



SEDFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY**
MONTHLY MEETING of the **Council** held at **7pm** on
Monday 8th JULY 2024
in
Sedgefield Parish Hall

Present **Cllr. Mel Carr (Chairman)**
Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Vice Chairman) and
Cllrs. David Brown, Mark Cant, Ann Carr, John Finlayson, Elizabeth
Flanagan, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper and Julie Towler

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Kelly Dickerson, Jenny Haworth and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. STC Minutes / Committee Reports:

a. Minutes of the Monthly meeting held Monday 10th June 2024:

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

b. Minutes of the P&R Committee held Monday 10th June 2024:

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

c. Minutes of the Environment Committee held Monday 10th June 2024:

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

d. Minutes of the Community Development Committee held Monday 10th June 2024:

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

e. Minutes of the Personnel Committee held Monday 17th June 2024:

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

RESOLVED:

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

4. Matters of Information:

4.1 Public Participation:

The Clerk had written to Mr Bill Smith with regards to the concerns he raised. A copy was shared with all Town Cllrs for information.

Ms Kilner's correspondence is to be considered as part of the July 2024 P&R Committee's meeting agenda.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4.2 Draft Annual Town Meeting Minutes:

The draft minutes from the Annual Town Meeting held in May 2024 have now been uploaded to the Town Council's website. These will be presented for approval at the May 2025 Annual Town Meeting.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4.3 Councillor Resignation:

Notices announcing the current Cllr vacancy were published on 11th June 2024 and have been promoted through the Town using the Town Council's communications networks plus Round-up. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter following the closing date on Friday 23rd August 2024.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

4.4 Current Planning Applications:

The Clerk submitted to DCC Planners comments agreed in relation to planning applications 1-2.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4.5 Additional Planning Applications:

No objections or comments were submitted by Cllrs to the Clerk regarding planning

applications DM/24/01444/FPA and DM/24/01471/FPA.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

5. Dates of Meetings:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all details of all meetings in July 2024 plus events until December 2024.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

6. Public Participation:

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

Mrs Julia Bowles said that all residents echoed the comments made by Mr Smith at the last Monthly Meeting. She recognized the issues raised were Durham County Council issues but said she expected the Town Council to fight on issues and keep residents updated. Mrs Bowles said there was a notice in both the doctors surgery and the chemist asking people to be aware of the raised tarmac between both locations and felt that this was inexcusable. Mrs Bowles highlighted the array of bins now outside Little Sicily and asked if the gates can be reinstated to hide those. Cllr Mel Carr noted this matter has already been raised with DCC's Conservation Officer who is investigating that matter. Mrs Bowles said that no other Town in County Durham looked as bad as Sedgfield and that it was also the only area in County Durham without any activities for children. Mrs Bowles congratulated the Town Council on the speed of getting the Town's water pump repaired following recent vandalism and asked if any culprit(s) have been identified. The Clerk confirmed this matter had been immediately reported to the Police but the Town Council were unaware of anyone being found responsible for this vandalism.

Ms Lisa Kilner said that she had written to the Town Council and understood her correspondence was to be discussed this evening. Ms Kilner said she would like to propose the creation of a true community sports field which could be accessed by all on an as and when basis rather than being tied to a club and scheduled sessions. She hoped that in the long-term there could be some astro-fields and tennis courts. She understood these facilities already existed at the Town's Community College but was aware these could not be

accessed by the public. Ms Kilner said her's was a long-term vision but hoped something could be achieved in the interim for a football facility. Cllr Mel Carr confirmed that Ms Kilner's correspondence was to be considered on the P&R Committee's agenda later that evening.

Mr Bill Smith asked if Cllrs ever walked along High Street/Rectory Row? He said the area was a disgrace with rubbish on the pavement and kerbside. Mr Smith said he would blow the rubbish off the pavements into the roadside. Mr Smith reported dog muck in the churchyard and said he would fund a camera to catch culprits. At the rear of the chemists, amongst the shrubs, are self-planted trees which need to be removed as they are causing problems with the nearby tarmac. Mr Smith said he could cut these back and poison. Mr Smith also said the area from Elm Avenue to Chestnut Road was disgraceful and inaccessible due to brambles, shrubs and nettles. He noted there were three CCTV cameras in the Town and asked if any worked? Mr Smith requested the Town Council pay £500 for a new flag for St Edmund's Church and that he was willing to make a personal contribution of £50. Mr Smith expressed concerns regarding speeding in the Town and asked if any Cllrs sped? Cllr Mel Carr noted Mr Smith's comments and replied that the Clerk had issued Mr Smith with a comprehensive response following his attendance at the previous month's meetings where he had raised the same concerns.

Mr Carney expressed his concerns about Winterton Playing fields, an area which was retained for recreational use when the hospital closed and has been extremely well used for amongst other things cricket, football and dog walking. Mr Carney said that he complains on an annual basis to DCC regarding the state of this area. Mr Carney has been particularly concerned about the lack of maintenance at this site this year and when he spoke to DCC he was informed that a DCC Manager had met with a Cllr and it had been agreed without any consultation with residents that this area would be turned into a meadowfield for biodiversity. Mr Carney said there were insufficient amenities for children and adults in the Town without loosing the facility at Winterton Playing fields, indeed it was the only space that is available at Winterton and it provides an area for community spirit. As DCC had conceded there had not been any consultation they had relented but had said this area was not a playing field and had disputed it was a designated open space. Mr Carney expressed his concern that DCC could do whatever they wanted without any accountability and he requested the Town Council support by challenging this attitude. Mr Carney pointed out that DCC have lots of other areas of land around County Durham that could be turned into meadowfields rather than taking this area which is used by the community.

County Cllr Chris Lines informed all that he had reported the overgrown vegetation in the car

park between the Parish Hall and the library which had now been cut back. He had also reported concerns regarding the overgrown state of the verges around community hospital roundabout which had also now been cut back to allow for a better line of sight from the bus stop. County Cllr Lines said that when matters are reported to either himself or fellow County Cllr David Brown this does mean DCC can take action. With regards to comments by Mr Carney, County Cllr Lines said that it had been he who was the Cllr referred to by DCC. At that meeting, a DCC Officer had outlined what they wanted to do with the area at Winterton but County Cllr Lines had explicitly stated that residents had to be consulted. As soon as County Cllr Lines had become aware of the state of the land at Winterton he had chased this matter with DCC. The DCC Officer in question had apologized that consultation with residents had not taken place and the grass cutting regime has been reinstated and will revert to what it previously was. County Cllr Lines said that nothing would happen differently at this area without consultation with residents in advance. County Cllr Lines said that he was happy to discuss this matter directly with Mr Carney as he understood that he also had comments and issues to raise regarding a recent unauthorized encampment in the nearby area and other thoughts in relation to the use of the open area at Winterton.

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

7. Internal Reports:

7.1 Chairman's Report:

No Chairman's Report had been submitted.

7.2 Mayor's Report:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Mayor's Report produced by Cllr Peter Hinde which started to outline his plans for his civic year.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information in the Mayor's Report.

8. External Reports:

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

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a report from Durham County Cllr Chris Lines who represents the Sedgefield Division.

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

9. Correspondence:

None.

10. Current Planning Applications:

A schedule of the current planning applications had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Applications were considered, and the following comments were made (Note: number refers to the number on the circulated list):

10.1 DM/24/01263/FPA - demolition of single storey lean to extension and replace with single storey kitchen extension, The Old Registry, 2 Church View, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

10.2 DM/24/01459/FPA – change of use of residential dwelling (Use Class C3) to childrens home (Use Class C2) for max 1 child aged 8-17 years old, Eastholme, Salters Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

10.3 DM/24/01537/VPC – variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant of listed building consent DM/22/03535/LB to amend the size of the extension and block up 3 no first floor windows:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

10.4 DM/24/01553/VOC – variation of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) pursuant of planning permission DM/22/03534/FPA to amend the size of the extension and block up 3 no first floor windows, Elstob Hall Farm, Great Stainton:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

10.5 DM/24/01567/VOC – removal of condition 4 pursuant to planning permission DM/16/02564/FPA (1 no dwelling, new build house) in relation to timber window, land to the North of the Penns, West Park Lane, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

10.6 DM/24/01608/FPA – installation of 8 no raised plant beds, pipe testing area, 4 no IBCs for water storage, air receiver, shipping container, 1.8m timber enclosure fencing and ground surface alterations (for 24 months), University of Durham Research, Joseph Swan Road, NETPark, Sedgefield:

Cllrs did not have any objection to this application.

RESOLVED:

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

ADDITIONAL PLANNING APPLICATION:

The Clerk reported that earlier that day the latest list of planning applications published by DCC had been circulated to all Cllrs. This list included the following planning application which needed to be considered by Cllrs:

DM/24/01733/FPA – two storey side extension and porch to the front, 27 Oakdene Road, Fishburn

RESOLVED:

Cllrs to forward comments on the above planning application to the Clerk by no later than 9am on Monday 15th July 2024.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

APPROVED

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY**
POLICY & RESOURCES of the Council
held following the **Monthly Meeting**

on

Monday 8th July 2024

in

Sedgefield Parish Hall.



Present

Cllr. Allan Blakemore (Chair) and

Cllrs. David Brown, Mark Cant, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, John Finlayson, Elizabeth Flanagan, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper and Julie Towler

Officer

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Kelly Dickerson, Jenny Haworth and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

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. Priority work relating to budget planning and community events has meant no further action has taken place in relation to this item. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.2 ASB Action Plan:

Ms Kate Ward of DCC is to contact the Town Council when she has scoped out a project to install a CCTV camera, new block paving, installation of bollards and a heavy-duty bin at the Youth Shelter. County Cllr Lines is also going to contact Ms Ward to request an update. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.3 Trees Near South View:

The work has now been completed.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.4 2023/24 Year End Accounts:

The Town Council's Exercise of Public Rights dates commenced on 3rd June 2024 and will cease on 12th July 2024. Notices were displayed on 30th May 2024. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.5 Village Green Policy:

The new Village Green Policy has now been uploaded to the Town Council's website and paper copies are available in the Town Council offices.

An allocation of £20,000 for maintenance of surfaced village green areas will be factored into the 2025/26 Town Council income and expenditure budget.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.6 Butterwick Road Expansion:

The Special Town Council meeting to appoint contractor(s) has been rescheduled to Monday 23rd September 2024. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.7 Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society:

The Clerk has written a letter of support for the Aycliffe and District Bus Preservation Society's Heritage Lottery Funding application.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.8 Town Council Offices Electrical Work for ECIR:

The contractor has been awarded this work and work has been scheduled for August 2024. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.9 Parish Hall Electrical Work:

The contractor has been awarded this work and work is now underway to schedule as soon as possible. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information.

3.10 Sedgefield Youth Club:

The Clerk has informed Spennymoor Youth and Community Association of the Town Council's agreement to award the Leader of Sedgefield Youth Club an additional paid hour per term-time session, backdated to Monday 13th May 2024, and has also increased the Youth Club's use of the Fletcher Room during term-time sessions from 5pm to 9pm.

RESOLVED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation:

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

Mrs Julia Bowles said residents were frustrated when no feedback was given to the community. She said that some time ago she had requested having an agendaed public meeting and understood the Sedgefield Development Trust would be happy to help facilitate such.

The Chairman noted the public comments and re-opened the meeting.

5. Reports:

5.1 Sedgefield Town Council Annual Fireworks Display Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an Annual Fireworks Display Update Report by Town Clerk. This report was duly considered.

RESOLVED:

The P&R Committee delegate responsibility for the delivery of the Town Council's 2024 Fireworks Display on Friday 1st November 2024 to the Fireworks Working Group with future reports regarding the planning/progress of this event being taken to the Community Development & Engagement Committee meeting. This delegation includes responsibility for setting admission prices.

5.2 Reviewed Recruitment and Selection Policy Recommendation by Personnel Committee:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Reviewed Recruitment and Selection Policy Recommendation by Personnel Committee.

RESOLVED:

The reviewed Recruitment and Selection Policy to be adopted with immediate effect and reviewed in a further 12 months.

5.3 Local Councils Quality Award Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Local Councils Quality Award

Update Report. This was duly considered.

RESOLVED:

The Town Clerk and Projects & Media Co-ordinator work on renewing the Town Council's Foundation Level Award, and if possible, seeking the Quality Level Award over the summer recess period.

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 10th June 2024:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all details of cheques for approval after 10th June 2024 numbered 110891 to 110909. The Clerk circulated to all an updated list which also included cheques numbered 110910 to 110913.

The Clerk confirmed that during the August 2024 summer recess period, an invoices for payment by cheques list would be circulated to all Cllrs electronically on Monday 5th August 2024 for comment so that cheques would be paid on Monday 12th August 2024.

RESOLVED:

- i) All cheques and invoices were approved for payment.**
- ii) Cllrs Mel Carr and Allan Blakemore plus the Town Clerk to duly sign the cheques.**

6.2 Financial Budget Comparison as at 1st July 2024:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Financial Budget Comparison as at 1st July 2024.

RESOLVED:

To receive the financial budget comparison as at 1st July 2024.

6.3 Debtors List as at 1st July 2024:

RESOLVED:

To receive the Debtors List as at 1st July 2024.

6.4 Direct Debits and Debit Card List for 1st – 30th June 2024:

RESOLVED:

To receive Direct Debits and Debit Card List for 1st – 30th June 2024.

6.5 June 2024 Bank Reconciliations Plus June 2024 Imprest Account and May 2024 Public Sector Deposit Fund Reconciliation Report by Town Clerk:

RESOLVED:

To receive this information.

7. Correspondence:

7.1 CDALC AGM Nominations and Preparations (email from Ms Audrey Christie, CDALC dated 5th June 2024):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a CDALC AGM Nominations and Preparations email from Ms Audrey Christie dated 5th June 2024 in which she sought nominations for the roles of President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Auditor or support for the continuation of existing officials.

RESOLVED:

- i) To nominate Cllr Allan Blakemore to continue in the position of Honorary Treasurer of CDALC at the 2024 CDALC AGM.**
- ii) To support the re-election of other existing officials.**

7.2 Community Football Fields and Tennis Courts (email from Ms Lisa Kilner dated 8th June 2024):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from Ms Lisa Kilner dated 8th June 2024 which outlined her thoughts and suggestions regarding community football fields and tennis courts, as referenced in the earlier Monthly Meeting's Public Participation by Ms Kilner herself. Cllr Allan Blakemore and the Clerk gave the history to the current allocation of £22,500 of Terrace Hill money currently held by the Town Council and the preliminary work that has been agreed to take place by the Town Council to explore how such may be used on a project within the grounds of Ceddesfeld Hall. Cllr Blakemore also confirmed that any grants or funding could only be given to an officially constituted group or body. Cllr Julie Towler suggested Sedgfield Youth FC be involved in any discussions.

Cllr Mark Cant suggested thought be given to the area of land identified by Mr Carney during earlier Public Participation as this could also help to show how the area is used by the community. The Clerk suggested that a meeting be called between the Town Council, Ms Kilner and County Cllrs to discuss this matter directly and scope out ideas, aspirations and feasibility. Cllrs agreed this was a sensible way forward.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to organize a meeting and then report back to the September 2024 P&R Committee meeting.

7.3. CDALC Questions For Councils (email from CDALC dated 28th June 2024):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email from CDALC in which the Town Council's views were sought in relation to DCC's Register of Interest proposal for Members' home addresses to be treated as sensitive and only the electoral division in which they live be published, unless a Member opts in to have their home address published.

RESOLVED:

The Town Council to support DCC's Register of Interest proposal and the Clerk to complete CDALC's survey selection option 1, i.e. agree to remove Member home addresses unless the individual Member decides to opt-in.

7.4. AAP Replacements – Local Network Boundary Consultation (email from CDALC dated 5th July 2024):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all electronically an email from CDALC dated 5th July 2024 which had detailed information from DCC in which they were proposing the 14 current AAPs are replaced with 12 Local Networks. This proposal would see Sedgefield move from the current EDRC AAP and into Local Network A joining Aycliffe North and Middridge plus Aycliffe South. DCC are currently running a public consultation about this matter which closes at 5pm on 18th August 2024. The information circulated electronically contains the hyperlink to access the consultation survey. DCC believe the Networks will have consistency with new ward boundaries.

Cllr Allan Blakemore expressed his concerns with aligning Sedgefield with Newton Aycliffe. Cllr Peter Hinde suggested that Cllrs attend the forthcoming consultation

session at Fishburn Youth and Community Centre and then make their own determinations.

RESOLVED:

Instead of a collective Town Council response being submitted to this consultation, Cllrs to attend one of the forthcoming consultation sessions and then to complete the consultation survey in their personal capacity as private resident.

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 7.46pm.

The Chair, Cllr Allan Blakemore, re-opened the meeting at 8.17pm. The Chair explained that due to the confidential nature of the following items these would be discussed under Exempt Information said that had any members of the public and/or press been in attendance they would have been asked to 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 the Public:

8.1 Village Greens Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Village Greens Update Report which was considered and way forward duly agreed.

8.2 Projects & Media Co-ordinator Update Report by Personnel Committee:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Projects & Media Co-ordinator Update Report by the Personnel Committee which was duly noted.

8.3 Repair to Cemetery Compound Paths Report by Town Clerk:

The Clerk circulated to all a Repair To Cemetery Compound Paths Report which was duly considered and way forward agreed.

8.4. Cemetery Matter Verbal Report by Town Clerk:

The Clerk reported a request that had been received by the Town Council which

was duly considered and way forward agreed.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

APPROVED

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY ENVIRONMENT** of the **Council** held following the **P&R** in the **Parish Hall**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 8th July 2024.**

Present **Cllr. Mark Cant (Chairman)**
Cllr. John Finlayson (Vice Chairman) and
Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Ann Carr, Mel Carr, Elizabeth Flanagan, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper and Julie Towler

Officer Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Kelly Dickerson, Jenny Haworth and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. Matters of Information:

3.1 Winterton Cemetery:

The Clerk reported that she has now forwarded to the Town Council's solicitor all documentation within the Town Council's possession regarding Winterton Cemetery and nearby allotments from the transfer of land to the Town Council in order to seek his advice regarding maintenance responsibilities and to identify if any information is missing so that such can then be found. The Clerk is awaiting a response from the solicitor and once received will present initial findings to the Estates Working Group for their consideration so that an update report can be prepared for Committee.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

3.2 Pest Control Issues Near Ceddesfeld Pond:

No further information has been heard yet regarding confirmation of water voles.

However, no further “pest control” issues have been reported.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.3 Potential Parson Sculpture:

Potential designs have now been drafted and shared with those who attended the on-site meeting for their consideration. Note: This is not a priority project for the Town Council. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

3.4 Trees in Old Beacon Lane Cemetery:

No quotation has yet been received regarding the wall remedial work. Note: When received this will be presented to a future P&R Committee meeting. The Clerk to keep Cllrs updated on this matter.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

3.5 Public Participation:

Mr Smith has been given the contact details of both local County Cllrs in order to progress his comments regarding work undertaken by contractors at the new estates and the nearby pond not being cleaned out at the same time.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

3.6 Safety of Lithium Ion Batteries and E-bikes and Scooters:

The Clerk has written to Mr Bailey expressing the Town Council’s support for his campaign. Mr Bailey has thanked the Town Council and will keep in touch as his work progresses.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation:

The Chairman, Cllr Mark Cant, closed the meeting for the public to give their views.

County Cllr Chris Lines commented on matters discussed at the previous P&R Committee meeting. With regards to community facilities at the Community College, County Cllr Lines said the College's leadership team were supportive of such being more accessible for local groups and individuals but the resistance was from OCS the business who runs the PFI contract at the College. County Cllr Lines said that he had shared this information with residents previously and it was important to understand that barriers were not being created by the College's leadership team on-site. With regards to DCC's current consultation about the replacement of AAPs with Local Networks, County Cllr Lines said that he personally did have concerns about Sedgefield being grouped with North and South Aycliffe as Sedgefield was by far the smallest area and he wanted assurances that this would not lead to the Town being compromised and missing out on funding and opportunities. County Cllr Lines said he would be making a submission to the consultation on this basis.

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

5. Reports:

5.1 Butterwick and Winterton Allotments Inspection Update Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Butterwick and Winterton Allotments inspection Update report by the Projects & Media Co-ordinator.

RECOMMENDED:

i) To receive this information.

ii) From 1st July 2024 onwards, allotment inspections to be increased to fortnightly during the growing season.

5.2 Tub Planting Update Report by Projects & Media Co-ordinator:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all a Tub Planting Update report from the Projects & Media Co-ordinator which summarized this successful community event that took place on Thursday 27th June 2024.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

6. Correspondence:

6.1 introducing TVC (email and attachments from Mr Cameron Gough dated 17th June 2024):

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated to all an email and attachments from Mr Cameron Gough dated 17th June 2024 in which he introduced The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), a national charitable organisation that connects people to the green spaces that form healthy, happy communities.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information and to keep details of the TCV on-file should any future project be identified.

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

APPROVED

SEDGEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT

Minutes of the proceedings of the **JULY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE** of the **Council** held following the **Environment Committee** in the **Parish Hall**, Sedgefield, on **Monday 8th July 2024.**

Present

Cllr. Ann Carr (Chair) and

Cllrs. Allan Blakemore, David Brown, Mark Cant, Mel Carr, John Finlayson, Elizabeth Flanagan, Peter Hinde, Dave Jasper and Julie Towler

Officer

Dr Jane Ayre (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllrs Kelly Dickerson, Jenny Haworth and Mavis Wayman.

2. Declaration of interest:

None.

3. Matters of Information:

3.1 Public Participation:

The Clerk has liaised with the Church to obtain an answer to Mr Smith's question regarding the flag not being flown on top of the Church. Mr Smith has been informed of this answer and advised that any future matters relating to the Church be taken directly to Church officials.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

3.2 Arriva Bus Consultation:

The Clerk has submitted the Town Council's response to this consultation. In addition, information regarding this consultation is now on the Town Council's website, been disseminated via the residents database and X account. This matter will be considered further if any response is received from Arriva.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive the information and to close this matter.

4. Public Participation:

The Chair, Cllr Ann Carr, closed the meeting for the public to give their views.

County Cllr Lines said Sedgefield Town Council does a good job of being proactive and communicating with the local community via a very wide range of media including print (Sedgefield Extra and noticeboards), residents database, social media and website as well as Town Councillors always being contactable at any time. He noted that the recent Annual Town Meeting was well attended by the public and that residents took the opportunity to ask questions. County Cllr Lines also commented that the Town Council offices are busy with callers and visitors daily as residents get direct answers and signposting rather than wait and attend Council Committee meetings. Town councillor surgeries had been held for a significant period of time but had not been attended by the public which showed these were not the most convenient method of engagement for the majority of people, hence the importance of utilising a range of methods which allow people to engagement in ways that fit with their lifestyles. County Cllr Lines said it was encouraging that two residents had attended Council meetings this evening in order to raise their concerns and at the same time to suggest ideas to overcome those.

The Chair thanked the public and re-opened the meeting.

5. Reports:

5.1 Town Council Keswick Coach Trip Update Report by Town Clerk:

Prior to the meeting the Clerk had circulated all a Town Council Kewsick Coach Trip Report which summarized this recent successful event on Thursday 20th June 2024 including income and expenditure as well as detailing future coach trips in 2024.

RECOMMENDED:

To receive this information.

6. Correspondence:

None.

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