

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

COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2017

Present: Councillors A Foots (Chair)
S Haddick, H Middlemiss, A Teasdale and D Temple

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor A Slater be elected Chair of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor A Foots be appointed Vice-Chair of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

3 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED that Mr G Fletcher be appointed Internal Auditor to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

4 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to serve as representatives of the Parish Council on the following external bodies for the forthcoming year:-

Area Action Partnership
Councillors S Haddick and A Slater

Council for Protection of Rural England (Co Durham)
As required

County Durham Association of Local Councils
Councillor D Temple

County Durham Foundation Trust (South Sharpley Community Fund)
Councillor A Teasdale

East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils
Councillors A Foots, S Haddick and D Temple

Seaton Community Association Management Committee
Councillors H Middlemiss and A Slater

5 DATE AND TIME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED that meetings of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council be held on the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 6.45pm, with the exception of August where no council meeting would be held due to recess. Meeting dates were subject to change with the consent of the Chair of the Parish Council.

6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock and A Slater

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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There were no declarations of interest.

8 COMMUNITY POLICING

There was no Police present at the meeting.

9 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 19 April 2017, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

Letter of Thanks - The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Citizens Advice County Durham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

11 PLANNING

The Chair welcomed J Greenwood, S Cummings, D Marley, P Cummings, A Cummings, L Bainbridge, P Lee, K Lee and T Flint who were in attendance to discuss their concerns in relation to the following planning application.

DM/17/01376/FPA Change of use from agricultural use to light industrial to store equipment for business at land to the south east of Southridge, Seaton SR7 ONE for Mr J Wheeler

Residents outlined their concerns in relation to the following;

Consultation - Only 8 properties had been directly consulted in relation to the application. This was inadequate and properties directly affected by the proposal should have been asked for their comments.

Access – Access to and from the proposed site was via a single track road which was unsuitable for HGV's and not intended for use by heavy industrial vehicles. The road was single track and there was no pedestrian pathway. The County Council had undertaken a highways assessment and determined they had no objections to the proposals. However this opinion had been given without the benefit of a site inspection, which was necessary to fully appreciate the impact this proposal would have.

Noise – Residents living in close proximity to the site were concerned at the potential increase in noise levels. With regard to operating times the application was unclear and it appeared it could operate anytime between 6am to 6.30pm seven days a week including Bank Holidays. There was the potential for significant noise from machinery i.e. chippers/chainsaws. There was also the potential for increased noise from heavy industrial vehicles visiting the site. This would greatly affect the residential amenity of neighbouring properties. Residents purchased their properties to be located in the countryside in a rural environment they did not envisage living near to an industrial commercial business.

Road Safety – A livery yard was located in close proximity to the application site and horse riders had no other option but to use the single track lane to access the bridle ways. The lane was well used by walkers, young children, cyclists and dog walkers. There was insufficient room for HGV's and heavy industrial vehicles to pass safely and therefore a road safety risk existed. If an emergency vehicle was required it would be unable to pass a HGV on the single lane. If the highways officer had undertaken a site inspection this would have been abundantly clear.

Fire Risk – Large quantities of wood chip and logs could potentially be stored on site.

There was the potential for surface water contamination and the large quantities of wood stored on site posed a potential fire risk.

There was limited and contradictory detail in the application. Further information was required in relation to what activities would take place on site. What machinery would be operated and stored on site and how many vehicles would visit the site on a daily basis.

The character of the area, a safe environment, living in a small hamlet and the feeling of being in the countryside was what attracted residents to purchase their properties in this location. They did not wish to live next to a large industrial operation.

Taking into consideration the depth and strength of concern from local residents the Parish Council **RESOLVED** to object to the application and request it be referred to the Area Planning Committee. In addition a site visit be requested to allow the Committee the opportunity to view the site and surrounding area to fully appreciate the negative impact on residential amenity that would occur if the application was approved.

12 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Internal Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2017

The Clerk reported the receipt of the internal audit report for 2016/2017 undertaken by Mr G Fletcher.

Members were advised that local councils were expected to complete an annual return which summarised their annual activities at the end of each financial year. It was Members responsibility to ensure that financial management was adequate and effective and the Council had a sound system of internal controls.

A section within the annual return was to be completed by the independent internal auditor who gave an opinion of the Parish Council's internal controls, details of which were outlined to Members. All the key controls contained within the annual return were examined and found to be working satisfactory.

The auditor had recommended that governance of the Parish Council would be improved if Financial Regulations, Standing Orders and the Risk Assessment document were reviewed annually.

It was also recommended that a review of the Council's internal controls be undertaken to support the Annual Governance Statement. The Clerk advised that a report reviewing the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls had been undertaken in line with the recommendation.

RESOLVED that the internal audit report for 2016/2017 be accepted and the report on the effectiveness of the Council's internal controls be adopted.

(2) Annual Insurance Premium 2017/2018

The Clerk reported that the annual insurance premium for 2017/2018 had been received from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £257.60. Last years premium was £251.85.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted and the premium paid.

(3) Repairs to Village Seats

The Clerk reported that an inspection was undertaken of the seats located in the village and a number of minor repairs were identified. Following consultation with

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the Chair McAuliffe Builders were requested to undertake the repairs.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Co-Option to Vacant Posts on Parish Council

The Clerk reported that following the May elections the Parish Council had 4 vacant seats on the Parish Council.

Members were advised that 4 residents had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. It was suggested that the interested residents be asked to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the interested residents and invite them to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(5) Residents Comments

The Clerk reported that the Chair had received a number of positive comments from residents in relation to the spring bulbs and how they improved the environment of the village.

A resident had suggested that the addition of miniature tulips would improve the overall display.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

13 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100327	G Fletcher	Internal Audit	100.00		100.00
100328	G McAuliffe	Fence Repairs	70.00		70.00
100329	Payroll	Wages - May 2017	435.47		435.47
100330	HMRC	PAYE - May 2017	108.80		108.80
100331	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - May 2017	8.00	1.60	9.60
100332	J Thompson	Reimbursements	13.44		13.44
100333	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	257.60		257.60
		TOTAL	823.31	1.60	824.91

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 6.45pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated