We have reviewed our policies and procedures and have continued to focus our efforts on budget control to ensure we achieve best value for the public from their precept. This year we increased the precept by 3.0%. This was mainly as a result of the impending loss of revenue from the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant (LCTRS). We still managed to work within our budget, making huge investment in our assets and staffing. Some of those investment are highlighted in the Environment and Personnel Committee Reports respectively.

Moving into 2017/18 our priority will be investment in the Parish Hall, particularly the Fletcher Room, and ensuring we have a robust plan in place for the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery, to ensure we can provide for future needs. The Council's Medium Term Financial Plan will inform our future spending.

I would like to thank our Internal Auditor, Gordon Fletcher, for his work to date and to our Responsible Financial Officer and Town Clerk, Dr Jane Ayre, and our Financial Assistant, Julia Rowsby, for their commitment to this very important aspect of our work.

The progress we have made would not have been possible without the support and commitment of my fellow Councillors, and I would like to thank them personally for their contribution.

Community Development & Engagement Committee –

Cllr Allan Blakemore (Chair)

During the course of the last year Sedgefield Town Council has listened to residents and groups in order to provide the services and make changes in the way we deliver. One of the main undertakings has been to make radical changes in the Parish Hall. As well as updating and revitalising the premises we are altering the Fletcher Room for use by youth groups and coffee mornings. Although we were not successful in a bid for finance through our local Area Action Partnership, money has been set aside for these alterations which we hope will be completed in the near future.

June 2016 saw our Sedgefield Day which was a very well attended event. Sedgefield Village Games were held on the village green while both junior school choirs and various groups from Sedgefield Community Association provided entertainment in Ceddesfeld Hall and grounds.

We are already planning this year's Fireworks Display for 4th November 2017 and making small alterations to the format of the Halloween Howler, which has a year on year increase in the number of entrants.

Sedgefield's Christmas lights will be turned on the evening of Saturday 2nd December 2017. Once again, there will be a variation in format and we will include some of the suggestions made by members of the community. However, Santa Clause will still arrive and there will be plenty to see and do in the Parish Hall and Ceddesfeld Hall.



Environment Committee Report: Cllr. Alf Walton (Chair)

I have endured, sorry enjoyed another year as Chair of the Environment Committee!

Where to start, well the appearance of the village is important, Sedgefield is an attractive village, resulting in Northumbria In Bloom awards once again. This is thanks to our Gardening Supervisor, Stephen Young, and our new Gardener, Ben Gray, and the Bloom Group volunteers. Most commercial premises and private households also contributed, there are still improvements to be made in the centre of the village with regards refuse bins on display 24/7. We are replacing the wooden tubs around the village with plastic self-watering ones, which will be labour saving and a more uniform watering.

This year has seen numerous shaping and crown lifting of our village trees, with other tree work to be undertaken.

Once again the allotments, especially those at Butterwick Road, are extremely first class. The majority of plots at Winterton are good but a few need some TLC. My wife and I will once again be sponsoring the allotment competition with a presentation and pie and pea supper in the Golden Lion in October.

The Town Council is in the process of purchasing the Butterwick allotments, adjacent track and waste land from Durham County Council.

I would like to thank our new member of staff Natalie Chowns-Smith who has expertly taken over the running of the allotments.

Our cemetery at Butterwick Road looks better due to our gardening staff and the extra cuts of grass taken this year. We are preparing to extend the burial area into the top part of the site, with access from the lane between the cemetery and the allotments. Due to legislation this is a long winded process.

This year saw the installation of utilities into the gardening staff cabin which is an important facility for the running of the Council's cemetery and gardening operations. In addition, a secure compound area has been created.

I would like to thank my Town Council colleagues and members of the public for ideas and co-operation.



Personnel Committee Report: Cllr Gloria Wills (Chair)

This year the Personnel Committee has, once again been extremely busy and proactive and has become an essential part of our governance structure.

We have considered our skill mix within the organisation, to ensure we have succession planning, and have appointed new personnel. The commitment and dedication from our Town Clerk, Dr Jane Ayre, has been instrumental in the progress which has been made in this regard.

Unfortunately some of this work has been held back due to unforeseen circumstances of staff sickness absence, however, there has been a total commitment from other staff members, to pull together and ensure that all our community events, and commitments were met. In a small organisation the impact is much greater when a member of staff is missing from the team. We sincerely hope that we will see our staffing up to full strength again shortly.

We have consolidated and reviewed workloads and job descriptions to ensure that our staff are being used most effectively and efficiently whilst giving them opportunities for training and development. This is extremely important to us.

The Staff Handbook has also been developed by the Town Clerk and adopted by this Council.

I would like to express my personal thanks to our Town Clerk, Dr Jane Ayre, and to all of our staff members and to members of this Committee, particularly Vice-Chair Cllr Allan Blakemore, for their commitment to this Council.

Community Chest: Cllr Vanessa Carmichael (Chair)

Sedgefield benefits from an extremely proactive and invaluable community and voluntary sector, who are mainly reliant on grants and fundraising opportunities to function. With this in mind the Council introduced the Community Chest Fund, supported by a ring fenced amount of £500 each financial year, which allows local groups and organisations to access small donations. Any unspent funding is carried over to the next financial year. This year the awards limit was increased to a maximum of £100 in any one grant, however most grants are around £50.

The remit of this Committee is to award grants to good causes, local groups and organisations.

Organisations and individuals e.g. who bring some kind of benefit to Sedgefield and its community by running events; and organisations or individuals who by their actions bring a benefit to the community in some way either directly or indirectly.

This year we have awarded grants to the following groups:-

- One Step Forward
- Great North Air Ambulance
- Sedgefield Cricket Club

If you feel your group or organisation would benefit from a small donation please do not hesitate to contact the Town Clerk, Dr Jane Ayre, to discuss the criteria before you apply or look at the Community Chest's page on the Council's website.

Sedgefield Extra Committee Report: Town Clerk

During 2016/17 we have published four editions of our community newsletter called the Sedgefield Extra. We are extremely grateful to the volunteers from the Sedgefield Development Trust who deliver this around the Town on our behalf.

Over the last year, we have been working hard to improve the content of the Sedgefield Extra making it as informative as possible about the Council's current and future work including an opportunity for us to give residents a better insight into some of the work that goes on behind the scenes and isn't necessarily in the public eye. Included in each edition are details of any forthcoming Council events and useful contact information. The latest edition along with back copies can be found on our website as well as in the Town Council Offices. The Town Council is always happy to receive feedback about the content and style of the Extra, so please get in touch if you would like to share any views on the publication.



Parish Hall Refurbishment Project - Natalie Chowns-Smith, Media & Projects Co-ordinator:

Following the consultation exercise carried out with Parish Hall Users in October 2015, the Estates Working Group began discussing the priorities within the Parish Hall. Among many other notable points, the general opinion from Parish Hall users indicated that the Fletcher Room was the least favourable room due to its unappealing décor, unwelcoming feel and outdated fittings. Users also questioned the content and purpose of the adjoining offices. Through this exercise, the Fletcher Room Refurbishment Project was created and will see all new décor, windows, insulation, flooring and soundproofing properties, whilst an adjoining office will be transformed into a fully-equipped kitchen with a serving hatch leading directly into the Fletcher Room. This refurbishment will provide a self-contained kitchen/coffee bar/meeting area for Parish Hall users, preventing future kitchen conflicts when both main rooms are in use. This renovation will also provide the facilities to house a professionally run Youth Club for the young people of Sedgfield.

A funding application for the Fletcher Room Refurbishment Project was submitted to the local Area Action Partnership's UP 2 U funding scheme and went to a public vote on Saturday 26th November 2016. Whilst the application was not successful in securing funding, the Estates Working Group committed to the refurbishment and a budget was allocated for the work. A number of major works elsewhere in the Hall will be completed alongside the Fletcher Room refurbishment to minimise disruption to users. These will include new flooring in the foyer, ladies WC and men's WC, installation of Wi-Fi, sanding and treatment of the Main Hall's dancefloor and drainage work to the ladies WC and manholes in the men's WC and foyer. Contractors have been chosen and work is due to commence very soon.

Throughout the year 2016/2017 a number of other works requested by users have been carried out within the Parish Hall, including a backstage renovation, new chairs for the Main Hall, installation of a new boiler, purchase of additional smaller tables and installation of a new projector. Work has also been carried out by the Estates Working Group plus Projects & Media Co-ordinator to simplify the use of the building and ensure health and safety as well as updating licensing and security procedures, including a new booking procedure, a new User Policy, new opening and closing procedure for Security Officers, new alarms maintenance contracts and the creation of a Parish Hall User Forum to allow continuous two-way communication between the Town Council and Parish Hall users.

Review of the Past Year : Dr Jane Ayre, Town Clerk

2016/17 has been another very busy year for Sedgefield Town Council. As well as undertaking the work outlined earlier in this Report by the Chair of the Council, the Mayor and the various Committee Chairs, considerable time has been spent on preparing for the refurbishment of Sedgefield Parish Hall, progressing The Sedgefield Plan and actively participating in an independent mediation process with the SCA in relation to the lease for Ceddesfeld Hall. The Council has also responded to a wide range of planning applications, continued to develop its website in order to make as much information as possible readily accessible to site users including policies and financial information as well as agendas, minutes and latest news items. Considerable time has been spent this past year liaising with Officers from Durham County Council in relation to a wide array of issues from noise and licensing issues, to The Sedgefield Plan, to the Section 106 Agreement relating to the forthcoming Eden Drive development, to the purchase of additional land near to Butterwick Road Cemetery and more. The Town Council has submitted an application seeking Foundation Level accreditation of the National Quality Award for Councils.

The Town Council has continued to welcome over 4, 500 visitors through the doors and answer over 2, 500 phone calls made just to our Council's reception line. We continue to take pride in being able to help people with their concerns and enquiries and in over 350 instances have progressed these with the responsible principal authority, Durham County Council.

During 2016/17 the Town once again looked stunning and this was reflected in the numerous awards and accolades which have been received. In August 2017 we welcomed Ben Gray who joined the Council as Gardener to support our Gardening Supervisor and he has settled in well to life in Sedgefield . Over the last year work has begun to install the Town's new self-watering tubs on hard standing areas. Work to install those on grassed areas will take place in early 2017/18. Considerable work has been undertaken at Butterwick Road Cemetery including the production of new Cemetery Rules and Regulations, annual headstone safety testing and work to commence the expansion of the Cemetery to ensure the site is operational for many years to come. My thanks go to Stephen Young and Ben Gray for their dedication and hard work and also to Sedgefield In Bloom group members.

The Town Council has had another busy programme of community events this year ranging from successful coach trips, to a well attended Sedgefield Day, a dazzling Fireworks Display, a very festive Snow Party and a diverse array of Mayoral events including Civic Service, Quiz, Carol Service and Charity Ball. My thanks go to Julia Rowsby, Natalie Chowns-Smith and Jane Young for their involvement and enthusiasm In these events.

The Parish Hall has continued to be a popular venue in the Town to host a very varied programme of events ranging from plays to music events to birthday parties as well as being used on a weekly basis by many community groups and volunteers. We have enjoyed talking to Hall users over the last year and hearing their views on the Parish Hall and have factored as many of these as possible into the forthcoming refurbishment work, particularly those relating to the Fletcher Room. A Parish Hall User Forum has now been established and I'd like to thank all those who participated and showed such a willingness to continue this close liaison in coming years. I would like to thank Joyce Stephenson our Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner and Security Officers Les Parrish and Chris Dunn for ensuring that the Hall is always ready for users. We have recently said farewell to Esther Harte who worked loyally in the Parish Hall for many years.

During 2016/17 the Town Council released to Sedgefield Out of School Fund Club their £10,000 allocation from the Terrace Hill money donated to the community. The deadline for Sedgefield Bowling Club and Sedgefield Harriers accessing their allocations has been extended until 31st March 2018 as both groups have provided evidence showing they are making progress towards their respective projects.

Considerable progress has been made over the last 12 months by the Council's Youth Working Group which has undertaken extensive consultation with young people at both the Town's primary schools as well as a representation of those attending Sedgefield Community College in order to find out what they of additional youth provision they would like to see in the Town. The Town Council was assisted in this process by Investing In Children. It was found that young people would like to have a regular youth club run in the Town initially one evening per week. Discussions are now well advanced between the Town Council and local Youth Workers in order to set up such provision through a Service Level Agreement as soon as the refurbishment of the Fletcher Room has been completed.

In 2017/18 the Town Council will be developing a new Corporate Plan to reflect the incoming Council's aspirations for the next term of office. Also in this financial year funding will be sought for the following projects:

- Refurbishment of the footpaths around the village greens in the Town;
- Repairs to the Town's war memorial.

So all in all another very busy year for the Town Council with a lot more work ahead of us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Town Council staff and Town Councillors for their dedication to their respective roles over the last year. Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank those Town Councillors who will not be returning to the Town Council in May 2017 and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support since I took up my appointment in May 2014. I look forward to continuing to work with those Councillors that will be returning to the Council and those who will be joining us in May 2017.

The P&R Committee met in January 2017 to consider the precept request for 2017/18. Through continued financial vigilance Sedgefield Town Council was able to keep its increase in precept to 2.987% on the 2016/17 Band D rating.

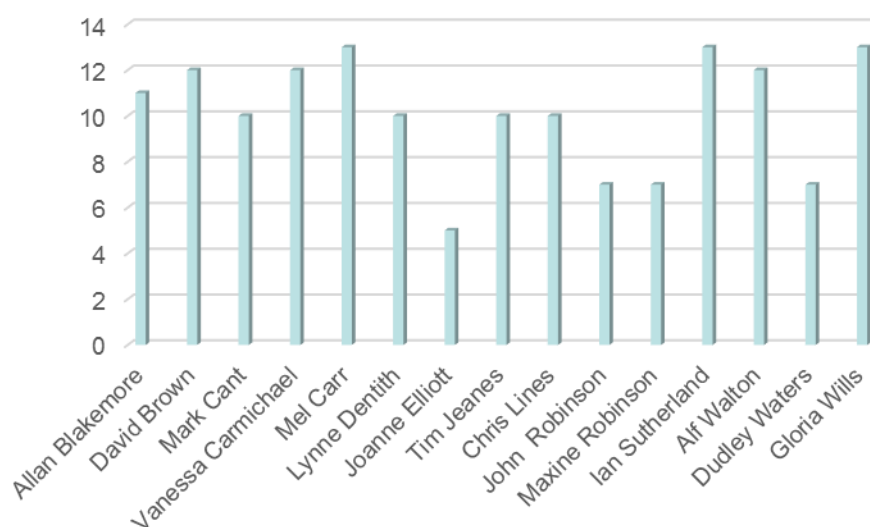
Copies of the Town Council's Accounts for 2016/17 are produced separately and are available to the public via the Town Council Offices and the website.

In accordance with legislation, it is now a statutory requirement to publish allowances received by members of the Town Council. The agreed allowance per month for Members of Sedgefield Town Council is £25.75. This was claimed over the past civic year by:

Cllrs Mel Carr, Joanne Elliott, Tim Jeanes, Ian Sutherland and Dudley Waters

Councillor Attendance at Meetings

A request was made to publish the attendance record of Members of the Town Council in 2013/14. This request was agreed and below are the attendance figures for the Council's Monthly meetings, Annual General Meeting and Annual Town Meeting (Total 13) for 2016/17. These figures do not include attendance at Special meetings, Committee meetings, Working Group meetings or other meetings.



Note: Joanne Elliott was co-opted as a Town Councillor in June 2016.

Contact Details

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES

Front Street, Sedgefield TS21 3AT

01740 621273

Dr Jane Ayre	Town Clerk	town.clerk@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mrs Julia Rowsby	Financial Assistant/ Receptionist	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mrs Jane Young	Mayor's Secretary/ Admin Assistant	jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Ms Natalie Chowns-Smith	Projects & Media Co-ordinator	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mrs Angela Simpson	Community Development Officer	angela@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mr Stephen Young	Gardening Supervisor	
Mr Ben Gray	Gardener	
Mrs Joyce Stephenson	Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner	
Mr Les Parrish	Parish Hall Security Officer	
Mr Chris Dunn	Parish Hall Security Officer	