

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

**HELD REMOTELY ON WEDNESDAY 15 JULY 2020**

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

**Also Present:** County Councillor S Morrison

Prior to the commencement of business, the Clerk advised that this meeting was being held remotely via ZOOM in accordance with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Vila.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

County Councillor S Morrison reported that herself and Councillor G Bleasdale would not be standing for re-election at the May 2021 elections.

Councillor Morrison advised that money was available from the County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget for community projects and the Parish Council was asked to consider projects it may need assistance with.

The Chair thanked Councillor Morrison for her ongoing and past support of the Parish Council and wished her the best for the future.

It was suggested that Members discuss possible projects and contact Councillor Morrison with proposals for funding.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**4 POLICE**

The Police reported that since the last meeting there had been 23 incidents reported, details of which were outlined to Members.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**5 The MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 24 June 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.**

**6 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from Citizens Advice County Durham.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**7 PLANNING**

**Applications**

**DM/20/01530/FPA – Construction of two prefabricated holiday dwellings on land adjacent to golf course car park at Sharpley Golf Course, Seaton SR7 ONP**

**DM/20/01616/RM – Proposed new dwelling on Plot 19 site of former Seaton Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton SR7 OLT**

**DM/20/01621/RM – Proposed new dwelling on plot 10 site of former Seaton Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton SR7 OLT**

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**8 CLERKS REPORT**

**(1) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/2020**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had completed and returned Part 2 of the 2019/20 Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor.

The Parish Council had certified themselves exempt from a limited assurance review and would not hear anything further from the auditor.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

**(2) Dispensation for Non-Attendance at Meetings**

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk which sought approval to grant a dispensation to extend the period of absence for any Councillor who was unable to attend meetings for a six-month period due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Members were advised that Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 stated that if a member of a local authority failed throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he/she would cease to be a member of the authority. This requirement could be waived, and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority, in advance of the six-month period expiring.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions the Parish Council had been unable to meet physically since February 2020 and had moved to holding its meetings remotely via ZOOM.

During this period it meant that Councillors through no fault of their own, perhaps due to illness, lack of equipment, failure of equipment, internet connection problems or a mixture of all, found themselves unable to attend a meeting for a period approaching six months.

To avoid disqualification, Members were asked to pre-approve any Councillor for an automatic six-month extension of absence, immediately before they reached the six-month point. The reason for failure to attend would be recorded as circumstances arising from the Covid-19 pandemic.

**RESOLVED** that during the period when remote meetings were necessary due to Covid-19 restrictions, any Councillor who was unable to attend meetings of the authority for six months, would automatically have their period of absence extended for a further six months by Council. This was pursuant to Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**(3) Summer Bedding**

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The Clerk had previously reported on the costs related to the supply, planting, maintenance and watering of the summer bedding.

Due to escalating costs it was suggested that once the summer bedding was removed the beds be landscaped with low maintenance shrubs and bushes. This would reduce the on-going cost of providing summer and winter bedding, particularly the costs related to maintenance and watering.

**RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be requested to provide a design and quotation for the landscaping of the beds.

### (4) RBL Poppy Wreaths

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council purchase 2 poppy wreaths to be placed in the village on remembrance Sunday. The Clerk advised that a poppy wreath cost £17.

**RESOLVED** that the Parish Council purchase 2 poppy wreaths at a cost of £34.

### (5) Website Hosting and Support

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £613.76 to host and support the Parish Councils website during 2020/21.

**RESOLVED** that the quotation from Durham County Council be accepted.

### (6) 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 from the Section 133 Budget.

**RESOLVED** that a grant of £1,000 be made to Seaton Community Association from the Section 133 Budget.

### (7) Japanese Knotweed

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Knotweed was reported to Durham County Council.

The County Council had advised that the knotweed was located between the walkway and the road and they were responsible for anything 1 metre along the roadside therefore, the Knotweed was not their responsibility.

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted.

### (8) Future Projects

Members discussed the offer of funding from County Councillors Morrison and Bleasdale.

The Chair raised the issues related to the flower beds and particularly the costs related to maintenance and watering. It was suggested that a grant could be sought to undertake a landscaping scheme in place of the flower beds. It was suggested that Durham County Council be requested to provide a quotation to landscape the beds.

It was also suggested that a new feeder pillar could be installed on the village green or a new one installed next to the Christmas tree adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn.

Members were asked to give some thought to other projects which could be discussed at the next meeting.

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**RESOLVED** that the Clerk contact Durham County Council to discuss the possible landscaping of the flower beds.

**9 PAYMENTS**

The following schedule of payments was circulated.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100552	Destroyed				
100553	Durham County Council	Website Hosting and Support	613.76	122.75	736.51
100554	RBL Poppy Appeal	2 Poppy Wreaths	34.00		34.00
100555	HMRC	PAYE - July 2020	116.60		116.60
100556	Payroll	Wages - July 2020	466.89		466.89
100557	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - July 2020	8.80	1.76	10.56
100558	Seaham Town Council	Watering - Summer Bedding	208.35	41.65	250.00
100559	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Postage	23.40		23.40
100560	Seaton Community Association	Section 133 Grant	1,000.00		1,000.00
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,506.80</b>	<b>166.16</b>	<b>2,672.96</b>

**RESOLVED** that the information given, be noted and the payments be approved.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**Walkway**

Councillor S Williams reported sections of the walkway where the surface was deteriorating. This was not helped by the off-road quads and bikes.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

**11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 9 September 2020.

.....Signed

.....Dated