

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, A Foots, S Haddick,
H Middlemiss, A Taylor, J Theobald, A Vila
and S Williams

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S McAuliffe and D Temple.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair welcomed Mr and Mrs Thompson and Mr and Mrs Williams to the meeting.

Mr Thompson advised that they were present at the meeting to discuss a road safety issue related to an npower van that had been parked outside Seaton Supply Stores for approximately 8 weeks.

Mr Thompson explained that whilst the vehicle may be parked legally it was in a dangerous location and obstructed the view of vehicles leaving Byron Lodge Estate, particularly when turning right.

Mr Williams advised that both the Police and npower had been contacted regarding the vehicle. Npower had advised that the vehicle was not their responsibility as it was leased to MeterPlus who were a separate part of npower.

The Chair advised that the Clerk had contacted the Police and asked if there was anything that could be done to remove the vehicle on road safety grounds. The Police had advised that they were aware of the van and were investigating.

Mr Thompson asked about the possibility of introducing a waiting restriction on the layby to deter vehicles parking for extended periods of time. He advised that the owners of Seaton Supply Stores had indicated they would have no objection to this.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact the Police and npower to have the vehicle removed and a request be made for a waiting restriction to be introduced on the layby.

4 POLICE

The Clerk reported that PCSO H Embleton had reported that since the last meeting there had been 9 incidents which included 1 vehicle obstruction, 1 flytipped rubbish, 2 criminal damage, 1 male with an air rifle which was unloaded and secured, 1 intoxicated male banging on a residential door demanding a taxi, 1 vehicle accident and 2 reports of vehicle crime.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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- 5 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 21 March 2018, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

7 PLANNING

There was none.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Ornamental Tree - Durham County Council

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had mistakenly planted a tree on the corner of the junction at Hillrise Crescent and the B1404.

Members were advised that the tree should have been planted on the corner opposite the Community Centre. The Clerk had contacted the County Council and agreed that the Parish Council would pay for the tree that had been mistakenly planted and the County Council would pay for an additional tree on the corner opposite the Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Burst Pipe on Walkway

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council was contacted regarding excessive surface water on the walkway.

Members were advised that the County Council had advised they were aware of the problem and had visited the site to rod the pipes and clear the blockage. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful and further investigations would be carried out to ascertain if tree roots could be interfering with the piped system.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Fencing

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from residents to extend the new fencing on the corner of the junction with the B1404 up to Seaton Grove.

Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £1,750.92 plus VAT for 44m of fencing. The price included staining the fence and reinstating the grass verge.

Members discussed how far to extend the fence to and it was suggested that the County Council be asked to provide an additional quotation to fence as far up as Oaklea.

RESOLVED that the Clerk request a quote to extend the fence to Oaklea.

(4) Internal Audit for the Year Ending 31 March 2018

The Clerk reported that the internal audit would be undertaken by Mr Fletcher at a cost of £100.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18

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The Clerk reported that following the abolition of the Audit Commission a new organisation, called the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Board, had been established with responsibility for issuing proper practices in relation to the accounts of smaller authorities.

Members were advised that all councils were required to complete the appropriate part of the new Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) which applied to them.

Part 1 was to be completed by councils and parish meetings who wished to declare no financial transactions in the year of account and certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review.

Part 2 was to be completed by councils where the higher of gross income or expenditure was £25,000 or less, they met the qualifying criteria, and wished to certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review.

Part 3 was to be completed by councils where either the higher of gross income or expenditure exceeded £25,000 but did not exceed £6.5 million; and any other councils that were either unable to certify themselves as exempt or had requested a limited assurance review.

Members discussed the options of completing Part 2 or 3 and suggested that the Parish Council complete Part 3 and request a limited assurance review.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council complete Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 3.

(6) Annual Insurance Premium 2018/19

The Clerk reported that the annual insurance for the Parish Council was due for renewal on 1 June 2018. Zurich Municipal had advised that the annual premium for 2018/19 was £257.60 the same amount as last year.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

(7) Memorial Bench

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from Mr D Punshon to erect a bench with an inscription in memory of his aunt Mrs J Punshon who had passed away and requested this in her will.

It was suggested that as Mrs Punshon had lived in Seaton Crescent this could be a suitable location for a bench. Durham County Council was contacted and they advised that the land at Seaton Crescent belonged to the County Durham Housing Group.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact County Durham Housing Group.

(8) Seaton Crescent - Parking Bays

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from a resident for the grassed areas at either end of Seaton Crescent to be removed to provide parking bays.

Members were advised that Durham County Council's Strategic Highways section had advised that the conversion of open space amenity land to off street parking was possible but in most cases costly, particularly if public utility apparatus was affected and they had no budget for this type of work.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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(9) Fly Tipped Rubbish

The Clerk reported that the flytipped rubbish located on the boundary with Sunderland had been removed by Durham County Council. The rubbish on the pathways at Ryhope had been reported to Sunderland Borough Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(10) Burnbrae

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were contacted in relation to the erection of a post and steel cable fence on the grassed area adjacent to Burnbrae, Seaton Village.

Members were advised that the County Council had advised that the land did not belong to them and they were unable to take any action.

Councillor Taylor advised that he had received some information on highway verges, produced by the Open Spaces Society.

RESOLVED that the information on highway verges be passed to Durham County Council.

9 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100390	HMRC	PAYE - April 2018	113.80		113.80
100391	Payroll	Wages - March 2018	455.77		455.77
100392	Durham County Council	Supply and Plant Tree	279.00	55.80	334.80
100393	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2018	11.00	2.20	13.20
100394	J Thompson	Reimbursements	40.90		40.90
100395	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	257.60		257.60
		TOTAL	1,158.07	58.00	1,216.07

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 6.45pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated