



Annual Report 2017/18



Sedgefield Town Council

Annual Report 2017/18



Welcome to the Town Council's Annual Report 2017/18

The purpose of this report is to explain how the Town Council has operated during 2017/18, 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 8th May 2018 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 be available after 17th May 2018 and can be viewed on the Council's website or at the Council Offices.

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 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 the Council elects a Chair of the Council and a Mayor. In May 2017 Cllr Mel Carr was elected as Chair of the Council and Cllr David Brown 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 2017/18 the Council had Working Groups covering Estates, Finance, Policy & Records Management, Fireworks, Youth and Butterwick Road Cemetery.

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 2017/18 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 Ann Carr 3 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 629070 (joined 10.07.17)	Cllr Mel Carr 3 The Square, Sedgefield 01740 629070
Cllr Alda Hummelinck 37 Station Road Sedgefield 01740 238331	Cllr Chris Lines 41 White House Drive, Sedgefield 01740 623090	Cllr Leo McCormack 30 St Luke's Crescent Sedgefield via council offices (joined 17.07.17)
Cllr Julie Towler 6 Mitford Court Sedgefield 07979 376997	Cllr Alf Walton New Dawn, Low Hardwick Farm, Sedgefield 01740 620640	Cllr Fiona Warrand 14 Hawthorn Road Sedgefield 07452 939238 (joined 04.01.18)
Cllr Mavis Wayman 32 White House Drive Sedgefield 01740 620337 (joined 10.07.17)	Cllr Gloria Wills Hare Hills Lodge, Sedgefield 01740 622447	Cllr Jo Elliott (resigned 29.01.18) Cllr Tony Magee (resigned 14.08.17)

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



The past year as Chairman of Sedgefield Town Council has been enjoyable, with the Town Council having many varying issues to deal with, though working parties and up to full council approval.

The renewal of the Ceddesfeld Hall lease, which is owned by the Town Council, was concluded to ensure that Sedgefield Community Association could continue using the building while still allowing the residents to enjoy the surrounding grounds with the many graceful trees and the lawns sweeping down to the lake. The council also support, where possible, the Squash Club in its efforts to extend the premises and agreed to their request to extend the building slightly into the grounds.

Sedgefield has once again been successful in the Northumbria in Bloom competition with the Sedgefield in Bloom volunteers working together with the Town Council's gardener Stephen Young and Ben Gray. Sedgefield won Gold and Best Small Town plus seven individual properties won gold and silver this year. Well done in managing to keep the town looking magnificent even with all the extra building work taking place in and around the town.

The Parish Hall's Fletcher Room is now complete with new tables and chairs, and with the new attached kitchen the room is attracting more bookings. The main hall is the next area to update with minor works and decorations. A user forum has been formed and meets at regular intervals with points noted and implemented where possible.

Small improvements in the Council Office have included a new heating system, improving the working conditions for all users.

Anti-social behaviour has been increasing in various parts of the town with as many 150 young people accumulating in the centre on Friday and Saturday evenings coming from various areas of the county. We are working with the police and other community agencies to try and address this problem.

Work is progressing with plans to improve and extend Butterwick Road cemetery and the Environment Committee continues to progress with this.

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We are continually questioning and challenging where appropriate, footpath diversions, traffic regulations orders, licensing issues, village greens, planning matters and any other issues that could affect the character of Sedgefield.

With regard to Section 106 money (this relates to contributions that the developer must make to reduce their impact on the community) which could be over one and a half million pounds, we are continually requesting updates from Durham County Council, as they are the holders of this, as to what is happening to it in regard of expenditure.

The Sedgefield Neighbourhood Plan that was adopted by the town council on 13th February 2017 is now progressing to the Regulation 14 pre-submission consultation.

The Finance Working Group, the Town Clerk, finance staff, the Policy and Resources Committee and all the councillors have done excellent work in updating our Medium Term Financial Plan, reviewing fees and charges, implementing a new financial software package resulting in excellent internal audit results.

Foundation Level Quality Award was achieved this year by the Town Council and a presentation with the certificate took place in 2017 (image below).

Thanks go to Joanne Elliott for her support and contribution during her term on the Council, also Angela Simpson who was responsible for organising many events, claiming grants where possible and a constant supporter of Sedgefield in Bloom.

We welcome Kate Wilson who works with Joyce Stephenson helping to keep the Parish Hall clean at weekends.

The members who are new to the town council are councillors Ann Carr, Alda Hummerlinck, Leo McCormack, Julie Towler, Fiona Warrand and Mavis Wayman, all have added new and differing views on many items and I thank them as well as all the other councillors and council staff for their support during the year.



2017 / 2018 Mayor's Report

Cllr. David Brown



My year as Mayor of Sedgefield has been rewarding and enjoyable. Before I became Mayor, I was already aware of the large number of interest groups within Sedgefield mostly run by volunteers operating in Sedgefield and which contribute to the community as a whole. During the past year I have had the opportunity to find out more about some of these groups and I have joined some of their meetings which has been a great experience. I have also enjoyed meeting with other civic dignitaries, either welcoming them to Sedgefield or at other events around the North East.

It has been a huge honour to represent the community on occasions such as Remembrance Sunday, and other times in the year that are very important to the people of Sedgefield.

The Civic Service was held in St Edmund's and Michael King (lay reader) kindly arranged the service to coincide with Harvest Festival being apt for the farming community which many will know has encompassed my whole life. The children from Sedgefield Primary and Hardwick Primary school took part in the Carol Service, also in St Edmund's Church and performed as a joint choir which was a wonderful start to the Christmas season.

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One of the privileges of being Mayor has been the opportunity to raise money for good causes during the year. I chose two main charities, the Great North Air Ambulance Service and the Macular Society. Through a number of events held during the year, some individual donations and the very generous support and contribution from many friends and residents of Sedgefield and the surrounding area, I have managed to raise over £9,500 which will be shared among the two charities as well as community groups. This was only possible thanks to the many people who supported my events and I am extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed in any way. 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.

I would like to thank the staff at Sedgefield Town Council who have been very supportive throughout my time as Mayor. Also many of my fellow town councillors have attended or supported my events and civic dignitaries along with a number of Sedgefield residents and I give you my thanks.

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, my wife Elizabeth has enjoyed being Mayoress of Sedgefield, despite her difficulties with her eyesight, she has embraced this opportunity and been a great support to me.



Chair of Committee Reports:

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

Once again this Committee has made significant progress in providing a sound financial and governance structure to this Council in line with a policy of openness and transparency in its decision making processes. This is an underlying theme which this Council has always endeavoured to achieve on behalf of its residents, in the allocation of public funds.

The P&R Committee is responsible for ensuring 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 this regard.

To ensure compliance with our Audit and Accountability role, we have reviewed our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, our Delegation Scheme, our Corporate Risk Assessment and our Debt Management Policy. The Policy and Records Management Group continue to monitor all of our Policies and Procedures.

The most recent legislative changes which the Council will need to address are the General Data Protection Regulations, (GDPR) which come into force on May 25th 2018. In addition to the procedural aspects of this piece of legislation there will be a financial pressure on this Council to provide for a Data Protection Officer which cannot be the Town Clerk. This is an additional outlay has had to be factored into our budget for this coming year and beyond. Our Policy and Records Management Working Group are presently taking this forward to ensure that we are compliant with the new legislation. Alongside this the Financial Working Group has also been working through the budget pressures and have planned for a balanced budget to ensure value for money for our tax payers.

In line with our code of Openness and Transparency, no decisions are made at these working groups, only recommendations, which are taken to Full Council or P&R for additional debate and approval, i.e resolution.

During this year our focus has been to build on a sound financial 'business' model which has benefitted from a regular agreed programme of work with our Internal Auditor. This has proved extremely productive in ensuring our procedures are robust and secure. This not only benefits the Council but also provides assurance to our staff when they are handling money. This year the majority of our procedures have been tested and found to have Full Assurance by our Internal Auditor. This is a huge achievement for a small council such as ours and our staff should be very proud of the contribution they make on a daily basis giving the council added assurance that proper controls are in place.

The Finance Working group continue to report directly to the P&R Committee in the form of minutes on a monthly basis as well as any additional reports seeking approval in line with our Financial Regulations.

All Town Council members receive comprehensive minutes to ensure they are informed of all debate and discussion which takes place within the working groups, and this enables all Councillors to make an informed decision when presented with a proposal.

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.

This year we increased the precept by 5.5%. This was as a result of pressures highlighted earlier in this report and additionally, the proposed extension to the cemetery, and the impending loss of revenue from the Local Council Support Grant as well as the additional 2% public sector wage increase proposed by government.

This year we have managed to work within our budget whilst making huge investment in our assets and staffing. Some of the additional investments are highlighted in the Environment, and in the Personnel Committee Reports.

This year our priority has been the Fletcher Room, and we have recently agreed further additional spending on the Parish Hall itself including decoration and storage. Our staff member Natalie Chowns-Smith played a very large part in the management and smooth-running of this project. We have already seen increased usage of the Fletcher Room, and feel that this investment has had huge benefits already for the community.

This year we are committed to financing the extension to the Cemetery, to ensure we can provide for future needs. This will be a major piece of work. The Asset Management Plan and Medium Term Financial Plan will inform our future spending.

I would like to thank our Auditor Mr Gordon Fletcher for his work to date and to our RFO 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)

I would like to begin with the recent opening of our Sedgefield Youth Club in the Parish Hall. Our refurbishment of the Fletcher Room has enabled the Town Council to host a two tier Youth Club for different ages during term time on Monday evenings. This is a project which we have been trying to develop for some time and I am pleased to report that it has been a great success. At present we are awaiting grant funding in order to purchase further equipment which the members themselves have identified for the club.

Refurbishment of the Fletcher Room has been well accepted by users of the Parish Hall but it also enabled us to have a very successful Snow Party with Santa's grotto in there. Our partnership with Sedgefield Community Association and St Edmund's Church again led to a village wide, family event. We also held the fireworks display in Ceddesfeld grounds which went extremely well. This is an event which is important to the Town Council because as well as providing a great display, it means residents can attend and view with confidence that it is a safe, professionally run display. Work has already begun to plan both of these events again for this year.

As with other years we continue to work with a number of community groups within the village, in particular all of the schools, with tub planting and the Sedgefield Community College brass band providing carols on the green.

Environment Committee Report –

Cllr. Alf Walton (Chair)

Another exciting, enjoyable and challenging year. The village looks good once again, thanks to the continuous efforts of our gardeners Stephen and Ben assisted by the volunteers of Sedgefield in Bloom. Thanks also to the private households and commercial premises that contributed to the aesthetics of the village.

The self watering tubs have proved successful, labour saving and a more uniform watering system. The village centre flower beds suffer from the annual onslaughts of the Ball Game and Medieval Fayre and more recently hordes of youngsters descending on Sedgefield Friday and Saturday nights trampling on the beds. The latter also brings a severe litter problem.

There has been a recent problem with large trucks using the roads around The Square moving the stones and chewing up the green. This road does not accommodate large trucks when there are cars parked on the road.

The gardening staff have recently acquired a new trailer, as the old one became un-roadworthy.

We are no further forward with a solution to the unsightly commercial bins on view 24/7. The rat problem has diminished somewhat, however, I need reports of any sightings.

We had the mole/rabbit control guy out who did a good job at Winterton cemetery disposing of the little blighters, their heaps of soil making it difficult for the grass cutters. All disposed off humanely.

Every year we have requests for trimming and crown lifting of trees around the village and are about to do remedial tree work in Ceddesfield Hall gardens, all using our valuable resources.

We are a little further forward with the development of the cemetery extension, it tends to be long winded when D.C.C. are involved, we will get there eventually.

The allotments are looking better than ever, especially Butterwick. This Autumn we hope to renew the Winterton boundary fence after the farmer harvests his crops to gain access and clear the rubbish accumulated on the boundary.

My wife and I (sounds familiar) will be sponsoring the allotment challenge with the challenge trophy awarded to both allotment sites, one each and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place cash prizes for best plots on both sites, with an independent judge making the decisions. There will be the usual presentation with a pie and pea supper in October at the Golden Lion Inn, Sedgefield.

Sounds like a bit of doom and gloom, but we will get there!

I would like to thank and acknowledge the support of our council staff and council colleagues.

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 .

Our new gardener has settled in extremely well and this year we have appointed to the position of role of Projects and Media Co-ordinator.

Unfortunately some progress has been held back whilst dealing with staff changes and other HR issues which have taken up a lot of time for our Town Clerk and this committee. A proposal was made to Council to purchase a suite of HR Policies to ensure we are compliant with the latest HR Legislation. This has now been done and will be incorporated into the Staff Handbook.

We also need to acknowledge the total commitment from all 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 members of staff are missing from the team.

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 new Staff Handbook is now being developed by the Town Clerk for adoption 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 for their support throughout the year.

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 over £400 in grants to the following groups:- Sedgefield Sowers & Growers, Sedgefield Players, 1st Sedgefield Guides and Sedgefield Memory Café.

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 at the Council Office, Sedgefield, TS21 3AT to discuss the criteria before you apply

Sedgefield Extra Committee Report -

Cllr Chris Lines (Chair)

The Sedgefield Extra is a well-established newsletter that we publish four times a year and distribute as an insert with Sedgefield News. The town council is grateful to the volunteers from Sedgefield Development Trust who deliver the Extra on our behalf.

Each issue of the Extra includes some standard content, providing important information to residents about the town council, and reporting on, or previewing, events, initiatives and council news. Alongside that, we publish a variety of articles that are designed to provide a more detailed insight into some areas of our work that aren't always visible to the public. We have continued to take that approach during 2017/18, and have also used the Extra to highlight other communications platforms that we use, such as the redeveloped website

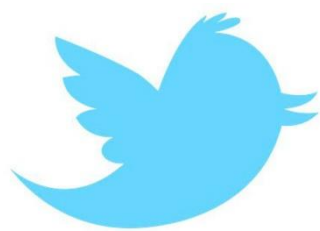
(www.sedgefieldtowncouncil.gov.uk)

and our newly created Twitter account (@SedgefieldTC).

The combination of these channels, plus the residents' database, means that we are now able to share news and information with residents in a variety of ways throughout the year.



As well as being distributed to homes, copies of the Extra are available in the town council offices and are also published on our website. We will continue to enhance the content and style of the Extra, as much as time and resources allow, and are always happy to receive feedback about the publication.



@sedgefieldtc

Sedgefield Town Council is now active on twitter. Twitter has been utilised over the last year to promote Sedgefield Town Council events, council meeting dates, youth club promotion and information useful to residents such as retweeting Durham County Council notices and information from local services such as the police and fire department.

Parish Hall Refurbishment Project -

Natalie Chowns-Smith (Projects & Media Co-ordinator)

The Fletcher Room refurbishment project, started in 2016, was successfully completed in June 2017. This project was the result of many suggestions by Parish Hall users in the 2015 Parish Hall User Questionnaire. The refurbishment gave the Fletcher Room a new purpose, transforming the once cold, dark and bare-bricked room into a modern, colourful multi-use facility with new windows, insulation, flooring, décor, furniture and an all-new exclusive kitchen. The fully-stocked kitchen provides users with an all-inclusive space to hold meetings, parties, workshops, networking events, luncheon clubs and coffee mornings. Essential work to the Parish Hall's drainage and heating systems were carried out at the same time, with the finishing touches being new flooring and decoration in the foyer. Use of the 'new' Fletcher Room has increased significantly since the work completed, with highly positive reviews. Thank you to all Parish Hall users for your patience whilst the work was ongoing and to all involved in the planning and completion of the project.

On the back of the refurbishment, a Parish Hall User Forum has been formed, chaired by Parish Hall Champion Cllr Allan Blakemore. The User Forum meets quarterly with an aim to allow an open dialogue between Parish Hall users and the town council on any Parish Hall matters.



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

2017/18 has been yet 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 overseeing the refurbishment of the Fletcher Room and foyer areas in the Parish Hall, finalising a new lease between the Town Council and the SCA to secure the long-term future of Ceddesfeld Hall, implementing a new financial software package, preparing for the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery as well as preparing for new external audit arrangements and data protection requirements. Following local council elections in May 2017, time has also been spent assisting new Councillors in settling into their roles and becoming familiar with the workings of the Town Council. The Town Council has continued throughout 2017/18 to respond to a wide range of planning applications proposed for the Town and actively liaised with Durham County Council on a host of issues including licensing matters, The Sedgefield Plan, potential land purchase and more.

We have continued to welcome over 4,000 visitors through our doors and answer over 2,000 phone calls made just to our Council's reception line alone. We again continue to take pride in being able to help people with their concerns and enquiries which are very varied. In nearly 300 instances these enquiries related to matters handled by Durham County Council and we progressed these on behalf of those individuals. Running alongside working with and helping residents and visitors to the Town are a raft of legal and governance requirements to which we must also comply. My thanks go to Julia Rowsby, Jane Young and Natalie Chowns-Smith for their sterling work in supporting the Town Council to achieve this. As a reflection of the huge amount of work undertaken behind the scenes to ensure robust governance arrangements, the Town Council was delighted to be awarded the Foundation Level of the National Quality Award for Councils in June 2017 and will now continue to strive for a higher award in the future.

During 2017/18 the Town looked stunning and this was reflected in the numerous awards received in the Northumbria In Bloom competition and the verbal comments made by residents and visitors. Considerable work was also undertaken at Butterwick Road Cemetery to ensure we provided a well-kept tranquil area for those visiting. My thanks go to Stephen Young and Ben Gray for their continuing dedication and hard work. I would also like to express thanks to members of the Sedgefield In Bloom Group.

In 2017/18 the Council delivered yet another busy programme of community events. Our coach trips were very popular and if you have any suggestions for future places to visit please let us know. A spectacular Fireworks Display was held in November 2017 in the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall which was once again very well attended and enjoyed. Running alongside this was our Halloween Howler competition which was well supported with some amazing entries. Our Snow Party was also very well attended and included an amazing new Winter Wonderland themed grotto. Our central village green area shone even more brightly in the run up to Christmas 2017 thanks to new lighting being installed on trees in this area. The Mayor of Sedgefield provided a diverse array of events with the Town Council directly supporting his Civic Service, Quiz, Carol Service and Charity Ball. I would like to thank all staff and Councillors for their involvement and enthusiasm in these events.

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Over the last 12 months the Parish Hall has continued to be a very popular venue in the Town with an ever increasing and diverse array of users hiring the building. I would like to extend my thanks to those Parish Hall users who have joined the Parish Hall User Forum and actively participate in it. During Summer 2017 the Fletcher Room and foyer areas of the Parish Hall underwent a radical transformation and I would like to thank Natalie Chowns-Smith and the Council's Estates Working Group for overseeing this project. I would like to thank those users who were inconvenienced when the works were taking place but I am sure you will all agree that the end result was worth it! The Council has further plans for the Parish Hall in 2018/19 and we will report these to you through The Sedgefield Extra. During the year we have welcomed Kate Wilson who has joined as our weekend Parish Hall Cleaner. I would like to thank Joyce Stephenson, our Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner, Kate and Security Officers Les Parrish and Chris Dunn for ensuring that the Hall is always ready and welcoming for users.

During 2017/18 the Town Council has continued to keep in touch with Sedgefield Harriers and Sedgefield Bowling Club to monitor the progress they are both making towards their respective sporting projects for which both have been allocated Terrace Hill money. The Council has been pleased to hear that both groups are making good progress and it is hoped that they will be in a position soon to claim their respective allocations.

The Town Council has now entered into a Service Level Agreement with local youth workers and through this, Sedgefield Youth Club has been established. A constitution and management committee has been established with work now actively underway to seek grant funding so as to purchase dedicated equipment for this Youth Club in order to attract more members. We will keep you updated about this through The Sedgefield Extra, our website and Twitter.

Looking towards 2018/19 the most notable projects for the Town Council will be the progression of The Sedgefield Plan, the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery plus further refurbishment at the Parish Hall and the Town Council Offices.

At the close of 2017 we said farewell to Mrs Angela Simpson, the Council's Community Development Officer. Angela had been with the Town Council for many years and during that time she had worked closely with an array of community groups in the Town and been involved in numerous successful grant funding applications bringing in money which was then used in a variety of ways to enhance the local area. We wish Angela well for the future.

So all in all another very busy year in Sedgefield with even more work ahead of us. I would like to thank all Town Councillors for their active participation over the last 12 months. I would also like to say a very big thank you to all Town Council staff who work tirelessly for this Town.

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The P&R Committee met in January 2018 to consider the precept request for 2018/19. Through continued financial vigilance Sedgefield Town Council was able to keep its increase in precept to 5.53% on the 2017/18 Band D rating.

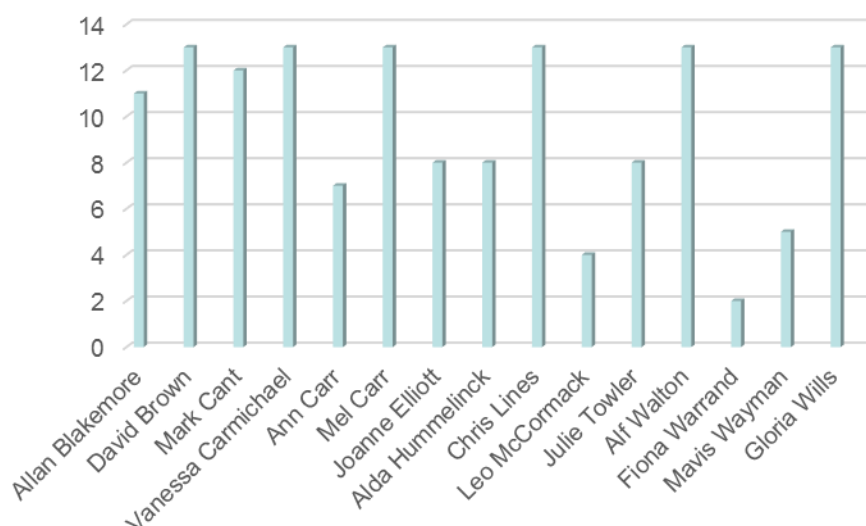
Copies of the Town Council's Accounts for 2017/18 are produced separately and are available to the public via the Town Council Offices and the website.

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 David Brown, Vanessa Carmichael, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, Joanne Elliott, Julie Towler, Alf Walton, Fiona Warrand, Mavis Wayman, Gloria Wills

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 2017/18. These figures do not include attendance at Special meetings, Committee meetings, Working Group meetings or other meetings.



Notes: Tony Magee resigned on 14.08.17 before attending any meetings. Joanne Elliott resigned on 29.01.18. Cllrs Ann Carr, Leo McCormack and Mavis Wayman were co-opted as Town Councillors in July 2017, Cllr Fiona Warrand was co-opted as a Town Councillor in January 2018.

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
Mr Stephen Young	Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent	Via Council Offices
Mr Ben Gray	Gardener	Via Council Offices
Mrs Joyce Stephenson	Parish Hall Caretaker & Cleaner	Via Council Offices
Ms Kate Wilson	Parish Hall Weekend Cleaner	Via Council Offices
Mr Les Parrish	Parish Hall Security Officer	Via Council Offices
Mr Chris Dunn	Parish Hall Security Officer	Via Council Offices