

# **SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Message from the Chairman**

The Council has continued to work to meet the needs of the community by listening and responding to local issues. The Council works closely with the Police, Durham County Council, community groups and local organisations on matters which affect the parish area.

I would like to thank the Members of the Parish Council for their continued support during the past year.

A Slater

Chair to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council

### **List of Members**

Chair - Councillor Alyson Slater, Red Roofs, Seaton, Seaham, SR7 0NA – Tel 5814597

Vice Chair - Councillor Alan Fooks, 15 Seaton Grove, Seaham, SR7 0LU - Tel 5812624

Councillor Adrian Blacklock, 9 Eppleton Hall Close, Seaham, SR7 0LG – Tel 5817066

Councillor Sonia Haddick, 3 Cairnside, Seaham, SR7 0LR – Tel 5818003

Councillor Susan McAuliffe, 2 Cairnside, Seaham, SR7 0LR - Tel 07817850727

Councillor Hector Middlemiss, 27 Byron Lodge Estate, Seaham, SR7 0JY – Tel 5814425

Councillor Andrew Taylor, 2 The Crest, The Village, Seaton, Seaham, SR7 0NA – Tel 5130037

Councillor David Temple, 16 Eppleton Hall Close, Seaham, SR7 0LG – Tel 5817069

Councillor Joseph Theobald, 21 Pacific Hall Close, Seaham, SR7 0LJ - Tel 5815175

Councillor Alma Vila, The Old Forge, Seaton Lane, Seaton, Seaham SR7 0LS – Tel 5812585

Councillor Stephen Williams, Fairview, The Village, Seaton, Seaham SR7 0LY – Tel 07877132387

### **Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer**

Joanne Thompson

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## **2018/2019**

The Council has had another active and productive year. The annual report gives an indication of the Parish Council's activities over the past year.

### **1. Precept**

The Council's budget for 2018/19 was set at £12,027.00.

The introduction by Central Government of a new Council Tax Support Scheme to replace the Council Tax Benefit Scheme significantly changed the calculation of the tax-base upon which Council Tax is calculated. Parish councils are no longer financially independent and are reliant upon Central Government grant support to compensate for the loss of tax-base. The grant support is paid to Durham County Council who then redistributes the grant to parishes but the County Council is under no legal obligation to do this.

For the financial year 2018/19 Seaton with Slingley Parish Council received Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £122.00, which is deducted from the Council's budget to produce a precept requirement of £11,905.00. This results in a Band D Council Tax for 2018/19 of £28.41.

### **2. Finance**

The Council remains in a healthy financial position.

### **3. Planning Applications**

The Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. This means that the Council has the opportunity to comment, support or object on any application submitted from within the village.

### **4. Grounds Maintenance**

During 2018/19 the Parish Council entered into a formal contract with Shaw Trust to undertake grounds maintenance services throughout the village during the summer season on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **5. Grass Cutting**

The Parish Council has a formal contract with Durham County Council to undertake grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council during the summer season.

### **6. Section 137/133 Donations**

All requests for financial assistance must be made in writing to the Council. Listed below are the payments made during 2018/19 in line with the budgeted allocation.

Section 137 Donations	
Great North Air Ambulance	75.00
Christmas Tree Lights	129.97
Salvation Army	150.00
Christmas Tree	225.00
Total	579.97

Section 133 Donation	
Seaton Community Association	1,000.00
Total	1,000.00

TOTAL	1,579.97
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## **7. Litter/Dog Bins**

The Parish Council has a formal contract with Durham County Council to empty litter and dog bins in the village on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **8. Spring Bulbs**

The Parish Council has planted 3,000 spring bulbs at Haverley Drive and Seaton Crescent.

## **9. Fencing**

Following on from the installation of birdsmouth fencing to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement and churning up the grass at the B1404 junction with Hillrise Crescent the Parish Council has extended the fencing up the B1404 to Seaton Grove.

## **10. Improvement Scheme - Corner opposite Community Centre**

During 2018/19 the Parish Council agreed to an improvement scheme to undertake grounds maintenance works to the enhance the Village Green and corner opposite the Community Centre.

The Parish Council were successful in being awarded grant funding from County Councillors Bleasdale and Morrison. The County Councillors agreed to fund the works which cost £4,140.97 from their Neighbourhood Budget.

The works were undertaken by Durham County Council on behalf of the Parish Council and included the following;

- Supply, installation and staining of 43m of birdsmouth fencing around the corner and the village green
- Re-location and staining of seat, re-location of litter bin, painting village sign, supply and installation of stone paving footpath

- Removal of trees/bushes, landscaping the bankside, supply and installation of bed with border, pebbles and ornamental grasses

The Parish Council agreed to dedicate the corner to former Elected Members of the Parish Council and following completion of the works a small dedication ceremony, undertaken by Father Kennedy of St Mary the Virgin Church was held on 30 March 2019 followed by refreshments in the Community Centre.

Former Elected Members of the Parish Council, County Councillors Bleasdale and Morrison, Officers from the Area Action Partnership, Durham County Council as well as residents were invited to attend and take the opportunity to meet their local Parish and County Councillors.

## **11. SelectaDNA Sprays**

Following on-going problems related to quad and off-road bikes on the walkway Cleveland and Durham's Motorcycle Unit alongside the local Policing team have joined forces to target this known problem.

The partnership working formed part of Operation Endurance which aimed to crack down on off-road bikers causing a nuisance to the community. The Operation was successful and two bikes were seized and an arrest was made.

To help tackle the problem the Police were using a product called SelectaDNA which was a single use spray with a 'DNA' in it which could be used by Police to mark illegal riders and bikes. The Police asked the Parish Council to fund the purchase of sprays for use by the local Policing team.

The Parish Council were aware that the spray would not physically prevent bikes/quads, but the Police had advised that current data suggested it could be a substantial deterrent. If used it could link 'unknown' offenders to specific crimes/locations/bikes and this would hopefully lead to arrests and seizure of bikes.

The Parish Council were more than willing to assist the Police and agreed to purchase two sprays at a cost of £170.00 each during the 2018/19 financial year and a further 2 the year after.

## **12. Seaton Crescent**

Following a request from residents the Chair had met with Durham County Council to discuss problems related to vehicles mounting the kerb on the tight corners and churning up the grass at Seaton Crescent.

Various solutions were discussed but unfortunately Durham County Council would not fund this type of work. The Parish Council therefore looked at financing the work themselves and asked Durham County Council to provide a quotation to undertake the work and re-charge the Parish Council.

The County Council provided several options one of which included - Dropped kerbs, with hardened verge behind both radiuses which would cost in the region of £6,000.

The Parish Council then made an approach to County Councillors Morrison and Bleasdale to assist in funding the work. The Parish Council were successful in being awarded grant funding from their Neighbourhood Budget. It is hoped the works will be undertaken during the next financial year.

### **13. Carols around the Christmas Tree**

The Parish Council held its annual Carols around the Christmas Tree with the Salvation Army. This annual event is well attended and will once again be held this December.

### **14. Seat Improvements**

The Parish Council has undertaken various works to the seats located throughout the village.

Works undertaken this financial year include removing old seats, refurbishing and laying paving from the main footpaths to the seats.