

SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2022

Message from the Chair

I would like to start by saying that I hope everyone living in the parish, and all your families have stayed safe and well through 2021/22.

Over the last year the Parish 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, County Councillors, 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. Sadly, I would like to pay tribute to the late Councillor Alan Foots who passed away in 2021. Councillor Foots was a valued member of the Parish Council who gave many years of dedicated service.

I would also like to thank County Councillors Dave McKenna and Karan Batey for their support during the previous year.

A Slater

Chair to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer

Joanne Thompson

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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 2021/2022 was set at £12,928.

The Parish Councils budget is financed by a Precept which is part of the Council Tax that is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payment. The Parish Council is also reliant upon Central Government grant support. The grant called the Council Tax Support Scheme is paid direct to Durham County Council who then redistribute the grant to parishes. The County Council is under no obligation to do this and since its introduction the grant the Parish receives has been reduced each year. Wherever possible the Parish Council uses reserves to keep the precept as low as possible for residents.

For the financial year 2021/2022 Seaton with Slingley Parish Council received a Council Tax Support Scheme grant of £243.

The Parish Council required £12,928 for the 2021/2022 financial year. It used £600 of reserves to provide a precept of £12,085.00 which together with a grant of £243 gave a total of £12,928.

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 can comment, support or object on any application submitted from within the village.

During 2021/2022 the Parish Council was consulted on 18 planning applications within the parish. Of the 18 applications considered the Parish Council objected to 1 application.

4. Grounds Maintenance

Due to the escalating costs related to the maintenance and watering of the Parish Councils flower beds the decision was taken to landscape all the beds within the parish area with low maintenance shrubs and bushes.

5. Grass Cutting

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

The Parish Council purchases a green waste bin from Durham County Council each year. The bin is located at the Community Centre and can be used by residents who assist with grass cutting in the village during the growing season.

6. Section 137 Donations

All requests for financial assistance must be made in writing to the Council. Listed below are the payments made during 2021/2022 in line with the budgeted allocation.

Seaham Town Council – Mayors Charity	50.00
Great North Air Ambulance	100.00
Salvation Army	150.00
Total	300.00

7. Litter/Dog Bins

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

8. Remembrance Sunday - Poppy Wreaths

The Parish Council purchases 2 poppy wreaths which are placed in the village on remembrance Sunday. Following Remembrance Sunday, the wreaths are laid on the 2 war graves located in St Mary's Church, Seaham.

In 2021 a Remembrance Day service was held at the New Seaham Cenotaph. The Vice Chair of the Parish Council attended the service and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. Off-Road Bikes and Quads

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Police and Durham County Council in relation to issues related to off-road bikes and quads causing a nuisance in the village and on the walkway.

10. Carols around the Christmas Tree

Christmas 2021 saw the welcome return of the Parish Councils annual Carols around the Christmas Tree with the Salvation Army. This annual event is popular with residents and always well attended.

11. Estate of the late Ms J Pescod

The late Ms Pescod, a resident of the Parish bequeathed £10,000 to the Parish Council in her will.

This generous donation funded the planting of 9 trees in the Parish. A rose bed was also installed adjacent to the Seaton Lane Inn.

For further details please visit our website www.seatonwithslingley.parish.durham.gov.uk
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