

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

HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020

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

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 Councillors A Blacklock, A Foots, S Haddick and H Middlemiss.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 POLICE

Members were advised that since the last meeting 3 incidents had been reported. The Police Newsletter for November was received and had been posted on the Parish Councils website and noticeboards.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 The MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 21 October 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letters of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following letters of thanks.

**Durham Cathedral
Great North Air Ambulance**

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Seaham Town Council - Civic Appointments

The Clerk reported that Seaham Town Council had appointed Councillors B Taylor and L Willis as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Seaham Town Council for the municipal year.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Temporary Road Closure – Lord Byrons Walk

The Clerk reported that an Order had been made under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to close to vehicular traffic a 110 metre length of Lord Byron's Walk from 20 to 23 November 2020. The closure was necessary to enable level crossing works to be undertaken. Throughout the closure an alternative route would be available.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Leisure Centre – Consultation

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council which gave details of their intention to build a new leisure facility at Seaham.

The County Council had advised that Seaham Leisure Centre was old and becoming expensive to repair. It was not viable to improve or update the current facility and a new, modern centre would be built.

Whilst looking to replace the existing facility the County Council were taking the opportunity to consider the location of the new centre and were seeking views on this. They were also consulting on the facilities and activities offered in the centre. Following an evaluation of possible sites, the County Council had identified 3 options; the existing site; the dock top and St John's Square.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 PLANNING - APPROVALS

DM/20/02521 – Proposed new dwelling on Plot 9 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/02535 – Proposed new dwelling on Plot 13 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/02538 – Proposed new dwelling on Plot 17 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/01894/RM - Proposed new dwelling on Plot 21 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/02478/FPA – Single storey link extension between dwelling and detached garage to form gym and utility room at 15 The Meadows, Seaton, Seaham

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Carol Singing – Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the Christmas carol singing with the Salvation Army scheduled for this year had been cancelled due to Covid restrictions. The Parish Council traditionally donated to the Salvation Army and it was suggested that a donation of £150 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made to the Salvation Army from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Japanese Knotweed

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had advised that the knotweed on the walkway had been poisoned. This would be repeated next year to ensure it was weakened.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) The Meadows

The Clerk reported that the problems related to off-road bikes accessing The Meadows from the walkway had been reported to Durham County Councils Public Rights of Way (PROW).

The PROW officer had inspected the area and advised that a stile was not suitable for this location as there was no livestock present and it would be a problem for pushchairs and wheelchairs. To prevent access to off-road bikes an 'A Frame' barrier or wooden bollards was suggested.

Members discussed the options and reported that the boulders, used elsewhere on the walkway, had been a success and could be a solution for this location. It was pointed out that Members would welcome any type of barrier or deterrent that would help the situation.

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

(4) The Walkway

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from the Police to consider installing a soft surface at the entrances to the walkway to deter off road bikes and quads.

Members were advised that the Clerk had met with the Police to discuss the on-going problem of off-road bikes and quads on the walkway at Seaton. The Police had suggested that a length of pea gravel could be installed at the entrances to the walkway at Seaton to help prevent access to bikes and quads.

It was explained that as the walkway was maintained by Durham County Council the suggestion was referred to them for consideration. Their initial thoughts were that the gravel would end up being thrown across the walkway and could be a problem for horses, mobile scooters and wheelchairs.

It was suggested that the best course of action would be for the Police to contact Durham County Council direct with their proposal.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Budget Setting 2021/2022

The Clerk provided details of the figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the forthcoming 2021/2022 financial year.

Members were advised that the LCTRS grant for 2021/2022 was £243 which was an increase of £125 from the previous year and the tax base had been reduced from 419.7 to 415.1.

The Clerk provided various options and a range of figures for consideration. Members discussed the options and suggested that as the Parish Council was in a financially stable

position a 0.50% increase be applied to the precept and the Clerk prepare a budget based on this for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk prepare the 2021/2022 budget based on a 0.5% increase to the precept.

(6) Seaton Community Association – Section 133 Donation

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had given a commitment to Seaton Community Association to provide a grant of £1,000 per annum since the 2015/16 financial year. The purpose of the grant was to provide the Community Association with financial stability.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agree to provide a £1,000 grant to Seaton Community Association in 2021/2022.

(7) Future Projects - Walkway

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Councillors A Vila and S Williams had met with Durham County Council's Countryside Section to discuss proposals related to the walkway. Suggestions for future projects included.

- Educational/Information signs/posters – providing information about the trees, plants, flowers, wildlife, history or anything of interest along the walkway. These could be permanent or temporary, seasonal and displayed anywhere along the walkway.
- Scale models of the planets in the solar system – a measured walk showing the planets in the solar system with information displayed at each of the planets. These would be created to scale.

Councillor Vila advised that as far as possible installations would need to be robust and vandal proof. They could be seasonal and changed to reflect the seasons. They also needed to be accessible and inclusive. It was pointed out that the low-level 'turning of the tide' memorial stone, installed for the millennium, was showing no signs of erosion and was a possible option for leaf rubbing.

Members were advised of an idea which used QR (Quick Response) codes. These were read by smartphones and could be used to provide relevant information about the walkway. They could also be linked to other web pages and updated regularly. Members agreed that an installation using QR codes would be robust and vandal proof. The information was secure and could be updated. It was accessible by anyone with a smartphone and could be adapted to suit all ages and abilities. The costs were thought to be in the region of £5,000.

The Chair thanked Councillors Vila and Williams for their comprehensive report.

Members discussed the proposals, ideas and suggestions. It was pointed out that due to the costs it may be wise to start with something relatively simple and inexpensive. The Clerk suggested that as the walkway was managed by the County Council further discussion would be needed with them to determine how best to progress these ideas.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council and further developments be awaited.

(8) Community Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that funding may be available through the Area Action Partnerships

(AAP) for community defibrillators. Seaton had been added to the list to receive a defibrillator if available.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100580	HMRC	PAYE - November 2020	119.80		119.80
100581	Payroll	Wages - November 2020	479.76		479.76
100582	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2020	8.80	1.76	10.56
100583	A Slater	Reimbursement - Refreshments	18.57	3.33	21.90
100584	Seaham Town Council	Supply of Christmas Tree	320.00		320.00
100585	Salvation Army	Section 137 Donation	150.00		150.00
		TOTAL	1,096.93	5.09	1,102.02

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

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Overgrown Trees – Seaton Lane

Members reported that the trees on Seaton Lane were overgrown and needed to be pruned back. The trees were starting to encroach onto the overhead electricity cables.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) Former Garden Centre Site – Housing Development

Following the last meeting Durham County Council were advised that work had taken place at the former Garden Centre site on a Sunday morning at 7am which was a breach of the planning approval conditions.

The Clerk reported that further complaints had been received related to mud on the B1404 at the site. There was concern that the mud would freeze and cause a road safety hazard for motorists. It was pointed out that all vehicles leaving the site should be clear of mud and the road should be cleaned during the working day as well as at the end of each day.

Members reported that work was still taking place on site at a weekend.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 20 January 2021 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated