

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
Telephone:- 0191 5279027
Email:- clerk.seaton@btinternet.com

2017/2018

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 2017/18 was set at £12,028/00.

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 2017/18 Seaton with Slingley Parish Council received Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £182.00, which is deducted from the Council's budget to produce a precept requirement of £11,846.00. This results in a Band D Council Tax for 2017/18 of £28.46.

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. Summer Bedding

During 2017/18 the Parish Council entered into a formal contract with The Shaw Trust to undertake grounds maintenance services throughout the village during the summer season on behalf of the Parish Council.

5. Grasscutting

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 2017/18 in line with the budgeted allocation.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Citizens Advice County Durham | 25.00 |
| Christmas Tree Lights | 69.99 |
| Great North Air Ambulance | 50.00 |
| Seaton Community Association | 1,000.00 |
| Salvation Army | 100.00 |
| Christmas Tree | 195.00 |
| TOTAL | 1,439.99 |

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 undertaken a comprehensive programme of planting spring bulbs throughout the parish.

9. Fencing

Following complaints received in relation to vehicles parking on the grass at the B1404 junction with Hillrise Crescent the Parish Council took the decision to install 18 metres of birdsmouth fencing to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement and churning up the grass.

The fencing has been welcomed by residents and the Parish Council plans to extend the fencing further during the next financial year.