

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2016

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock, A Fouts, D Ritchie and D Temple.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 COMMUNITY POLICING

The Chair welcomed PCSO's L Graham and C Hutton to the meeting.

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been 1 theft from a motor vehicle, 3 burglaries and 1 report of criminal damage

Members reported the on-going problem of Off Road Bikes on the walkway. The officer advised that the Police were aware of the situation with the bikes and did respond where possible.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 19 October 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) Great North Air Ambulance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £50.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(ii) North East Prison after Care Society

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the North East Prison after Care Society.

RESOLVED that no donation be made.

(2) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Seaton Community

Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Durham Cathedral – Update

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham Cathedral which provided an update on activities at the Cathedral.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

There were no planning matters.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Christmas Carol Singing - Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual Christmas carol singing would be held on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 7.00pm.

It was suggested that the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on the same date and the start time of the meeting be brought forward to 6.00pm.

The Parish Council traditionally made a donation to the Salvation Army and it was suggested that a donation of £100.00 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 6.00pm,
- (ii) a donation of £100.00 be made to the Salvation Army from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Community Centre – Christmas Meal

The Clerk reminded Members that the Community Centre Christmas meal would be held on Wednesday 7 December 2016.

It was suggested that a £20.00 gift voucher be donated towards the raffle at the annual Christmas dinner.

RESOLVED that a donation of a £20.00 gift voucher be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(3) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that the village Christmas tree had been ordered from Mulcahy Trading at a cost of £250.00

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Christmas Lights

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council purchase 3 sets of Christmas tree lights at a cost of £239.97 inclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to purchase Christmas tree lights at a cost of £239.97 inclusive of VAT.

(5) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Renewal of Annual Subscription

The Clerk reported that to renew the annual subscription fee for the Campaign to Protect Rural England was £36.00.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to renew the subscription at a cost of £36.00.

(6) Shed Burglaries - Update

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Police were asked if the new street lighting, installed by Durham County Council and the dark nights had contributed to the increase in shed burglaries.

The Police had advised that a male was arrested in connection with the shed burglaries and remanded for court. The Police were offering free shed alarms to residents in the Seaham area due to the high number of sheds being broken into.

In relation to the new street lighting they couldn't say if there was any connection to the burglaries.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Estimates of Expenditure 2017/2018

The Clerk presented Members with various options in relation to the 2017/2018 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 the Council was in a financially stable position.

Based on the figures provided, it was suggested that a standstill overall budget be set.

This would provide an overall budget for 2017/2018 of £12,028.00, made up of £11,848.00 precept and £180.00 Local Council Tax Support Grant. This was a £90.00 reduction on last year's budget, a 4p increase in the Band D property charge and a 0.75% increase on the precept.

The Clerk pointed out that the tax base and grant figure provided by Durham County Council were subject to change but it was not expected to be significant.

RESOLVED that the 2017/2018 budget be based on an overall standstill budget of £12,028.00.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100285	Shaw Trust	Grounds maintenance	729.17	145.83	875.00
100286	HMRC	PAYE - November 2016	104.00		104.00
100287	Payroll	Wages - November 2016	415.95		415.95
100288	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2016	8.00	1.60	9.60

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100289	Campaign to Protect Rural England	Annual Subscription			36.00		36.00
100290	J Thompson	Reimbursements			7.15		7.15
100291	A Slater	Reimbursement			199.97	40.00	239.97
100292	Great North Air Ambulance	Section 137 Donation			50.00		50.00
					TOTAL	821.07	41.60
							862.67

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Flytipping

Councillor Teasdale reported that a number of tyres had been flytipped in the stream at the Burn

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) Lights – Stockton Road

Councillor Middlemiss reported that a number of street lights, on Stockton Road in the vicinity of the Tesco store, were out.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(3) Time of Future Meetings

The Chair reported that the Vane Tempest Theatre Group used the Community Centre on the same night as the Parish Council meeting and once a month had to source an alternative venue.

It was suggested that in order to accommodate the Theatre Group future meetings of the Parish Council be held at 6.45pm.

RESOLVED that all future meetings of the Parish Council be held at 6.45pm.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Thursday 8 December 2016 at 6.00pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated