

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2015

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Foots, T Foster, S Haddick, G McAuliffe,
D Ritchie, A Smith, A Teasdale and D Temple

The Chair wished everyone present a Happy New Year

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock and H Middlemiss.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Clerk welcomed PCSO's A Guest and K Bassom to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting 6 incidents had been reported which included 2 ANP activations on the A19, 1 burglary, 1 mistaken 999 call and 2 road traffic collisions on the A19.

The Officer reported that on 4 January 2015 the off-road bike team had seized 6 off-road bikes, all from the Sunderland area.

The Officer advised that the Police were in regular contact with the Landlords of the Seaton Lane Inn and Dunn Cow with regard to parking outside both premises. Both Landlords were co-operating and taking positive steps to ensure that anyone visiting their pubs was not causing an obstruction if parking on the road. However, if cars parked on the road were not causing an obstruction there was very little the Police could do.

The Chair thanked the Police for the work undertaken in relation to the off-road bikes that were seized.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letter of Thanks - Embrace The Middle East - Bethlehem Carol Sheets

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Embrace the Middle East following a donation of £50.00 for the Bethlehem Carol Sheets.

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RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Seaham Family History Group

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Seaham Family History Group 10th Anniversary Dinner on 25 February 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Royal Garden Party 2015

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils advising they had been allocated 4 places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 12 May 2015.

RESOLVED that Councillor A Foots be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on behalf of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council.

(4) Electronic Summonses

The Clerk reported that the Local Government (Electronic Communications) (England) Order 2015 modified the provisions in Schedule 12 to the Local Government Act 1972 for the purpose of enabling and facilitating the use of electronic communications in the sending of summonses to Members of both principal and parish councils in England to meetings of those authorities.

The Order would be implemented on 30 January 2015 and would allow parish council Members to receive summonses electronically where they consented to it being transmitted by this method. Consent could be withdrawn at any time and Standing Orders would need to be amended to reflect this.

For parish councils, the Order allowed a summons to be provided by sending the summons to a Member by an appropriate method either by:-

- (i) leaving it at, or sending it by post to the Member's usual place of residence,
- (ii) where the Member had given consent for the summons to be transmitted in electronic form to a particular electronic address, sending it in electronic form to that address.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 21 January 2015

DM/15/00043/FPA - Proposed bedroom extension at first floor and alterations to garage and existing bedrooms internally at Corrib, Seaton Lane, Seaton, Seaham, Co Durham SR7 0LP for Mr P Tweedy.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Approvals

DM/14/03550/FPA - Rear extension and raise the ridge height of the property to incorporate first floor living accommodation including dormer windows and front bow window at 14 Middleton Close, Seaham, Co Durham SR7 0PG for Mr S Watson.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(iii) B1404 - Bridge Work, Seaton Lane

Councillor Fouts reported that works to waterproof the bridge on the B1404, over the A19 on Seaton Lane were being undertaken by Durham County Council. Councillor Fouts expressed concern that the County Council had not advised the Parish Council of the works before they started.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Bus Shelters - Seaton Lane

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been advised of the poor condition of the two brick bus shelters at the west end of Seaton Lane. There was an accumulation of leaves and litter in both shelters and they required a clean.

Durham County Council had advised they were looking into the feasibility of replacing both brick shelters with fully glazed ones to improve the waiting environment for passengers. Members expressed concern that the County Council had reported this in the past.

RESOLVED that the Clerk request Durham County Council to inspect and clean both shelters.

(2) Estimates of Expenditure 2015/2016

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 November 2014 Members resolved that the net spending requirement of the Parish Council for 2015/16 be set at £12,127.00. This was made up of a Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme grant of £398.00 and an additional £11,729.00 precept.

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Members had deferred submitting the precept request to Durham County Council until the tax base was confirmed by the County Council's Cabinet on 17 December 2014.

RESOLVED the Durham County Council be formally advised of the Parish Councils precept request for 2015/2016.

8 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

Cheque No	Payee	Detail	Amount
100162	Durham County Council	Servicing of Liter Bin	123.86
100163	Durham County Council	Servicing of Dog Bins	247.73
100164	Payroll	Wages - January 2015	382.96
100165	HMRC	PAYE - January 2015	95.80
100166	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services January 2015	9.30
100167	J Thompson	Reimbursements	7.89
100168	Mulcahy Lawns	Christmas Tree	200.00

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Parish Council Website

Councillor Teasdale reported on the initial work he had undertaken in relation to designing and hosting a website for the Parish Council. He had also looked into the possibility of registering a website address which appeared to be a lengthy process. The Chair thanked Councillor Teasdale for the work he had undertaken in relation to the provision of a website.

The Chair pointed out that she had understood the Parish Council had intended using Durham County Council as the Parish Council's website provider.

Members expressed concern at the high cost quoted by the County Council and the risks involved compared to what Councillor Teasdale could provide for considerably less. Councillor Teasdale reiterated that he thought the County Council was very expensive and the money could be spent more efficiently elsewhere.

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The Chair stated that the Community Centre had indicated they would be willing to contribute to the cost of a website. The Clerk suggested that the two County Councillors be approached to ascertain if they would be willing to contribute something from their Members Initiative Fund (MIF).

Following a lengthy discussion it was **RESOLVED** that:-

- (i) consideration of this be deferred until the March meeting,
- (ii) the Clerk contact both County Councillors to ascertain if they would be willing to make a contribution from their MIF,
- (iii) the Chair approach the Community Centre to determine what contribution they would be able to make.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on **18 February 2015** at **7.00pm**.

..... Signed

..... Dated