

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Fooks, T Foster and D Ritchie.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Clerk reported that PCSO A Guest had submitted her apologies and provided the following report.

Since the last meeting 4 incidents had been reported. The figures included 1 road traffic collision on the Seaton to Houghton road, 2 reports of an abandoned vehicle near West Moor Farm and 1 burglary at the driving range.

Members were advised that year to date criminal damage was up 200%, anti-social behaviour was down 50% and crime overall was down 19%.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 21 October 2015 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Seaham Town Council – Christmas Lights Switch-On

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Seaham Town Council to attend the Switch-On Ceremony of Seaham's Christmas lights on 4 December 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Durham Cathedral

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance towards the welfare and upkeep of Durham Cathedral.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

6 PLANNING

There were no planning matters.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Estimates of Expenditure 2016/2017

The Clerk presented Members with various options in relation to the 2016/17 estimates of expenditure. Options included a standstill overall budget and a standstill Band D property charge. The financial position of the Parish Council was discussed and it was agreed that the Council was in a financially stable position. Based on the figures provided, it was suggested that a budget based on a 0.25% increase in the precept be set.

This would give an overall budget of £12,005.00 for 2016/2017. This was made up of £11,758.00 precept and £247.00 Local Council Tax Support Grant. This was a £122.00 reduction on last year's budget and a 1.23% reduction on the band D charge.

The Clerk pointed out that the tax base and grant figure could change but it was not expected to be significant.

RESOLVED that the 2016/2017 budget be based on a 0.25% increase subject to any change to the tax base.

(2) Village Road Safety Signs

The Clerk reported that following a request to Durham County Council for road safety signs a response had been received from the County's Traffic Assets Manager, Mr K Jameson.

The County Council had advised that they received many requests for this type of signage. The signage was therefore used sparingly so as not to over prescribe the signs, which in turn was known to reduce the credibility of the signage as drivers ignored them.

For this reason, the County Council would only support the use of 'Please Drive Carefully' signs in villages with a recognised accident history.

Mr Jameson had checked the 'Road Traffic Accident' database, which was shared with Durham Constabulary covering a 4 year period to the end of July 2015. During this period there had been no 'personal injury' accidents reported in the village which was a favourable trend when compared to many other locations.

The County Council would therefore not support the Parish Councils request for the signs.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that the village Christmas tree had been delivered and it was suggested that the tree be erected on 22 November 2015.

Members were advised that the electricity feeder pillar for the Christmas lights would be turned on 26/27 November 2015.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Litter Bins

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had inspected the bins in the village and concluded there was no damage. The County Council was therefore not proposing to repair or replace any of the bins.

Members were advised that at least one of the bins had a broken lid. The Clerk had contacted the County Council and asked if the Parish Council paid for new bins would the County allow them to be replaced.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and further developments be awaited.

(5) Sandwich Board – Seaton Lane Inn

The Clerk reported that following a request from the Parish Council the Police had visited the Seaton Lane Inn to view the advertising boards located outside the pub.

The Police had advised that the advertising boards were on private land and were not blocking the pavement or access to the pub.

Members were still concerned that the boards were too large, they obstructed the pavement and caused an obstruction for local residents. In the circumstances it was suggested that the Clerk contact the Seaton Lane Inn and request that the boards be moved so as not to obstruct the pavement.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact the Seaton Lane Inn

(6) Seaton Community Centre – Christmas Dinner

The Clerk reported that the annual Christmas dinner would be held on Monday 7 December, 2015 at Seaton Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Christmas Carol Singing

The Clerk reminded Members that the annual Christmas carol singing would be held on Wednesday 16 December 2015 at 7.00pm.

The December meeting of the Parish Council was scheduled to be held on the same date and would therefore be held at 6.00pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 18 November 2015

	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100213	Shaw Trust	Grounds Maintenance	729.17	145.83	875.00
100214	HMRC	PAYE - November 2015	99.40		99.40
100215	Payroll	Wages - November 2015	397.25		397.25
100216	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2015	7.75	1.55	9.30
100217	J Thompson	Reimbursements - Stamps	6.48		6.48
100218	The Salvation Army	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
100219	Durham Cathedral	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00
		TOTAL	1390.05	147.38	1537.43

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on **16 December 2015** at **6.00pm**.

..... **Signed**

..... **Dated**