

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 APRIL 2019

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Blacklock

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 POLICE

The Police reported that following a spate of burglaries in the Seaton area, 1 male was arrested and charged with burglary offences. The male had been remanded in custody and was due to appear at court. Since the arrest there had been no further burglaries.

There had been a theft of lead and garden ornaments. Suspects had been seen in a dark hatchback vehicle, but they remained unknown to the Police.

Off road bikes remained an issue, and officers in partnership with Northumbria would be undertaking a joint operation. The Police were aware that during the summer the walkway was well used, and they were conscious of utilising Police off road bikes and engaging in any form of pursuit which could endanger other users on the walkway.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 March 2019, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance - Citizens Advice County Durham

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

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

(2) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Mayor of Seaham's Civic Ball on 26 April 2019.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Thank You

The Clerk reported the receipt of a thank you card from Mr D Ritchie in relation to the dedication ceremony held on 30 March 2019.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING

Application - DM/19/00832/FPA – Single storey wrap around extension to side and rear of 3 Haverley Drive, Seaham SR7 0JP

Approval - DM/18/03411/FPA – Change of use from dwelling (use class C3) to accommodation ancillary to the Seaton Lane Inn, internal and external alterations and the erection of a linen store with associated parking and replacement boundary fence at Woods Edge, Seaton Lane, Seaham SR7 0LP

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Dedication Ceremony - Improvement Works to Corner opposite Community Centre

The Clerk reported that the dedication ceremony was held on 30 March 2019 followed by refreshments in the Community Centre.

Members were advised that the event was well attended and feedback had been positive. Refreshments for the event amounted to £274.81 and the Chair had been reimbursed for the expenditure.

Members discussed the wording for the plaque to be erected on the seat and it was suggested that a small plaque be ordered with the following wording;

“This area is dedicated to former Elected Members of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council”

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and a letter of thanks be forwarded to Fathers Kennedy and Mawhinney for undertaking the ceremony.

(2) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2019

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

The Clerk reported that 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 as the Council's gross income and expenditure was less than £25,000 it was suggested that the Parish Council complete Part 2 and certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council complete the 2018/19 Annual Governance and Accountability Return Part 2.

(3) Section 133 Grant - Seaton Community Association

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously supported Seaton Community Association with an annual grant of £1,000.00 from the Section 133 Budget.

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RESOLVED that a grant of £1,000.00 be made to Seaton Community Association from the Section 133 Budget.

(4) Bank Mandate

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's current bank mandate required only 1 signature to sign cheques. It was suggested that a new bank mandate be completed requiring all cheques to be signed by 2 signatories.

Members were advised that there were currently 3 signatories on the mandate. It was proposed that a further 3 signatories be added, and it was suggested that Councillors S McAuliffe and D Temple together with the Clerk be added to the mandate.

RESOLVED that Councillors S McAuliffe and D Temple together with the Clerk be added to the bank mandate.

(5) B1404 - Entrance to Hall Close

The Clerk reported that following concerns related to the B1404 at the entrance to Hall Close the matter was referred to Durham County Council who had undertaken the necessary repairs to the road.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Litter Pick

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council in relation to the Parish Councils query about a litter pick in the village, details of which were outlined to Members.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100464	HMRC	PAYE - April 2019	116.60		116.60
100465	Payroll	Wages - April 2019	466.89		466.89
100466	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2019	12.10	2.42	14.52
100467	Durham County Council	Paving works to Seats	418.04	83.61	501.65
100468	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	199.64		199.64
100469	J Thompson	Reimbursements	7.32		7.32
100470	Seaton Community Association	Section 133 Grant	1,000.00		1,000.00
100471	Citizens Advice County Durham	Section 137 Donation	50.00		50.00
		TOTAL	2,270.59	86.03	2,356.62

RESOLVED that the payments listed be endorsed.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Walkway

Members referred to the walkway and reported that the fencing had been deliberately targeted and cut down. A boulder had been installed at the entrance, but it was positioned in such a way that still allowed access to quad bikes. It was suggested that the entrances should be protected by something made of metal or more substantial.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(2) Speed Bump – Burn Bank

Members referred to the speed bump at the Burn Bank and reported that it had been levelled off and the road widened.

The Chair advised that this section of road had been littered with pot holes. Whilst the pot holes were being repaired by Durham County Council they had widened the road to prevent cars going into the verge.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(3) Parking – Seaton Lane Inn

Members referred to the on-going problem of cars parking outside the Seaton Lane Inn. Particular reference was made to the Easter period when the pub was busy, and the car park was full. Cars were parking on the B1404 and the pavement which was forcing pedestrians into the road. Residents living opposite the pub were also having trouble getting on and off their drives.

Concern was expressed that the situation was becoming very dangerous and it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to the Police

(4) Grit Bins

The Chair referred to the grit bins in the Seaton area and advised that many of them were old and in a poor state of repair. Particular reference was made to the bin at Hall Close that was missing a lid and needed replacing.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could fund new grit bins that were more secure and visually pleasing.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the Annual Assembly of Electors and Annual General Meeting be held on Wednesday 15 May 2019 at 6.45pm.