

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

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

Also Present: County Councillor S Morrison

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO N Thubron to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting 5 incidents had been reported. The figures included 3 incidents on the A19 which involved 1 ANPR, 1 car crash and 1 motorcycle crash. There had been a report of a loose dog which was picked up by the Dog Warden, the dog was chipped and returned to the owner. There had been a report of suspicious activity at the windfarm where cameras, owned by the windfarm, had been tampered with.

Members were advised that year to date anti-social behaviour was down 9%, burglary was down 80% and crime overall was down 22%.

Councillor Foots reported problems related to parking in the vicinity of the Dunn Cow which often restricted access to Avoncroft Close. Members expressed concern at the increase in indiscriminate parking in the village and explained that vehicles were being parked up on a Friday night and left over the weekend. It was pointed out that there was land available to the rear of the pub that could be used for car parking. The Officer advised that he would investigate and report the problem to the Street Wardens.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 January 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk advised Members that a card had been received from Councillor Foster and his wife thanking the Parish Council for the sympathy card and flowers sent following the loss of their daughter.

(1) The Children's Foundation

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Children's Foundation.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) Royal Garden Party 2016

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that Middridge Parish Council and Bishop Auckland Town Council had been allocated places to attend the Royal Garden Party on 24 May 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Invitation - Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Mayor of Seaham Town Council, Councillor B Burn to attend an evening with Seaham Past and Present working in collaboration with Seaham Family History Group on 17 March 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

(i) Applications

DM/16/00441/FPA – Erection of single storey pitched roof extension to side of existing dwelling at 4 Sharpley Drive, Seaham SR7 OLE for Mr S Robertson

DM/16/00380/FPA – Erection of two storey extension to side and single storey extension to rear at Chilton House, The Village, Seaton SR7 OLY for Mr N Gray

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

Councillor Foots gave an update on progress at the Garden Centre site. Planning permission had previously been granted for the erection of 6 dwellings and the applicant was now planning to submit amended plans for additional houses.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Grounds Maintenance Contract - Shaw Trust

The Clerk reported that Shaw Trust had been advised that the Parish Council had accepted the quotation to provide grounds maintenance services for 2016.

Members were advised that following discussion Shaw Trust had agreed that the Parish Council would pay at the end of the season.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Christmas Lights –Electricity Feeder

The Clerk reported that a final invoice for the electric used for the Christmas lights had been received from npower in the amount of £14.19.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Updates

The Clerk provided the following updates.

(i) Water Leak - Opposite the Community Centre

Following a routine health and safety inspection at the Community Centre Durham County Council were advised that water was leaking from the road, opposite the Centre, making it slippery and dangerous.

Durham County Council had inspected the area and as there was no evidence of a leak it was thought to be surface water.

(ii) Parking on Grassed Areas

The Police were advised of the problems related to cars parking on grassed areas and churning it up. The Police had advised there was little they could do if the cars weren't causing an obstruction on the path. They had however agreed to send the Traffic Warden to look at the situation.

(iii) The Street light at the Community Centre had been repaired.

(iv) The salt bins at the Dunn Cow, Community Centre and Haverley Drive had been re-filled.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments

The Clerk reported that revised audit arrangements were being introduced from 1 April 2017. The Councils current contract with BDO would expire following the 2016/17 audit and from the 2017/18 financial year the Parish Council would have an auditor appointed to them by a new 'sector-led body' or they could procure their own.

Members were advised that the new sector led body called the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAAL) had been established to act as the procurement body to appoint auditors and manage audit contracts. The SAAAL would appoint auditors for all smaller authorities "opted in" to the new arrangements.

From April 2017 smaller authorities with a turnover below £25,000 would still be required to complete and publish an Annual Return, but would no longer need to submit it for audit. Instead these councils must publish certain information in accordance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities.

The Council would automatically be opted in to the SAAAL arrangements for five years but if they wished to opt out then NALC must be notified by 31 March 2016.

Smaller authorities with an annual turnover of less than £25,000 would still need an auditor to answer questions from electors and the SAAAL would be the first point of contact. There would still be a mechanism for electors to query things and the Council would have an auditor appointed for this process.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council continue with the SAAAL arrangements.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100237	Mulcahy Lawns	Village Christmas Tree	250.00		250.00
100238	HMRC	PAYE - February 2016	99.40		99.40
100239	Payroll	Wages - February 2016	397.25		397.25
100240	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - February 2016	7.75	1.55	9.30
100241	J Thompson	Reimbursements	34.52		34.52
		TOTAL	788.92	1.55	790.47

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Village Christmas Tree

Members made reference to the proposal to plant a Christmas tree on the village green and suggested that residents, living in the immediate vicinity of where the tree would be planted, be consulted and asked for their views.

RESOLVED that the Clerk write to residents, living in close proximity to the village green, asking for their views on the proposal.

(ii) Fencing - Walkway

Councillor Haddick reported that a stretch of fencing on the walkway, to the rear of The Meadows, was down and needed repairing. The Chair reported that the wooden steps coming from The Meadows onto the walkway were also in a bad state of repair and needed inspecting.

RESOLVED the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 16 March 2016 at 7.00pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated