

Annual Report 2022/23



Sedgefield Town Council





Welcome to Sedgefield Town Council's Annual Report 2022/23

The purpose of this report is to explain how the Town Council has operated during 2022/23 and the work it has undertaken during this time. Further information about the Town Council can be found on our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.

The publication of this Annual Report will coincide with the Council's Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7pm in Sedgefield 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. This report can be viewed on the Council's website or at the Council Offices.



Sedgefield Town Council

Sedgefield Town Council serves the Parish of Sedgefield which includes the town itself and Thorpe Larches, Foxton and Embleton. The Council comprises of 15 elected Councillors. Each year in May at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) the Council elects a Chair of the Council and a Mayor.

In May 2022, Councillor Mel Carr was elected as Chair of the Council and Councillor Dave Jasper 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
Environment	After each Policy & Resources Meeting
Community Development & Engagement	After each Environment Meeting
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 2022/23, the Council had Working Groups covering Estates, Finance, Fireworks, Policy & Records Management and Butterwick Road Cemetery.

How To Contact Sedgfield Town Council

The Town Council operates from the Town Council Offices on Front Street, Sedgfield 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, Sedgfield TS21 3AT
Telephone:	01740 621273 (24 hour answerphone service available)
Email:	town.clerk@sedgfieldtowncouncil.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 updates, road and footpath closures, neighbourhood watch information etc. If you would like to register with this database, please contact jane@sedgfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk.



Sedgefield Town Councillors

During 2022/23, the following Councillors held office:

Allan Blakemore 32 Beacon Avenue, Sedgefield 01740 621820	David Brown Town Farm House, 3 West End, Sedgefield 01740 622894	Mark Cant Mordon Moor Farm, Sedgefield 07818 243774
Ann Carr 3 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 629070	Mel Carr 3 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 629070	Kelly Dickerson 30 Beaumont Court Sedgefield 07720 080497
John Finlayson 5 Pine Ridge Avenue Sedgefield 01740 622313	Catherine Hart Foxton Farm Foxton 07837 126472	Jenny Haworth 27 Station Road Sedgefield 07942 370050
Paul Heasman (resigned January 2023)	Dave Jasper The Mews, 1 Rosedale Close, Sedgefield 07791 030886	Jim Seymour (resigned September 2022)
Julie Towler 6 Mitford Court Sedgefield 07979 376997	Mavis Wayman 32 White House Drive Sedgefield 01740 620337	Stephen Winter 3 Millner Court Sedgefield 07916 228929

During the latter part of 2022/23 co-option recruitment was undertaken to fill Councillor vacancies. These vacancies will be filled in early 2023/24.

Message from the Chairman of Sedgefield Town Council - Councillor Mel Carr



It has been an interesting year for me as Chairman with Sedgefield getting back to normal in most areas.

The Town Council Offices and Parish Hall are back to usual operations again and the Parish Hall is continuing to be a popular venue. While we unfortunately had to say goodbye to some much-loved groups over the last few years, we have welcomed new groups this year and continue to promote the venue well.

Citizen of the Year 2021 was awarded to Bobby Workman and the Young Citizen of the Year awarded to sisters, Maggie and Martha Edge.

Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated in Sedgefield with a programme of events taking place in St Edmund's Church, Ceddesfeld Hall and grounds and local business decorated their windows to show their appreciation too.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth II died on 8th September 2022 and while it was an upsetting time for all, I am incredibly proud of the town's response to her passing. The Town Council designated an area in front of the war memorial and many floral tributes were placed there. The compost from these tributes will be used to plant a tree, named 'The Queen's Tree' in the coming year.

Tree work as recommended by the appointed tree officer took place to all Town Council trees in autumn last year.

Message from the Chairman

(continued)

The Town Council gardeners continued to work at the cemetery and throughout the town on the flower displays. Sedgfield in Bloom continue to give a great contribution to the appearance of the town. At the Northumbria in Bloom Awards, Sedgfield won Gold for Small Towns.

There were two Honorary Freeman awards presented last year, to Councillor David Brown who joined the Town Council in 2003 and to the town's gold medal wheelchair rugby Paralympian, Jack Smith MBE.

The Halloween Howler Pumpkin Competition, Fireworks Display and Snow Party were all successful events.

The Active Travel Project is progressing with a scheme approved at the brick bus shelter in the centre of the town for bike racks and associated minor work.

Section 106 money (developers contribution paid to Durham County Council to mitigate the impact of their development on the community) is still being monitored and may have some successful news shortly relating to our local play areas and Butterwick Road Cemetery's expansion.

Councillors Jimmy Seymour and Paul Heasman resigned last year and I thank them for their input on the Council.

We welcomed Councillors Jenny Haworth and Kelly Dickerson to the Town Council and are pleased that they are enjoying their new role.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Town Councillors, the Town Clerk and all Council staff for their support over this last year.



Mayor's Report Councillor Dave Jasper



After a mere 10 months as a Town Councillor, you can imagine my surprise to be asked to represent Sedgefield for a year as its Mayor and what a year it has been! The first thing I had to do was to choose a headline charity. That was easy. Both of my parents died from various forms of cancer so I wanted to honour their memory by choosing Cancer Research UK. But also of great importance to me was to give something back to Sedgefield, a great place to raise a family and which served our two children, Tim and Ciaran, so well as they grew up.

As Mayor, it has been an absolute honour and a privilege to represent Sedgefield at 134 Civic functions and fundraising events, 72 in Sedgefield, the rest as far apart as from Bishop Auckland to Tyneside and from Darlington to Morpeth, travelling 1,800 miles in the process. There have been 15 of my own fundraisers this year and the huge amount of money raised is largely down to the generosity of good people like yourselves. I have also endeavoured to visit lots of community groups and schools here to meet people and find out exactly what activities they are engaged in. It has been a joy to talk to and get to know so many local people.

I have been in the almost unique position of being Mayor during the sad passing of a monarch, our beloved Queen Elizabeth II on September 8th, 2022, the elevation of Prince Charles to King Charles III and, in my coming final week, His Majesty's Coronation – a privilege, which has been afforded to very few Mayors through history. I really appreciate the support of fellow Councillors who have been able to attend my events. I have thrown myself into being your Mayor with 100% effort and I sincerely hope that you will agree that I have served Sedgefield well and promoted its good name far and wide in the North East.

Mayor's Report

(continued)

In conclusion, I am looking forward to distributing cheques from my Mayor's Charity at the Annual Town Meeting, but I can't do so before paying tribute to my wife and Consort, Julie and my Deputy Consort, Annette Lawson for giving me their unstinting support all year long. I wish to thank Jane Tate, a former pupil of mine, for organising my diary so efficiently and the Town Clerk for her sage guidance. I owe special thanks to members of Sedgefield Players, Viv and Garry Jacobs, Walter and Mildred Howell, Judith Featherstone, Sarah Atkinson, Rosemary Jones, Richard Flanagan, Adam White and the ladies from the Methodist Church (plus Audrey Flanagan) who have worked so hard at almost every event of mine, sourcing prizes and running the kitchen here. I wouldn't have been half as successful in my fundraising without all those lovely, aforementioned people behind me all the way.

Thank you.



Annual Report 2022/23



Chair of Committee Reports:

Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee

Chair: Councillor Allan Blakemore



Sedgefield Town Council's P&R Committee oversees all the financial and procedural undertakings of the Town Council. In many ways this work follows similar lines to that of a business. However, as a local authority, Sedgefield Town Council must work within several legal constraints. We have robust financial and governance arrangements in place which are subject to independent internal and external audits to ensure full compliance. We are delighted with the outcome of these audits and in 2022 / 2023 all our internal audits have achieved "Full Assurance" rating as well as being compliant with all the external auditors' requirements. This is a wonderful achievement by our administrative staff.

Alongside the day-to-day work undertaken by the Council, within this last financial year, many of the major projects have carried on from what I reported in the last annual report.

Our cemetery extension remains a priority and is proving to be a much more difficult project than was first envisaged. Purchasing the land from the County Council took much longer than anticipated and then going forward with the planning permission has also proved difficult. There has needed to be several surveys carried out to ensure the suitability of the site as well as archaeology assessments. This has all taken time and we have needed the expertise of a company, Cemetery Design Services. However, planning permission has now been granted; we have complied with all pre-commencement conditions. The next stage is the production of specification and seeking tenders.

There has been a considerable amount of work carried out on the trees within Sedgefield. Following a survey, of all the trees within the town centre, work began late last year. Several of the trees were dead or dying and consequently they had to be felled. Others needed pruning to ensure their safety and health. There is now a programme for future assessments.

During the last financial year all Local Authorities faced several challenging situations. Given that we were all just emerging from the crisis of the pandemic we were also hit with a massive escalation in energy costs. This has caused everyone to assess where savings can be made. Sedgefield Town Council is in a service level agreement with Durham County Council which allows us access to their energy management portal for careful analysis of our energy usage as well as maximising efficiency savings on energy costs through the North East Procurement Organisation's buying power. We also made an assessment as to the number of hours the town's festive lights were on and made a slight reduction in 2022. All festive lights are already low energy LED due to the purchase of new lights which I reported in 2021/22.

Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee

(continued)

I am sure everyone will be aware of the Active Travel project which is presently being consulted on. This is a large project which the Town Council is involved with in partnership with the County Council. I am sure we would all benefit from better access to Hardwick Park as well as the other aspects of this project.

Finally, I would like to mention 106 Monies available for community projects. As a Town Council we are liaising with County Councillors and Officers about local consultation when this money becomes available. At present Durham County Council have received applications for three projects relating to the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery, Active Travel improvements and refurbishment of play areas at Winterton and Eden Drive.



Personnel Committee

Chair: Councillor Allan Blakemore



Over the course of this year, we have had several staff changes which also means that there have been changes in responsibilities of staff members. Adam Heath, who was our Parish Hall Security officer, has now moved to the role of Receptionist & Parish Hall Support Officer working within the Council Offices during public opening hours then covering Parish Hall openings and closings Monday to Thursday. In conjunction with this, we have also created a Weekend Relief Officer for the Parish Hall which we are hoping to fill soon. We currently have a vacancy for a Gardener which is now open to recruitment and we hope to have someone in place for the growing season.

All other staff are still in position and with the appointment of a new person to cover reception they are now able to concentrate, more fully, on their individual roles.

Community Development & Engagement Committee

Chair: Councillor Ann Carr



The year has been much busier than the previous one due to the decrease in Covid-19 cases, while still maintaining careful hygiene protection.

Young Citizen of the Year 2021 was awarded to sisters, Martha and Maggie Edge, for their litter picking initiatives plus fundraising for the mental health Charity MIND. Citizen of the Year 2021 was awarded to Bobby Workman for his amazing contribution to keeping our village looking lovely and inspiring our Ploggers.



Sedgefield Youth Club had a very successful year helped by funding from East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership & DCC Fun and Food. This helped to make the Youth Club summer and Easter activities very busy, creative and successful. Then very successful events again over Autumn and Christmas time.

Celebrations to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee took place on Saturday 4th June, with a day full of a variety and entertainment for all ages. A very successful day.

The summer coach trips to Keswick plus an extra one to Richmond and Northallerton were very well supported. The Christmas trip to York was full. Pity we could not foresee the weather because we would have asked everyone to wear wellington boots and bring oars!

The Halloween Howler and Fireworks Display were great and fun with some fantastic pumpkins on display, well done to all who entered.

Sedgefield's very own Paralympian Jack Smith MBE was made an Honorary Freeman of Sedgefield at a surprise celebration at his old school, Sedgefield Primary School, Rectory Row. A plaque to celebrate this achievement in the shape of the Olympic Medal is on the school wall at the entrance. An amazing young man.

The Snow Party and illuminations were a huge success. The Craft Fayre, carol singing and the Ukulele band plus glow sticks made the festivities fun, complete with Santa in full swing in the Grotto and tree lights switch on.



Meetings with various organisations are underway to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May 2023.

To all Town Councillors, Council staff and the people of Sedgefield for their support, thank you all very much.

Annual Report 2022/23

Environment Committee

Chair: Councillor Stephen Winter



Key activities this year:

- Our programme of tree works in the town to ensure the health of our tree stocks
- Our grass cutting programme
- Entry in Northumbria In Bloom competition
- New recycling bays in the Cemetery compound to achieve meaningful recycling
- Recovering of Town Council polytunnel
- Reduced weekly watering from three days to two days per week with better management system so as to achieve efficiency gains and reduce fuel consumption
- Close working with Sedgefield In Bloom including new joint arrangements for handling green waste so that we try to maximise recycling opportunities
- Hedge cutting programme
- Organising The Queen's Tree



Community Chest Committee

Chair: Councillor Julie Towler



Sedgefield benefits from an extremely proactive and invaluable community and voluntary sector, many of whom rely on grants and fundraising opportunities to function. With this in mind the Council introduced the Community Chest Fund. The Fund is supported by a ring-fenced amount of £500 each financial year, with any unspent funding carried forward.

This grant funding allows local groups and organisations to access donations of up to a maximum of £100. Organisations can apply by letter or email to the Town Clerk detailing why the funding is required and what it will be spent on, together with an explanation of how it will benefit the residents in Sedgefield.

The remit of this Committee is to award grants to good causes, local groups and organisations which add value or have a direct benefit to Sedgefield and its residents.

Organisations who bring some kind of benefit to Sedgefield and its community by hosting events and individuals who by their actions bring a benefit to the community may also be considered.

This year we have awarded £700 in total in grants to the following groups: -

- Sedgefield Hardwick PTA,
- The Pop In Club,
- Sedgefield SPYS,
- Sedgefield Memory Café,
- Sew Easy,
- Sedgefield in Bloom
- The Female Hormone Deficiency Support Group.

If you feel your group or organisation would benefit from a small donation, look at the Council's website for details of the Community Chest and its criteria: www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/community-chest

Annual Report 2022/23



Sedgefield Youth Club
Management Committee
Chair: Councillor Julie Towler



Sedgefield Youth Club formed in 2017 following several consultations with young people in the town. The club's staffing arrangements are funded by Sedgefield Town Council, who also provide the Parish Hall's Fletcher Room and kitchen free of charge on Monday evenings during term time. Additional funding is sought throughout the year to provide non-term time sessions.

We were delighted when we re-opened our doors in 2021 following the unfortunate closure of the club due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, our membership has only grown further, and the bonds and friendships developed between members and staff have become even stronger. In summer 2022, we found ourselves frequently reaching capacity at our junior session and after a lot of thought, decided to change our session times to the following, all taking place on Monday evenings in Sedgefield Parish Hall:

Juniors (y3-y5) 6-7pm Seniors (y6-y11) 7-8:30pm

It was our hope that adjusting the age range to have year 6's included in the senior session would allow them to get specific guidance and support during their transition to year 7, while building friendships with members already in secondary school. So far, we have had a lot of success with this change and were able to welcome many new year 3's to the junior session as a result.

We are over the moon that one of our longest-standing members, George Nott, has taken on a senior volunteer role at the club and is currently undertaking a youth leadership qualification. George has been with us since the very beginning and his help and support since 'graduating' the club has been invaluable.

In addition to our weekly term-time sessions where we love to cook/bake, craft, play video games, table-top sports and board games, we've also fundraised at a number of local events including Sedgefield Snow Party, held special themed nights (e.g. Valentines Day, Halloween and Platinum Jubilee) and enjoyed a number of non-term time sessions.

Our summer holiday 2022 programme, funded by East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership's Youth Fund, took members on trips to Hollywood Bowl and Planet Leisure. We also held our own coffee morning, a move night, summer party and some crafts and game sessions.

We hosted our very first 'Breakfast with Santa' in December 2022 which was a huge success. Children received a personalised invitation from Santa asking them to join him for a full English breakfast, cookie decorating, group storytime and singalong, a 1:1 Santa experience and a bag of goodies to take home. Adults also received a full English breakfast and were able to share this wonderful experience with their families. We hope to hold this event again in the coming years.

Annual Report 2022/23

SYC Management Committee

(continued)

At the time of writing, our recent application to East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership / Durham County Council'd Fund and Food Easter 2023 fund has been accepted and we are planning our Easter Holiday 2023 sessions. The sessions include a trip to Billingham Forum for Ice skating, a family afternoon tea which the members will bake and prepare, a party with DJ, an outdoor easter egg hunt and a normal Monday evening session. Each activity includes a full meal for all attendees, either in the form of a hot meal, buffet, afternoon tea, packed lunch or picnic. We've also received a donation of food from Sedgefield Co-op during Fair Trade Fortnight which we can use over the Easter period. We'll be sharing lots of images and updates on the news page of the Town Council's website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk and their Twitter account @SedgefieldTC.

We are also hoping to be involved in the local celebrations for King Charles III's Coronation with a promotional stall at the day of celebration at Ceddesfeld Hall on Monday 8th May 2023. If all goes to plan, we will be supervising some crafts including a crown making workshop!

Looking at the year ahead, we hope to obtain funding for summer holiday sessions, plan party nights for holidays and festive events, as well as take part in local events.

We would like to thank Sedgefield Town Council, East Durham Rural Corridor Area Action Partnership, Sedgefield Co-op and the Mayor of Sedgefield, Councillor Dave Jasper for your donations over the year. As always, our heartfelt thanks also go to our members, their families and the community for their support over the last year.



Annual Report 2022/23



Butterwick Road and Winterton Allotments

Sedgefield Town Council oversees 44 plots spanning across two sites., Winterton and Butterwick Road. Winterton is currently home to 22 plots, a mixture of full and half plots. The original allotments at Butterwick Road hold 21 full plots and 1 half plot.

Both sites continue to impress, with the majority of plots maintaining a consistently high standard during inspections. It is great to see the level of dedication and care that our tenants put into their allotment gardens and the consideration given to their neighbouring tenants.

We carry out inspections once a month during the growing season in order to highlight any problem areas or concerns with an aim to tackle them quickly and help our tenants overcome issues before they develop further.

Throughout 2022, Winterton saw a heavy infestation of horsetails. Although this weed has been present at the site for many years, it really took hold on a number of vacant plots in a matter of weeks before they could be re-let. Our gardening staff took a lot of time to treat the problem areas over the span of several months at the end of 2022 and all affected plots were completely cleared and re-let in the New Year.

The allotment waiting list continues to hold 20+ names at a time, proving once again how much the demand for allotments have increased in recent years. Those applying to the list now can expect a wait of several years before they will be offered a plot, however, we hope this does not deter those interested from joining the list.



Sedgefield Extra

During 2022/23, we have continued to publish four editions of Sedgefield Extra, all inserted into the corresponding issue of the Sedgefield News and delivered to residents, with additional copies available from the Town Council offices and on request. Once again, the Town Council is grateful to Sedgefield Development Trust and its volunteers, who have delivered the Extra on our behalf.

Last year, the Town Council ran a trial of printing the Extra in colour with an aim improve the quality and presentation of information available to residents. Following a lot of positive feedback, the decision was made to continue printing the Sedgefield Extra in full colour going forward.

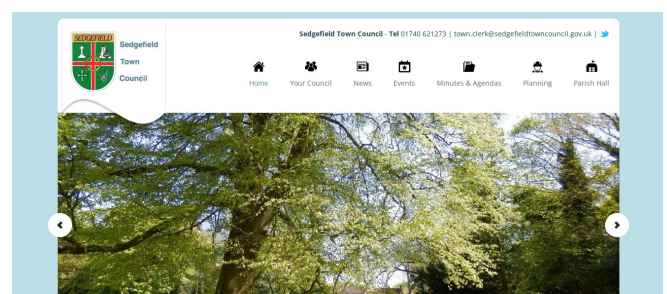
The publication of Sedgefield Extra complements the other communications activity undertaken by the Town Council, and it's now a matter of course that, as well as being printed, each issue is posted online and shared via social media. We will continue to explore ways in which we can vary and improve what appears in the Extra and welcome suggestions from residents (please send your comments to natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk).

Sedgefield Town Council Twitter: @SedgefieldTC

The Town Council shares lots of information about its activities, meeting reminders and useful updates about local life via its Twitter account @SedgefieldTC . Please take a look and consider following us as a way to keep up to date with local issues.

Sedgefield Town Council Website: www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk

The Town Council's website (www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk) contains lots of information ranging from introducing Councillors and staff, to the minutes and agendas for our Committee meetings, providing copies of our procedures, policies and financial information to promoting events and local news on our news page. The Town Council has embarked upon a project to improve the layout of our website and to make information more easily accessible. Watch out for updates on this matter in future editions of the Sedgefield Extra and Twitter.



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

Thankfully for all, 2022/23 felt like a much needed return to pre-covid times! 2022/23 has been another extremely busy and varied year for Sedgefield Town Council.

We have welcomed over 1940 visitors through the Town Council Office doors and answered over 1000 phone calls made just to our Council's reception line alone while dealing with a several thousands of email enquiries during 2022/23. We continue to take great pride in being able to help people with their concerns and very varied enquiries. In roughly 260 instances these enquiries related to matters handled by Durham County Council and we progressed these on behalf of individuals.

2022/23 saw a return to the Town Council's full programme of community events which included our Fireworks Display, Remembrance Sunday Service, Snow Party, coach trips and tub planting, the latter two events resuming for the first time since the pandemic. All events were hugely popular and very well attended. In 2022/23 we organised an additional summer coach trip and received lots of positive feedback meaning we hope to make this a regular event in following years. It was particularly wonderful to see so many young people, the town's future, taking part in tub planting on the village green on a gloriously sunny day!

2022 was a year of historic events for our country and Sedgefield played its part in marking those. In June 2022 a community day was organised and held to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Sadly just a few months later the Town Council was overseeing the town's various acts of remembrance to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and proclaiming the start of the reign of King Charles III. Marking such events appropriately takes a lot of hard work and planning, work which goes on behind the scenes unseen, and cannot be done by the Town Council alone. I would like to thank the SCA, Sedgefield Area Churches Together and all other members of the Sedgefield 700+ for their support. Indeed, all of us are now very busy preparing for the town's commemorations to mark the King's forthcoming Coronation.

The Town Council takes great pride in our open spaces and, within our budgetary constraints, maintain our land, floral beds and tubs to a high standard. In 2022 the town was once again awarded Gold in the Northumbria In Bloom competition, a very fitting acknowledgement to the hard work of our gardening staff and the sterling work of the Sedgefield In Bloom Group. In November 2022 our Gardener, Ben Gray, left to join Darlington Borough Council and we send him our thanks and best wishes for the future. Whilst the decision has been taken not to enter the 2023 Bloom competition, please be assured that this will in no way reduce the standard of the town's floral displays – everyone involved in maintaining our open spaces has lots of ideas and work planned for 2023/24!

Sadly, I must highlight the extensive vandalism to the town's flower beds and tubs during the latter part of 2022/23 which saw the vast majority of our plant stocks being mindlessly destroyed. It is not like Sedgefield to have empty flower tubs and we sincerely hope that when new bedding plant stocks are planted in early 2023/24 this situation is not repeated. We appeal that anyone witnessing such damage reports this to the Police. During 2022/23 the Town Council has overseen a significant programme of treeworks to ensure our tree stocks stay as healthy as possible. All this work has been undertaken based upon specialist arboricultural advice and with necessary permissions. During 2023/24 we will be planting a Queen's Tree on behalf of the Parish so please keep an eye out in future editions of the Sedgefield Extra and Twitter for updates. I would like to express my thanks to all our allotment holders at our Winterton and Butterwick Road allotment sites for their hard work over 2022/23.

2022/23 has been an exceptionally busy year for Sedgefield Parish Hall as we have seen bookings increase to above pre-covid levels. It is wonderful to see the Hall so busy and used for so many varied events. The Parish Hall is a fantastic, versatile venue with lots of facilities. Take a look at our website www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk for more information about the Hall, its facilities and hire charges.

In 2022/23 the Town Council's planning application to expand Butterwick Road Cemetery was granted permission by Durham County Council. A number of pre-commencement conditions were assigned, all of which have been completed and evidence submitted to the County Council. The Town Council is expecting a determination from the County Council in April 2023 as to whether we can now progress to physical work on the site and securing the necessary funding for what will be the Town Council's biggest ever capital project. The Town Council is committed to continuing to offer a burial site in the Town.

The Town Council's Committee meetings take place in Sedgefield Parish Hall typically on the second Monday of the month commencing at 7pm. Dates for our future Council Committee meetings can be found on our website and displayed in the town noticeboard in front of the library. Members of the public are warmly welcomed and there is the opportunity for you to speak if you wish. Please consider whether you would like to attend and find out more about the work being undertaken on your behalf.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Julia Rowsby, Jane Tate, Natalie Chowns-Traynor, Adam Heath, Joyce Stephenson and Stephen Young who work tirelessly and with the utmost professionalism for Sedgefield Town Council.

In summary, 2022/23 has been a busy year with lots of challenges along the way but I am confident that the Town Council is as well prepared as possible to face whatever comes our way in 2023/24.

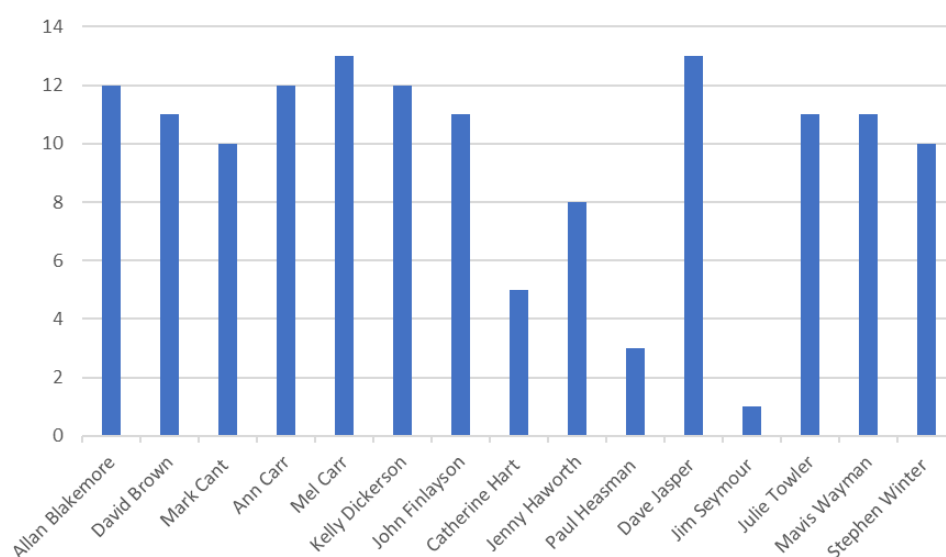
The P&R Committee met in January 2023 to consider the precept request for 2023/24. Through continued financial vigilance, Sedgefield Town Council was able to keep its increase in precept to 6.7% on a Band D rating.

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

Councillors David Brown, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, John Finlayson, Jenny Haworth, Dave Jasper, Julie Towler and Mavis Wayman

Councillor Attendance at Meetings

A request was made to publish the attendance record of Sedgefield Town Councillors in 2022/23. 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 2022/23. These figures do not include attendance at Special meetings, Committee meetings, Working Group meetings and other meetings:



Notes:

- Councillor Catherine Hart had a dispensation from duties from September 2022 - February 2023
- Councillor Paul Heasman resigned from the Council in January 2023
- Councillor Jimmy Seymour resigned from the Council in September 2022

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

31/03/22		Unaudited 31/03/23
£		£
	<u>Income</u>	
73.55	Bank Interest	1,960.89
8,955.25	Mayor's Charity	16,930.66
3,060.00	Ceddesfeld Hall	3,060.00
339,797.00	Precept	378,070.64
20,812.91	Parish Hall Hire	24,910.06
328.65	Community Services	2,375.40
110.00	Open Spaces	150.00
3,799.21	Cemetery Lodge	7,916.95
4,642.00	Cemetery	4,395.00
7,612.95	Events	6,275.95
4,526.78	Environment	4,216.85
279.46	Income Misc	245.66
393,997.76	TOTAL INCOME	450,508.06
	<u>Expenditure</u>	
7,188.20	Council Offices	12,055.11
34,846.33	Community Development	19,967.99
28,106.32	Environment	21,667.77
28,879.69	General Administration	31,387.76
1,380.00	Grants	700.00
8,628.02	Loan Repts	8,628.06
834.00	Mayor's Charity	11,922.71
15,733.16	Parish Hall	14,937.53
188,308.38	Personnel	206,398.65
76.51	Civic Hospitality	447.05
2,363.68	Cemetery Lodge	627.12
15,575.17	Cemetery	23,177.59
4,893.50	REFURB Council Offices	0.00
10,390.00	REFURB Cemetery Lodge	0.00
347,202.36	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	351,917.34
207,114.18	Balance as at 01/04/22	253,303.18
393,997.76	Add Total Income	450,508.06
601,111.94		703,811.24
347,202.96	Deduct Total Expenditure	351,917.34
0.00	Stock Adjustment	0.00
-605.80	Transfer to/from reserves	-154,173.00
253,303.18	Balance as at 31/03/23	197,720.90

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

Unaudited

31/03/22

31/03/23

£

£

Long Term Assets

0.00	LONG TERM Investment Accounts	0.00
0.00	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS	0.00
	Current assets	
0.00	Investments	0.00
0.00	Loans Made	0.00
0.00	Investment	0.00
10,483.28	VAT Recoverable	9,617.07
1,461.05	Debtors	1,059.00
5,683.01	Payment in Advance	6,111.91
417,983.44	Cash in Hand at Bank	506,370.65
435,610.78	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	523,158.63
435,610.78	TOTAL ASSETS	523,156.63
	Current liabilities	
0.00	Loans Received	0.00
0.00	Temporary Borrowing	0.00
0.00	VAT Payable	0.00
26,072.57	Creditors	14,716.20
201.00	Receipts in Advance	514.50
26,273.57	TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	15,230.70
409,337.21	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	507,927.93
0.00	Long Term Borrowing	0.00
0.00	Deferred Liabilities	0.00
0.00	Deferred Credits	0.00
0.00		0.00
409,337.21	NET ASSETS	507,927.93
	Represented by	
253,303.18	General Fund	197,720.90
10,481.56	Parish Hall Refurbishment	10,481.56
22,500.00	T Hill—Sedgefield Bowls Club	22,500.00
448.75	Mayor’s Charity	448.75
202.95	Sedgefield 700+	202.95
120,000.00	Butterwick Cemetery Expansion	275,000.00
1,920.00	Community Chest	320.00
480.77	Refurbishment of Festive Lighting	980.77
0.00	Cemetery Lodge Refurbishment	0.00
0.00	Sedgefield Sowers and Growers Group	273.00
0.00	LONG TERM Investment Accounts	0.00
0.00	Liability Reserves e.g, deposits	0.00
409,337.21		507,927.93

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	julia@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mrs Jane Tate	Admin Officer/ Mayor's Secretary	jane@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mrs Natalie Chowns-Traynor	Projects & Media Co-ordinator	natalie@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mr Adam Heath	Receptionist & Parish Hall Support Assistant	adam@sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk
Mr Stephen Young	Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent	Via Council Offices
Mrs Joyce Stephenson	Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner	Via Council Offices