

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

HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2021

**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.

The Chair asked Members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the death of Councillor S Haddick

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock, A Foots and H Middlemiss.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 POLICE

Members were advised that since the last meeting there had been no reported incidents. The Police Newsletter for January was received and had been posted on the Parish Councils website.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 The MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 18 November 2020 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Salvation Army.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Royal Garden Party 2021

The Clerk reported that the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that the Royal Garden Parties scheduled to be held in 2021 had been cancelled due to Covid.

Members were advised that the Parish Council had nominated Councillor H Middlemiss to attend the Garden Party that was cancelled in 2020. It was likely that Councillor

Middlemiss would be invited to attend the 2022 Royal Garden Party when revised dates were issued.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Estate of Ms J Pescod

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Naughtons Solicitors who were the Executors dealing with the Will of the late Ms J Pescod.

Members were advised that Ms Pescod had bequeathed £10,000 to the Parish Council in her Will.

Members expressed their appreciation and gratitude that Ms Pescod had thought so highly of the Parish Council. It was suggested that once the funds were received an appropriate tribute would be made to the late Ms Pescod.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) High Speed Fibre Broadband

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Mr J Stancliffe who was concerned that BT did not appear to have any plans to bring high speed internet broadband to Seaton village.

Mr Stancliffe felt this service was essential for children and local businesses. He advised that many areas like Seaton, in other parts of the country had teamed up with BT OpenWorld to put a joint funding arrangement in place. BT contributed some of the costs towards the project and the community funded the rest. Mr Stancliffe had asked if the Parish Council would support such a scheme.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Mr Stancliffe to ask if he was requesting a financial contribution from the Parish Council. Mr Stancliffe had advised that at this stage he was not planning a project but wanted to bring the scheme to the Parish Council's attention.

Members were advised that further correspondence from Mr S Weightman had been received advising that Sharpley golf course and neighbouring properties had a low broadband speed. Mr Weightman felt this part of County Durham was severely disadvantaged compared to neighbouring areas and businesses were suffering.

Mr Weightman referred to the number of wind turbines located in the Parish and asked how the money from the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund was used in the community and was it available to assist in providing a better broadband service.

The Clerk had advised Mr Weightman that the County Durham Community Foundation administered the Wind Farm Community Benefits Fund and details of how to contact them to apply for grants was provided.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Traffic - B1404

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following concerns from a resident relating to issues on the B1404 at Seaton Lane.

- An increase in the speed of traffic travelling in both directions
- Vehicles regularly overtaking at high speed
- An increase in the number of heavy goods vehicles ignoring the weight restriction

The Parish Council had been monitoring the traffic on this stretch of road for several years and it was felt that the situation was getting worse and it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident.

It was suggested that the concerns of the Parish Council be referred to the Police with a request that the matter be raised with their traffic division to look at the area.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Police.

6 PLANNING

(1) Applications

DM/20/03405/FPA – Erection of first floor extension at side of dwelling at 30 Sharpley Drive, Seaham

DM/20/03630/RM – Erection of dwelling on Plot 11 (Resubmission of **DM/19/03831/RM**), site of former Seaton Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/03633/RM – Approval of reserved matters (appearance and scale) pursuant to **DM/16/03710** for the erection of a dwelling on Plot 8 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/03662/RM – Reserved matters application (appearance and scale) pursuant to **DM/16/03719** for the erection of a dwelling on Plot 3 of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

(2) Approvals

DM/20/02694/RM – Reserved matters of appearance and scale for the erection of dwelling pursuant to **DM/16/03710/OUT** at Plot 1 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

DM/20/02820/FPA – Single storey side extension at 16 Seaton Crescent, Seaham

DM/20/02960/FPA – Resubmission of application **DM/20/01172/FPA** - for a rear extension to connect house and garage, to replace shed in rear garden with annexe and bin store to front. Extension to house, new outbuilding in back garden and new bin store at front at The Old Forge, Seaton Lane, Seaton, Seaham

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Budget Setting 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been provided with figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the financial year 2021/2022.

At the last meeting Members agreed a 0.5% increase to the precept and the Clerk had prepared a detailed budget based on this, a copy of which was circulated to each Member.

The Clerk took Members through the budget and advised that the Parish Council required a budget of £12,928 for the 2021/2022 financial year. It was suggested that the Parish Council use £600 of reserves to provide a precept of £12,085 which together with the grant of £243 gave a figure of £12,328.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the Parish Council set a budget of £12,928 for the 2021/2022 financial year
- (ii) approval be granted to use £600 of reserves to give a precept request of £12,085
- (iii) Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2021/2022 was £12,085 in addition to a grant of £243 giving a total of £12,328.

(2) Community Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that the Area Action Partnership (AAP) had advised that County Councillor S Morrison had agreed to fund a community defibrillator to be located at the Seaton Lane Inn.

Members were advised that once installed the Parish Council would be responsible for insuring the defibrillator and all future maintenance. Weekly checks on the defibrillator would be carried out by staff from the Seaton Lane Inn.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and a letter of thanks be forwarded to Councillor Morrison.

(3) Manor Hall Close

The Clerk reported that the Chair had received a complaint from a resident regarding the condition of the road at Manor Hall Close. The road provided access to and from a farmer's field and when heavy machinery left the field it was leaving the road covered in mud.

Durham County Council were asked to inspect the area. They had advised that the farmer was responsible for cleaning his vehicles before he left the field and for ensuring the road was kept clean.

Durham County Council were asked to provide a quotation to supply and install 2 rows of flagstones at the entrance to the field to provide an area where the machines could be cleaned before entering the estate. The County Council had provided a quotation of £1,383.45 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Durham County Council to supply and install 2 rows of flagstones in the sum of £1,383.45 plus VAT be accepted.

(4) Maintenance - Birdsmouth Fencing

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were asked to inspect the birdsmouth fencing in the village and advise if it required repairing or re-staining. The County Council had advised that no repairs were needed but to re-stain the fencing would cost £526.72 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation to re-stain the birdsmouth fencing in the village be accepted in the sum of £526.72 plus VAT.

(5) The Meadows

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

Following the last meeting the Clerk contacted the PROW and suggested that the boulders, used elsewhere on the walkway had been a success and could be a solution for this location. The Parish Council would however welcome any barrier or deterrent.

PROW had advised that they would undertake a site visit to look at the location in terms of a suitable barrier.

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

(6) Handrail – The Meadows

The Clerk reported that the Chair had been contacted by a resident to advise that the steps leading from the walkway to The Meadows required some maintenance. The resident had also asked if a handrail could be installed.

The Clerk had contacted Durham County Councils Public Rights of Way (PROW) to report the steps and ask for a handrail to be installed. The Parish Council also offered to contribute towards the cost of the handrail.

PROW had advised that the steps would be inspected and repaired. They were unable to install a handrail on a PROW and the main reason for this was health and safety inspections. The PROW section did not have sufficient staff to carry out the regular inspections needed for a handrail.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Overgrown Trees – Seaton Lane

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were asked to prune back the overgrown trees on Seaton Lane that were encroaching onto the overhead electricity cables.

Durham County Council had inspected the trees and advised that the trees were maintained in accordance with their Corporate Tree Policy.

The trees to the frontage of Cairnside were reported to Northern Powergrid, because of their proximity to the power cables. Durham County Council would not carry out pruning close to the cables for safety reasons, and if any work was needed it would be carried out by Northern Powergrid.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Former Garden Centre Site – Housing Development

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were advised of complaints received related to mud on the B1404 at the former Garden Centre site.

Members had also reported that work was still taking place on site on a Sunday.

Members were advised that the Planning Officer had visited the site and a small amount of mud to the nearside kerb on the Eastbound carriageway was noted. Some of this was attributed to the site and some was thought to be from the farmers field opposite. The level of staining and minor mud was not such that at this stage any action was necessary, but they would continue to monitor the situation.

Regarding working hours, the planners had contacted all the developers and agents to remind them of their approved working hours. They had advised that the previous works which occurred on a Sunday were an owner having his gardens prepared which was out of the control of the planning approvals.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Grass Cutting/Servicing Litter/Dog Bins

The Clerk reported that in April 2020 the Parish Council signed a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council for grass cutting and servicing of the litter and dog bins in the village.

Members were advised that due to Covid the County Council were unable to carry out the normal standard of service for grass cutting and had advised of a reduction of £164 to the original quotation. The Parish Council would now pay £1,168.99 plus VAT.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100586	HMRC	PAYE - December 2020	120.00		120.00
100587	Payroll	Wages - December 2020	479.56		479.56
100588	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - December 2020	8.80	1.76	10.56
100589	Durham County Council	Fencing	388.97	77.79	466.76
100590	CPRE	Annual Subscription	36.00		36.00
100591	Society of Local Council Clerks	Annual Subscription	130.00		130.00
100592	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Postage	15.60		15.60
100593	HMRC	PAYE - January 2021	119.80		119.80
100594	Payroll	Wages - January 2021	479.76		479.76
100595	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - January 2021	8.80	1.76	10.56
100596	A Slater	Reimbursements	17.63	1.33	18.96
100597	Durham County Council	Grass cutting and servicing of litter/ dog bins	1,168.99	233.80	1,402.79
100598	J Thompson	Reimbursements	17.92	2.00	19.92
		TOTAL	2,991.83	318.44	3,310.27

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

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Footpath

A Member reported that the footpath leading from Pacific Hall Close through the estate was in a poor state of repair. There was a pothole in the path and it required cleaning.

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 17 February 2021 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated