

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Haddick, G McAuliffe and A Smith.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Clerk reported that PCSO A Guess had submitted her apologies.

Members were advised that from 1 August to 13 September 2016 24 incidents had been reported which included the following:

Highway disruptions – A19 and nearby roads
1 Anti-social behaviour - Off Road Bikes
3 Shed burglaries

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 July 2016, 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) Haswell and District Mencap Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Haswell and District Mencap Society.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(ii) Seaton Community Association

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously given a commitment to Seaton Community Association to provide a grant of £1,000.00 per annum for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

The purpose of the grant was to help provide the association with financial stability and allow them to plan and move forward.

RESOLVED that a financial contribution of £1,000.00 be paid to Seaton

Community Association for the 2016/17 financial year, the payment to be made under Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(2) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following invitations from Seaham Town Council.

Mayor “At Home” – 7 September 2016 - Councillors Slater and Haddick attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

70's Night – 30 September 2016

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils Annual General Meeting would be held on 22 October 2016 at County Hall, Durham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Code of Conduct and Standards Training

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council was providing a training session on the Code of Conduct and Standards on 21 September 2016 at Horden Parish Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Meeting with MP's and Parliamentary Outreach Workshop

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had organised an event with local MP's and a workshop with the Parliamentary Outreach Team. The event would be held on 14 October 2016 at the Glebe Centre, Murton.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

Councillor Foots reported that planning permission had previously been granted for 6 residential properties on the old Garden Centre site, Seaton. It had come to the attention of the Parish Council that the developer was now in discussion with Durham County Council to increase the number of properties on the site.

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

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) The Meadows

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members were advised that the residential property adjacent the electric sub-station at The Meadows had fenced off an area of grass and claimed it as garden land.

The land in question was owned by Mr Burgon and Mr Gatenby and they had both been advised of the situation.

The problems associated with maintenance and grass cutting of this piece of land was raised with Mr Burgon and he was invited to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the matter further.

Councillor Foots reported that the makeshift fence had been removed and replaced with a permanent one and no additional land was being used as garden by the property.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Budget Setting 2017/2018

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising of the indicative forecast of reductions in Local Council Tax Support Scheme Grant for the period 2017/2018 to 2019/2020.

The forecasts provided could be used for budget planning purposes but the current position was not final, as this would be based on the Tax Base forecasts undertaken in October 2015.

Using the updated Tax Base and the forecasted grant reductions the Parish Council would see an increase in its Tax Base of 2.5 and a reduction in grant of £90.00.

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

(3) Annual Audit

The Clerk reported that BDO LLP had completed the Annual Audit for the year ended 31 March 2016 and advised on the following issue.

Section 137 Expenditure Powers - The Parish Council made a payment to Seaton Community Association which should have been authorised and recorded as a payment made under Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972 and not Section 137.

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be displayed for a minimum of 14 days. The cost of the Annual Audit was £120.00.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) The Meadows - Steps

At the last meeting Members reported that the steps at The Meadows, on the side of the estate leading towards Old Burdon, were in a bad state of repair and required attention.

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were contacted and had advised that minor repairs were undertaken in April 2016 when the steps were inspected. The steps had been checked again and were found to be in good condition.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Community Centre Christmas Meal

The Clerk reported that the Community Centre Christmas meal would be held on 5 December 2016. Members were advised that sadly this would be the very last Christmas meal hosted by the Association.

Members expressed their sadness but understood the reasons for the decision.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Village Christmas Tree

Members discussed that village Christmas tree and suggested that Seaham Town Council be asked if they were able to assist with the supply and erection of a tree in the village.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Seaham Town Council.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100272	HMRC	PAYE - August 2016	104.00		104.00
100273	Payroll	Wages - August 2016	415.95		415.95
100274	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - August 2016	8.00	1.60	9.60
100275	HMRC	PAYE - September 2016	104.00		104.00
100276	Payroll	Wages - September 2016	415.95		415.95
100277	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - September 2016	8.00	1.60	9.60
100278	BDO LLP	Annual Audit Fee	100.00	20.00	120.00
100279	J Thompson	Reimbursements	29.15		29.15
100280	Seaton Community Association	Section 133 Grant	1,000.00		1,000.00
		TOTAL	2,185.05	23.20	2,208.25

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Spring Bulbs

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting a letter was sent to Councillor S Morrison thanking her for the very generous grant of £598.00 for the purchase and planting of 4,000 spring bulbs throughout the village.

It was suggested that Durham County Council be asked to plant extra bulbs on the land adjacent to the Seaton Lane Inn.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council.

(2) Field to the rear of Seaton Grove

Councillor Foster reported that he had been approached by residents living in Seaton Grove in relation to the farmer's field to the rear of their properties.

Residents were concerned that the field was overgrown, covered in weeds, had not been cut in years and was an eyesore. They had complained that seeds from the field were blowing about and causing problems to residents living near the field.

The land was owned by Mr Gregson and managed by George F White. It was suggested that the Clerk contact the agent and ask that the concerns of residents

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 14 September 2016

be forwarded to Mr Gregson.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact George F White.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 19 October 2016 at 7.00pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated