

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2014

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, A Fooks, T Foster,
S Haddick, G McAuliffe, H Middlemiss,
D Ritchie, A Teasdale and D Temple

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Smith

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO A Guest to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 9 incidents reported which included 8 related to highway disruptions as a result of road traffic accidents on the A19 and 1 domestic dispute.

The officer advised that year to date anti-social behaviour had increased from 6 to 10 incidents and these related mainly to youths congregating at the Seaton Lane Inn.

At the last meeting reference was made to shooting that took place in the fields and woods close to the village and the Police were asked if there was a minimum shooting distance required from the highway or residential properties and if this was controlled by the Police.

The officer confirmed that there were no legal restrictions the Police could impose in relation to minimum distances between where the shooting took place and the highway. As long as the shooting took place on private land and the landowner had granted permission the guns could be fired anywhere as long as the bullets did not leave the farmland. The Officer advised that walking along the walkway with a loaded gun was against the law.

In relation to off road bikes on the walkway the officer advised that the Off Road Bike Unit would be patrolling in groups of 3 or 4 over the next 4 weekends.

Councillor McAuliffe expressed concern at the on-going problem related to vehicles parking on the highway outside the Seaton Lane Inn, particularly on a weekend. Vehicles were often parked on both sides of the road which obstructed the view of on-coming traffic.

The Officer advised that she would speak to the landlord of the Seaton Lane Inn in relation to the road safety issues related to parking on the highway.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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- 4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 17 September 2014 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Requests for Financial Assistance

(i) Hartlepool and District Hospice

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Hartlepool and District Hospice.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(ii) Toma Fund

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Toma Fund.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(iii) Great North Air Ambulance

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

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

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

The Clerk reported that the Annual General Meeting of the County Durham Association of Local Councils would be held on 8 November 2014.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(ii) Seaton Garden Centre - DM/14/00042/RM

Councillor Fooks reported that there had been no improvement at the Garden Centre site. Councillor Fooks advised that he had still not heard from the case officer, B Gavillet who had previously advised that he would speak to an Enforcement Officer about the site.

Councillor Foster reported that there had been a fire at the Garden Centre on 14 October 2014 and the incident had been reported to Durham County Council.

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Mr N Laws, Environmental Health Officer, Durham County Council who was aware of the situation at the Garden Centre.

Mr Laws advised that an Officer had visited the site and discussed the issue of burning rubbish with the owner. When asked about a site meeting Mr Laws felt this was not warranted and unless the burning on site caused an environmental nuisance they were not breaking the law. Councillor Foster reiterated that the fires were causing a nuisance to local residents, particularly those living in Seaton Grove.

It was suggested that in future any fire at the Garden Centre be reported immediately to Durham County Council or alternatively Members advise the Clerk who would report it.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council regarding the fire at the Garden Centre site on 14 October 2014.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Estimates of Expenditure 2015/2016

The Clerk presented Members with various options in relation to the 2015/16 Precept. Options included a standstill overall precept and a standstill Band D property charge. Details of the financial position of the Parish Council were discussed and it was agreed that the Council was in a financially stable position.

At this time the tax base forecasts provided by Durham County Council could be used for budget planning purposes but the current position was not final.

Based on the outline figures provided, which could change, it was suggested that a budget based on retaining the 2014/15 Band D property charge of £29.08 be set. This would give an overall budget of £12,249.00 made up of £11,731.00 precept and £518.00 Local Council Tax Support Grant. This was a £55.00 reduction on last year's budget and in real terms was a 0.26% increase due to the reduction in grant of £86.00.

RESOLVED that the 2015/2016 budget be based on a 0.26% increase subject to any change in the tax base.

(2) Policies

The Clerk presented draft copies of the following policies for adoption.

- Standing Orders
- Public Filming, Recording and Reporting at Council Meetings

RESOLVED that the policies be adopted.

(3) Outsourcing Payroll Services

The Clerk reported that from April 2013 the Parish Council had to report PAYE information to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) in real time, known as Real Time Information or RTI. Reporting PAYE in RTI meant the

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Parish Council had to send HMRC data about tax and national insurance contributions as payments were made rather than at the end of the year. HMRC preferred monthly payments to be made by telephone or internet banking, known as Faster Payments.

The Clerk advised that to ensure the Parish Council was compliant with all payroll associated tax and HMRC regulations the payroll be outsourced to an independent third party service provider.

JACS Accountancy Limited, a local firm, was able to provide the Parish Council's payroll service and had provided the following quotation:-

Monthly Payslip – £2.75
Real Time Information (RTI) - Monthly Filing - £5.00
Annual P60 - £2

The total cost for JACS Accountancy to provide the Parish Councils payroll service was £95.00 per year. In addition a one-off joining fee of £5.00 would be charged. All prices were exclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that JACS Accountancy Limited be engaged to undertake payroll services on behalf of the Parish Council.

8 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

Cheque No	Payee	Detail	Amount
100139	Payroll	Wages - September 2014	374.87
100140	HMRC	PAYE - September 2014	93.60
100141	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Postage	6.89
100142	Payroll	Wages - October 2014	374.87
100143	HMRC	PAYE - October 2014	93.60
100144	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services September and October 2014	18.60

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (i) Footpath Maintenance

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Councillor Mrs Haddick reported that the footpaths around the Seaton Lane Inn were in a poor state of repair. The County Council's Highways Section had marked sections of the footpath which required work with white lining and some minor patch repairs had been undertaken. However, the work that had been done was of a poor standard and there were still outstanding repairs to be undertaken.

RESOLVED that the Clerk report the matter to Durham County Council.

(ii) REG Wind Power - South Sharpley Community Benefits Fund

Councillor Teasdale reported that there was still £40,000 in this fund. The fund provided grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to community and voluntary groups and schools. A new grants officer had recently been appointed and groups were being encouraged to submit an application for funding.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) B1404 – Speeding Traffic

Councillor Mrs Haddick reported that it was becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous to cross the B1404 at the walkway. Cars approaching from the west were traveling at speeds in excess of 30mph and it was suggested that the installation of "Slow" signs or a camera may help slow the traffic.

The Chair advised that when work started at the Garden Centre site it was expected that the 30mph signs would be extended.

RESOLVED that the Clerk report the matter to the Police.

(iv) Seaton Community Association - Annual Christmas Dinner

The Chair suggested that a £20 Marks and Spencer gift voucher be donated towards the raffle at the annual Christmas dinner.

RESOLVED that a £20 gift voucher be donated from the Section 137 Budget.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 19 November 2014 at 7.00pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated