

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the proceedings of the
MARCH MONTHLY MEETING
of the **Council** held at **7pm** on
Monday 9th March 2026
in
Sedgefield Parish Hall

MINUTES

Present	Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Chairman) and Cllrs. Ciaran Butterworth, Helen Cunningham, Kelly Dickerson, John Finlayson, Jenny Haworth, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper, Myles Mantripp, Tony Stubbs and Julie Towler
Officers	Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

The meeting commenced with a minute's silence to mark the passing of Town Councillor, and former Mayor of Sedgefield, Ann Carr.

1. **Apologies:**
Cllrs Mark Cant, Mel Carr and Mavis Wayman.
2. **Declaration of interest:**
None.
3. **STC Minutes / Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Minutes of Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group held Tuesday 3 February 2026:**
These were confirmed as a correct record. (AB / KD)
 - b. **Minutes of the Monthly meeting held Monday 9th February 2026:**
These were confirmed as a correct record. (DJ / HC)
 - c. **Minutes of the P&R committee held Monday 9th February 2026:**
These were confirmed as a correct record. (DJ / AB)
 - d. **Minutes of the Environment committee held Monday 9th February 2026:**
These were confirmed as a correct record. (JF / AB)
 - e. **Minutes of Community Development & Engagement committee held Monday 9th February 2026:**
These were confirmed as a correct record. (DJ / KD)

f. Notes of Policy & Records Management Working Group held Thursday 12th February 2026:

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

g. Minutes of Personnel Committee held Monday 23rd February 2026:

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

h. Minutes of the Finance Working Group meeting held Thursday 26th February 2026:

These were confirmed as a correct record. (DJ / PH)

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

4. Matters of Information:

4.1 The Sedgefield Plan:

To not review The Sedgefield Plan at this time but to do so when there are any significant changes to the NPPF, and/or the County Durham Plan, which would impact upon Sedgefield or to consider this matter again at some point in 2025/26 if there have not been any changes at national or principal authority level, i.e. to ensure a watching brief is kept over the Town's neighbourhood plan. The Clerk has contacted Mr Stuart Carter of DCC to make him aware of this matter. Mr Carter has confirmed receipt and will be issuing a note to existing neighbourhood plan groups to advise on the review of the County Durham Plan and implications upon neighbourhood plans. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter. To review in 2026/27 depending upon national and County level timeframes.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

4.2 Planning application DM25/01625/FPA Land to East of Beacon Avenue:

No further information has been received regarding this planning application. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

4.3 Current Planning Applications:

Comments on planning application 1-4 had been submitted to DCC Planners.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated details of all meetings in March 2026 plus civic and town council events until June 2026. The Clerk highlighted that the date/time of the Personnel Committee meeting has been rescheduled to 4.15pm on Monday 16th March 2026.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

6. Public Participation:

The Chairman, Cllr Allan Blakemore, closed the meeting to allow the public to give their views and comments.

County Cllr Chris Lines reported that the work of Active Travel Group is continuing and gave an update on the latest situation regarding several of its projects. The 30mph signs on Stockton Road have been moved back beyond the new estate and national speed limit signs reinstated. The zebra crossing in the town has been repainted. A further flashing speed sign is due to be installed on the entrance into the town from Racecourse Road but the County Council has changed its supplier hence the delay in installation. Finally, with regards to the 20mph advisory zones around schools, there has been some delay in their installation due to connectivity works being required on nearby street lights but this will be going ahead. County Cllr concluded that all projects are going to be completed, funding has been approved and granted for all works.

No other members of the public wished to make any comments.

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

7. Internal Reports:

7.1 Chairman's Report:

No report had been submitted.

7.2 Mayor's Report:

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

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

8. External Reports:

8.1 Report From Durham County Councillor Chris Lines, Sedgefield Division:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report from Durham County Councillor Chris Lines.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

8.2 Report from Durham County Councillor Ian Catchpole, Sedgefield Division:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report from Durham County Councillor Ian Catchpole.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. Correspondence:

9.1 Banks Homes Planning Submission (email and attachment from Ms Kate Culverhouse, Banks Group dated 20th February 2026):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all information provided by Ms Kate Culverhouse of Banks Group in which she reported a planning application had been formally submitted to DCC. The Clerk confirmed that at this stage the Town Council has not officially been notified by DCC of this planning application, i.e. it has now appeared on DCC's weekly list of applications. It was agreed that once the Town Council does receive official notification from DCC then a public statement will be issued and promoted to residents. Banks Group are scheduled to hold a drop-in event for residents on 16th April 2026 in Sedgefield Parish Hall. It was also agreed the Town Council would hold a Public Meeting ahead of its April 2026 Committee meetings in order to determine public opinion. Cllr John Finlayson expressed concern at the high number of very large houses being proposed at this new development which is skewed in favour of expensive housing. Cllr Finlayson proposed the Town Council seeks the support of the specialist planning advisor it used when objecting to the recent large-scale development proposed at land near Beacon Lane. Cllr Tony Stubbs said that not all but many of the objections for that planning application were also applicable to the Banks Group plan. It was agreed this application, when formally announced to the Town Council by DCC, will need to be considered carefully and Cllr Allan Blakemore said that scrutiny was also required in relation to any accompanying Section 106 monies.

RESOLVED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to inform Cllrs when this application is formally announced on

DCC's weekly list and then issue a public statement and organize a Public Meeting.

- iii) **The Clerk to inform Ms Jo-Anne Garrick of this matter and determine if she is able to support with any objections letter.**

9.2 Consultation on the Discounted Marked Sale Supplementary Planning Document (email from Strategy and Delivery Team, DCC dated 27th February 2026)

[Circulated electronically to all Cllrs on 27th February 2026]:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated this item of correspondence to all Cllrs electronically so they were able to access the full information via the hyperlinks provided by DCC. No Cllrs had any comments on this consultation.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

10. Current Planning Applications:

A schedule of the current planning application had been circulated prior to the meeting. This application was then considered, and the following comments were made (Note: number refers to the number on the circulated list):

10.1 DM/26/00281/FPA – erection of covered store, locating a back-up diesel generator and enclosure fencing, Centre for Process Innovation, John Walker Road, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

RESOLVED:

The comments on the above planning application to be submitted to DCC Planners.

The Clerk reported that DCC's latest list of planning applications had been published but there were no applications from within the Sedgefield Electoral Ward.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.19pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



Minutes of the proceedings of the
MARCH P&R MEETING of the **Council**
held following the Monthly meeting on
Monday 9th March 2026

in

Sedgefield Parish Hall

MINUTES

Present

Cllr. Jenny Haworth (Chairman) and

Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Ciaran Butterworth, Helen Cunningham, Kelly Dickerson, John Finlayson, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper, Myles Mantripp, Tony Stubbs and Julie Towler

Officers

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. **Apologies:**

Cllrs. Mel Carr, Mark Cant and Mavis Wayman.

2. **Declaration of interest:**

Cllr Helen Cunningham declared an interest in agenda item 5.1. as she is an allotment holder. No other Cllrs made any declaration of interest.

3. **Matters of Information:**

3.1 **Terrace Hill Discussion:**

The Clerk and Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent met on-site in Ceddesfeld Grounds with Mr Martin Lowe of Historic England on 2nd June 2023. A follow-up meeting has now taken place with DCC's Conservation Officer and Tree Officer(s) who recommend the Clerk now liaises with DCC's Head of Ecology in order that appropriate specifications and costings can be sought so a further Discussion Meeting can be scheduled with Town Cllrs. Until priority work relating to the expansion of Butterwick Road Cemetery has been completed this issue has been put on hold. Note: An update on the ponds in and near to Ceddesfeld Hall grounds is to be considered on the Environment Committee's agenda.

The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.2 Trees in Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds:

The contractor has been informed of their awarded work and a date is now awaited for the scheduling of this work. The Clerk has spoken to the contractor and active work is now underway to schedule these works. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.3 Tree Works At Entrance To Butterwick Road Cemetery:

The Clerk has informed the successful contractor and requested that work is scheduled as soon as possible. The Clerk has spoken to the contractor and active work is now underway to schedule these works. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.4 Phase 2: Cemetery Expansion:

Work is underway to now obtain costings for the area to be paved within Butterwick Road allotments site. Works to make good the original cemetery entrance will be undertaken in Spring 2026 when the double gates revert back to being used only for pre-agreed large deliveries. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on these matters.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.5 Annual Fireworks Display:

The recommendations from the meeting are now being worked through and an update report will be brought to the April 2026 P&R Committee meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.6 Community Events Working Group:

Cllrs Allan Blakemore, Helen Cunningham, Kelly Dickerson, John Finlayson, Peter

Hinde, Myles Mantripp and Julie Towler have said they would like to be involved in the new Working Group. The Clerk to schedule a meeting once current Town Council recruitment processes have concluded.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.7 Headstone Safety Testing 2025/26:

A further update report is to be brought back to the April 2026 P&R Committee meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.8 Community Chest:

Plans are now in place to promote the Community Chest from 1st April 2026:

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.9 2025/26 Year End Accounts:

No information has yet been received from external auditor Forvis Mazars. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.10 Easter Picnic at Ceddesfeld Hall:

The Clerk has informed Ms Sarah Guest of the Town Council's permission for the SCA to use the lawns at Ceddesfeld Hall for their Easter Picnic.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.11 Village Greens:

All village green matters are now resolved. Cllrs to monitor areas of village green and inform the Clerk of any concerns.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.12 Town Council Land Between Butterwick Road Allotments and Butterwick Road:

The scrub land has now been cleared. The views of the Town Council's tree works contractor are being sought in relation to the recent arboricultural report with request quotations are provided. The Clerk is liaising with the Town Council's grass cutting contractor to add this area of land into the 2026/27 and 2027/28 contract. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.13 Grass Cutting Tender 2026/27 and 2027/28:

The Clerk has informed the appointed contractor of their successful grass cutting tender.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation:

The Chair, Cllr Jenny Haworth, closed the meeting for the public to give views and comments.

County Cllr Chris Lines reported that the Banks Group planning application, referenced in the earlier meeting, was now live on DCC's planning portal and he would share the reference details with the Clerk for dissemination to Cllrs.

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

5. Reports:

5.1 Butterwick Road Cemetery Expansion Update Report by Butterwick Road Cemetery Working Group:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Butterwick Road Cemetery Expansion Update Report which confirmed this capital project's current position. The Clerk confirmed that good progress is being made in relation to the production of a digital burial map for the new expansion area, which once completed will be embedded into the Town Council's Epitaph software. The next Butterwick Road Cemetery meeting is scheduled for 10th March 2026. The Working Group to continue to keep Cllrs updated.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

5.2 Review of Butterwick and Winterton Allotments – Rules and Regulations Recommendation Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator and Acting Head Gardener & Cemetery Superintendent:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Review of Butterwick and Winterton Allotments – Rules and Regulations Recommendation Report. Cllrs approved all the proposed amendments to the Rules and Regulations.

RESOLVED:

To adopt the revised Butterwick and Winterton Allotments – Rules and Regulations with immediate effect.

5.3 Assertion 10 Update Report by Town Clerk and Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Assertion 10 Update Report which detailed the extensive work and progress that was being made by the Town Council in relation to this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

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

6. Financial Matters:

6.1 Invoices for payment by cheques for approval after 9th February 2026:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all details of cheques for approval after 9th February 2026 numbered 111360 to 111374. The Clerk circulated to all an updated list which also included cheques numbered 111375 to 111383. Cllrs confirmed their support for the authorization of all cheques.

RESOLVED:

i) All cheques and invoices were approved for payment.

ii) Cllrs Allan Blakemore and Dave Jasper plus the Town Clerk to duly sign the cheques numbered 111360 to 111383.

6.2 Financial Budget Comparison (as at 25th February 2026):

RESOLVED:

To receive the Financial Budget Comparison as at 25th February 2026.

6.3 Debtors List as at 25th February 2026:

RESOLVED:

To receive the Debtors List as at 25th February 2026.

6.4 Direct Debits and Debit Card List for 1st – 28th February 2026:

The Clerk circulated to all the Direct Debits and Debit Card List for 1st – 28th February 2026.

RESOLVED:

To receive the Direct Debits and Debit Card List for 1st – 28th February 2026.

6.5 February 2026 Bank Reconciliations Plus February 2026 Imprest Account and January 2026 Public Sector Deposit Fund Reconciliation Report by Town Clerk:

The Clerk circulated to all the bank reconciliations for February 2026 relating to accounts held at Barclays and Imprest plus bank reconciliations for January 2026 relating to the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.6 Butterwick Road Cemetery Expansion Funding Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Butterwick Road Cemetery Expansion Funding Update Report which detailed the latest financial position in relation to this capital project.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.7 Internal Audit 2025/26 – Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Internal Audit 2025/26 Update Report. The Clerk circulated copies of the Internal Audit Findings Reports relating to Risk Management Arrangements, Main Accounting, Audit of Events for 2025, Budget Setting and Budgetary Control, Accounts Receivable, Corporate Governance Arrangements plus Income Collection and Banking. Cllrs were delighted to note that Full Assurance had been achieved in each audit, a rating that requires considerable work, diligence and scrutiny to obtain. Cllrs Jenny Haworth and Kelly Dickerson extended their thanks to all Town Council staff for their work. The Clerk reported that findings reports are awaited in relation to an audit of the cemetery expansion process and the governance and finance of Sedgefield Youth

Club. The former of those reports is expected soon and the latter will be considered further by the Internal Auditor after feedback from Cllr Dickerson and the Clerk from their forthcoming meeting with a representative from the Spennymoor Youth & Community Association.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

6.8 2025/26 Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control Report by Finance Working Group:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a 2025/26 Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control Report. Cllrs accepted this report.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

7. Correspondence:

7.1. Budget Proposals For 2026/27 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2026/27 – 2029/30 (Phase 2 Consultation) Entered A New Phase (email and hyperlinks from DCC dated 3rd March 2026) [information shared electronically with Cllrs on 4th March 2026]:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated electronically to all the latest information regarding DCC's Phase 2 consultations regarding its budget proposals and Medium Term Financial Plan.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

At this point in the agenda the Committee were to consider reports that were exempt from the public so it was **RESOLVED to close the meeting to allow the members of the public present to observe/participate as they wished in the Environment Committee and Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting before then re-opening the P&R Committee meeting to consider Reports Exempt From The Public.** The meeting closed at 7.36pm.

The Chairman, Cllr Jenny Haworth, re-opened the meeting at 7.58pm. The Chair explained that due to the confidential nature of the following items these would be discussed under Exempt Information and requested the members of the public in attendance leave the meeting at this point (Section 1 Sub-Section (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960).

8. Consideration of Reports Exempt from Public:

8.1 Personnel Update Report by Personnel Committee:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Personnel Update Report by the Personnel Committee which was duly considered.

8.2 Sedgefield Youth Club Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated a Sedgefield Youth Club Update Report which was duly considered and way forward agreed.

8.3 SLA with DCC for HR Advice Recommendation Report by Personnel Committee:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an SLA with DCC for HR Advice Recommendation Report by the Personnel Committee which was duly considered and way forward agreed.

8.4 Sedgefield PACT Meeting Venue Recommendation Report by Cllr John Finlayson (Parish Hall Champion) and Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk and Cllr John Finlayson (Parish Hall Champion) had circulated a Sedgefield PACT Meeting Venue Recommendation Report which was duly considered and way forward agreed.

8.5 Town Council Insurance Recommendation Report by Finance Working Group:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Insurance Recommendation Report which was duly considered and recommendation accepted.

8.6 Celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday – Community Event Idea Report by Cllr Myles Mantripp:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Community Event Idea Report by Cllr Myles Mantripp which was duly considered and way forward agreed.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL



ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of **MARCH**
ENVIRONMENT of the **Council** held following the **P&R**
in the **Parish Hall**, Sedgefield, on
Monday 9th March 2026

MINUTES

Present **Cllr. John Finlayson (Chairman) and**
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, Ciaran Butterworth, Helen Cunningham, Kelly Dickerson,
Jenny Haworth, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper, Myles Mantripp, Tony Stubbs and
Julie Towler

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Mark Cant, Mel Carr and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. Matters of Information:

3.1 Heritage Boards:

Funding is not available for this project via DCC. This matter to be reconsidered when the Town Council's 2026/27 budget setting process commences although there may be a possibility that funding could be sourced as part of the Active Travel Group's work to rebrand and republish all walking information within the Sedgefield Electoral Ward. The Finance Working Group to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information.

3.2 Ponds In and Near Ceddesfeld Hall Grounds:

Discussions are now underway to schedule a meeting in mid-May 2026 to progress the proposals received from DCC's Senior Ecologist. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information.

3.3 Tree Number 67 – London Plane/footpath:

Members of the Estates Working Group have been asked to consider this matter and discuss at their next meeting. The Estates Working Group to bring a recommendation report (including potential costings) to a future P&R Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation:

The Chairman, Cllr John Finlayson, closed the meeting for the public to give their views.

Ms X asked for an explanation on the situation regarding the ponds in and near Ceddesfeld Hall grounds/Wykes Close. The Clerk provided the background to this matter and the work done to date in order to develop a programme of joint working with DCC in order to then try to obtain funding for refurbishment/enhancement works. Ms X thanked the Town Council for this information. The Clerk confirmed that once a definitive project has been determined then information will be shared with the public.

Speaking as a private resident Mr Chris Lines said that he was delighted to report the Sedgefield Ploggers had recently won a County Durham Environment Award. The Ploggers would be joining together soon with the Fishburn Wombles to undertake a plug at Hardwick Grange, a good meeting point between the two settlements, where they would be focussing upon grass verges. Mr Lines confirmed the Sedgefield Ploggers do try to tidy up the areas around the ponds in Ceddesfeld Hall grounds and Eden Drive areas without actually entering the water. As County Cllr Chris Lines, he reported that the path running from Homebryth to North End has been cut back by the Community Payback volunteers. Whilst this work will not stop vegetation growing back in the future, the work has included the cutting back of several self-seeded trees which will make a big difference to the area. The Community Payback team are keen to undertake any other projects identified in the Town and County Cllr Lines will continue to liaise with them. There will also be some publicity work undertaken to highlight this work.

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

5. Reports:

None.

6. Correspondence:

6.1. Durham County Council – Open Space Needs Assessment Consultation (email from Ms Emily Preston, DCC dated 13th February 2026):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Emily Preston of DCC in which she was seeking responses from Town Councils and had extended her deadline for comments until 13th March 2026. This consultation had been considered at a previous Town Council meeting and it had been agreed that Cllrs would submit their own responses as private individuals. Cllr Jenny Haworth proposed a corporate response was now submitted to reflect the latest request from Ms Preston. Cllrs agreed and Cllr Kelly Dickerson volunteered to take collated responses and convert those into a corporate response.

RECOMMENDED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) The Clerk to liaise with Ms Emily Preston to request a deadline extension of 23rd March 2026 for submission of comments.

i) All Cllrs to forward their comments on this consultation to the Clerk by no alter than 15th March 2026.

ii) The Clerk to forward all comments to Cllr Kelly Dickerson.

iii) Cllr Kelly Dickerson to prepare a corporate response on behalf of the Town Council based upon comments made by Cllrs.

6.2. Sedgefield in Bloom (minutes of meeting held on 28th January 2026):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all the minutes of the Sedgefield In Bloom meeting held on 28th January 2026.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT



Minutes of the proceedings of the **MARCH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT
COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held following the
Environment Committee in the **Parish Hall**, Sedgefield, on
Monday 9th March 2026

MINUTES

Present **Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Chairman) and**
Cllrs. Ciaran Butterworth, Helen Cunningham, Kelly Dickerson, John Finlayson,
Jenny Haworth, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper, Myles Mantripp, Tony Stubbs and
Julie Towler.

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Mark Cant, Mel Carr and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. Matters of Information:

None.

4. Public Participation:

The Chairman, Cllr Allan Blakemore, closed the meeting for the public to give their views.

County Cllr Lines reported the recent 2026 National Cross Country Championships held in Sedgefield had been a huge success not only for the sport and putting the Town on the sporting map, but also for the very positive economic impact on local area. Venues an increase in their trade, and local businesses were used to provide catering for volunteers. It was the first time in 25 years that this event was held in County Durham and the first time in 13 years that the event has been in North East England. There was extremely positive media, national and local, for the event. It is hoped that Sedgefield could have future opportunities to host such an event again. County Cllr Lines thanked the Town Council for helping to promote this event and to Cllr Allan Blakemore for representing the Town Council

on the day. It was encouraging to see so many Sedgefield residents turning out to spectate and get involved. Cllr Allan Blakemore expressed his thanks to Sedgefield Harriers for all their work with this event.

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

5. Reports:

5.1 Town Council Keswick Coach Trip Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Town Council Keswick Coach Trip Report which detailed the forthcoming trip on Thursday 18th June 2026 for which tickets will go on sale from Wednesday 1st April 2026. Cllr Dave Jasper volunteered to be the Town Council's representative on this trip.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

6. Correspondence:

6.1. Letter from Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group (dated 18th February 2026):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a letter from the Sedgefield District Uniformed Services Group dated 18th February 2026. It was noted that at this stage the only date where commemorations were planned related to Remembrance Sunday on 8th November 2026.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.56pm.