

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2018

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, A Fooks, S Haddick,
S McAuliffe, H Middlemiss, A Taylor, D Temple,
J Theobald, A Vila and S Williams

Also Present: County Councillor S Morrison

Residents: P Stewart, J Martin-Ainsley, D Stancliffe,
B Davies, M Stancliffe, A Martin, R Boardman

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 POLICE

Members were advised that since the last meeting the following 3 incidents had been reported to the Police;

1 theft from a motor vehicle and rear windscreen smashed
1 speeding van
Off-road bikes

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

3 Public Questions

The Chair welcomed residents to the meeting.

Mr Stewart advised that he was present at the meeting to discuss with Members a complaint that had been made to Durham County Council relating to the boundary wall at his property and its proximity to land which was designated as village green and not in his ownership.

The Chair advised that Members were unaware of the complaint and assured Mr Stewart that the Parish Council had not made the complaint to Durham County Council.

Mr Stewart provided a detailed history of works undertaken at his property and the discussions held with the County Council in relation to the complaint about the boundary wall.

Following a lengthy discussion it was RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 September 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance - Great North Air Ambulance

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The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £75.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) County Durham Association of Local Councils – Annual General Meeting

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting would be held on 20 October 2018 at County Hall, Durham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Temporary Road Closure

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising of a temporary road closure at Salters Lane, Seaton Moor between its junction with South Sharpley and Slingley Hill Farms.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(1) APPROVALS

DM/18/01353/VOC – Variation of condition 2 (25 year consent) to extend consent for a further 5 years pursuant to appeal reference APP/X1355/A/10/2127599 (DCC ref PLAN/2008/0355) for 3 wind turbines and associated cabin and access road at South Sharpley Farm, Seaton SR7 0NJ for REG Windpower Ltd

DM/18/02309/FPA – Single storey side and rear extension at 6 Pacific Hall Close, Seaham SR7 0LJ

(2) WITHDRAWAL

DM/18/00892/FPA – Retention of detached outbuilding at Windy Ridge, Seaton Lane, Seaton SR7 0LS

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Improvement Scheme - Corner opposite Community Centre

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising that the Parish Council had been allocated £4,140.97 from Councillors G Bleasdale and S Morrison's Neighbourhood Budget to fund the improvement works at the corner opposite the Community Centre.

Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £4,140.97 exclusive of VAT which included the following;

- Supply, installation and staining of 43m of birdsmouth fencing - £1,712.95
- Re-location and staining of seat, re-location of litter bin, painting village sign, supply and installation of stone paving footpath - £1,238.68
- Removal of trees/bushes, landscaping the bankside, supply and installation of bed with border, pebbles and ornamental grasses - £1,189.34

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RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted and a letter be sent to Councillors Bleasdale and Morrison thanking them for the generous donation from their Neighbourhood Budget.

(2) External Audit 2018

The Clerk reported that Mazars LLP had completed the annual audit for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Members were advised that Mazars had reviewed Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and in their opinion the information was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

The Clerk reported on an issue related to the bank reconciliation which had been brought to the attention of the Parish Council but did not affect the auditors' opinion, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Spring Bulbs

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had planted 3,000 spring bulbs at Haverley Drive and Seaton Crescent at a cost of £759.50 inclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Donation

The Clerk reported that Mr D Punshon had donated £200.00 towards the planting of spring bulbs at Seaton Crescent and installed a plaque on one of the benches at Seaton Crescent in memory of his aunt Mrs J Punshon.

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Mr Punshon thanking him for the generous donation.

(5) Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Shaw Trust had advised they could supply and erect the village Christmas Tree. The Clerk advised that in order to obtain a quotation the Parish Council needed to stipulate the size of the tree required.

RESOLVED that Shaw Trust be asked to quote for the supply and erection of an 18FT Christmas Tree.

(6) Feeder Pillar – Christmas Lights

The Clerk reported that arrangements had been made for npower to re-energise the feeder pillar on 26 November 2018 and de-energise it on 2 January 2019.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Christmas Lights

The Chair reported that a new set of lights was needed for the village Christmas Tree.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for the purchase of lights for the village Christmas tree.

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(8) Christmas Carol Singing - Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual Christmas carol singing would be held on 19 December 2018 at 7.00pm. It was suggested that the start date of the December meeting be brought forward to 6.00pm.

RESOLVED that the December meeting of the Parish Council be held at 6.00pm.

(9) Walkway - Quads/Motorbikes

Councillor Williams reported that he met with an officer from Durham County Council to discuss the walkway and the concerns of the Parish Council which included the problems associated with off-road bikes, the new chicanes and general maintenance of the walkway.

Councillor Williams advised that the meeting had been productive and the suggestions put forward by Councillor Williams would be taken on board and considered.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100421	HMRC	PAYE - October 2018	113.80		113.80
100422	Payroll	Wages - October 2018	455.77		455.77
100423	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - October 2018	8.00	1.60	9.60
100424	Durham County Council	Supply & Planting of 3,000 bulbs	632.92	126.58	759.50
100425	CDALC	12 copies of Good Councillors Guide	39.00		39.00
100426	J Thompson	Reimbursements - Postage	6.96		6.96
100427	Mazars LLP	External Audit Fee	200.00	40.00	240.00
		TOTAL	1,456.45	168.18	1,624.63

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Drinking Water

A Member reported complaints from residents regarding the high level of chlorine in domestic drinking water. The water had a strong smell and taste of chlorine which made it undrinkable.

The Chair advised that Northumbrian Water had previously been contacted in relation to this and advised that the water supply for Seaton was made up of a blend of water from a range of bore holes but on occasion they had to take water from the treatment plant. As Seaton was located close to the treatment plant the chlorine did not have time to dissipate before it reached residential properties.

The chlorine, whilst not nice, was not dangerous and the acceptable figure for chlorine in the water was 1% per 1 million litres. Northumbrian Water had recommended adding a few drops of Jif Lemon to take away the taste and smell of the chlorine in the water.

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RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Damaged Street Light

Councillor Williams reported the street light outside Windyridge was rotted at its base.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(3) Speeding Vehicles - Hillrise Crescent

Councillor Williams reported the on-going problem of vehicles speeding along Hillrise Crescent.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to the Police.

(4) B1404 – Crash Barriers

The Chair reported that the crash barriers opposite the slip road leaving the A19 were still in need of repair.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(5) Tree Wood Chippings

The Chair reported that a number of trees had been felled on the side of the B1404 and the wood chippings had been left in piles which were blowing about and creating a mess.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 21 November 2018 at 6.45pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated