

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2016

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Fooks, T Foster and A Smith

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PC S Wilson to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting 11 incidents had been reported which included 1 shed burglary and 2 ANP reports on the A19.

Reference was made to problems related to parking in the vicinity of the Dunn Cow. The Officer advised that the Police had very few powers to tackle parking issues but could make uniformed visits. Durham County Council had overall responsibility for civil parking and enforcing parking restrictions.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 17 February 2016 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Citizens Advice County Durham

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Citizens Advice County Durham.

RESOLVED that a donation of £25 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Seaham Town Council – Civic Ball

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Seaham Town Council to attend the Mayor of Seaham's Civic Ball on 29 April 2016.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Durham Constabulary

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter from the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary advising that Durham Constabulary had been graded as the best police force in the country by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Commemorative Medal – Queen's 90th Birthday

The Clerk reported that on 21 April 2016 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would celebrate her 90th birthday. To commemorate this event the Tower Mint had produced a collector's medal.

Members were advised that the medal had been exclusively produced for schools and councils and cost £1.99 per unit excluding carriage and VAT. The minimum order value was 50 units at a cost of £99.50.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council place an order for 150 units at a cost of £298.50 plus £7.50 carriage, total cost £367.20.

6 PLANNING

Withdrawal – DM/15/03618/FPA – Erection of detached double garage/workshop at Greenbank, Seaton Lane, Seaton, Seaham, SR7 OLT for Mr J Lynn

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting 17 residential properties, located in the immediate vicinity of the village green, were contacted in relation to the proposal to plant a Christmas tree on the village green.

Members were advised that two residents had responded and raised the following concerns;

- Height of the tree
- Restricting view from residential properties facing the green
- Obstructing children playing on the green
- Water pipes located on the green

A resident had stated that it was illegal to plant a tree on common land that was not an indigenous/native tree. The Clerk had contacted Durham County Council to determine the legal position. The County Council's Senior Ecologist had confirmed there were no restrictions on planting trees on common land that were not indigenous/native trees.

Following a lengthy discussion it was agreed not to plant a tree and the Council would continue to purchase an annual Christmas tree.

Members pointed out that the village had lost a number of mature trees and

agreed they would like to plant some additional trees. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the County Council and ask if an officer from the County Council would attend a walkabout to look at potential sites for new trees.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council and request a walkabout to look at potential sites for new trees.

(2) Grass Cutting Contract – Durham County Council

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation for grass cutting during the 2016 growing season.

Members were advised that the contract was based on grass cutting around the village green area at a cost of £17.99 per visit and grass cutting at Seaton Burn at a cost of £17.44 per visit. All costs were exclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted.

(3) Litter/Dog Bin Contract – Durham County Council

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £638.04 for the emptying of 2 dog bins and 1 litter bin.

Members were advised that the contract was based on each bin being emptied once per week at a cost of £4.09 exclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted.

(4) Issues Raised since the Last Meeting

(i) Litter Bins

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had installed new litter bins at the Community Centre and the Dunn Cow. Whilst Members welcomed the new bins it was pointed out that the bin located at the Burn was in a terrible state and needed to be replaced.

(ii) Seaton Farm Estate

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received from residents regarding indiscriminate parking on the grassed areas at Seaton Farm Estate. Residents reported that vehicles were parking on the grass verges and churning up the grass. The cars were then leaving mud on the estate roads which residents felt was dangerous.

The matter was reported to Durham County Council.

(iii) “For Sale” Board

The Clerk reported that a complaint had been received in relation to the “For Sale” board located at the entrance to The Meadows. Residents were concerned that further boards would be erected in this location.

The matter was reported to the County Council's Planning Enforcement officer.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100242	HMRC	PAYE - March 2016	99.20		99.20
100243	Payroll	Wages - March 2016	397.45		397.45
100244	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - March 2016	8.00	1.60	9.60
100245	J Thompson	Reimbursements	23.59		23.59
100246	Citizens Advice County Durham	Section 137 Donation	25.00		25.00
		TOTAL	553.24	1.60	554.84

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Flower Bed – Seaton Crescent

Members advised that a Cordyline was missing from one of the flower beds at Seaton Crescent.

RESOLVED that the Shaw Trust be advised.

(ii) Karting – Massive Attack

Members made reference to the Karting activities taking place in the field adjacent to the Massive Attack paintballing site.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(iii) Indiscriminate Parking

Members made reference to the indiscriminate parking taking place throughout the village. Vehicles were parking on the pavements and grass verges which was damaging the pavements and churning up the grass.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 20 April 2016 at 7.00pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated