

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

HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

**Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, 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 Foots and H Middlemiss

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 POLICE

The Clerk provided Members with an update on issues reported to the Police following the last meeting.

Regarding the concerns raised in relation to the B1404 the Police had advised that they would organise speed checks. They were also seeking clarification regarding Heavy Goods Vehicles and enforcement.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

4 The MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 January 2021 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letter of Resignation

The Clerk sadly reported the receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor A Foots.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Councillor Foots for the many years of dedicated service he had given to the Parish Council and wished him the best for the future.

It was suggested that a card and flowers be sent to Councillor Foots from the Chairs Account as a token of Members appreciation.

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council would be advised of the vacancy.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Retiring Village Postman

The Chair reported that she had been contacted by several residents advising that after 40 years of service with the Post Office the village postman was retiring.

It was suggested that as a token of appreciation for the many years of service to the village the Parish Council purchase a retirement gift on behalf of the Parish. The Chair suggested a retirement rose bush could be purchased at a cost of £29.99.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to purchase a retirement rose bush at a cost of £29.99 from the Chair's Account.

6 PLANNING

(1) Applications

DM/20/03676/FPA – Window alterations to rear and side elevations at Burnbrae, The Village, Seaton

DM/21/00410/RM – Proposed new dwelling on Plot 4 site of former Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Local Council Tax Support Grant

The Clerk reported Durham County Council had advised that the Government had recognised that local authority council tax taxbases had been impacted by the covid pandemic.

In recognition of this the Government had provided local government with an un-ringfenced grant called the Local Council Tax Support Grant. The funding was in recognition of the impact the covid pandemic had had upon council tax but also the need for local authorities to assist economically vulnerable residents with council tax and to consider local welfare schemes. Major preceptors would receive the Grant but not Town and Parish Councils.

Members were advised that there had been a reduction in tax base for many Town and Parish Councils albeit for small amounts. In recognition of the reduction in council tax taxbase the County Council were making a one-off payment to Town and Parish Councils where the taxbase had reduced and year on year tax raising capacity had been impacted.

The County Council had suggested that the Parish Council may wish to revisit its precept considering the additional funding. However, given the funding being awarded was £6.79 it was suggested that it be treated as one-off unbudgeted income.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Parish Council Elections – May 2021

The Clerk reported that Parish Council Elections were scheduled to be held on 6 May 2021.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Village Green Waste Bin

The Clerk reported that last year Councillor Taylor, on behalf of the Parish Council, signed up for a green waste bin to be located at the Community Centre. The bin was for use by residents who assisted with grass cutting in the village during the growing season. The cost to purchase the bin and receive 17 collections for 1 year was £55.

Councillor Taylor was asked if he would be happy to do the same again this year. As the Parish Council had already purchased the bin it would only need to pay for the collections. The cost for 17 collections would normally be £35 but if you were signed up last year it was reduced to £30.90 this year due to covid causing a late start in 2020.

RESOLVED that Councillor Taylor be authorised to register an additional green waste bin at his property and the Parish Council reimbursed the £30.90 fee.

(4) Updates

The Clerk provided a progress report on the following:

(a) Community Defibrillator

To date the Defibrillator had not been installed. A letter of thanks had been forwarded to Councillor Morrison.

(b) Manor Hall Close

The quotation from Durham County Council to supply and install 2 rows of flagstones at Manor Hall Close had been accepted. A date for the work to commence was awaited.

(c) Maintenance - Birdsmouth Fencing

The quotation from Durham County Council to re-stain the birdsmouth fencing in the village had been accepted. A date for the work to commence was awaited.

(d) The Meadows

Durham County Councils Public Rights of Way would undertake a site visit to look at the possibility of installing a suitable barrier at this location.

(e) Footpath – Pacific Hall Close

Durham County Council had undertaken some maintenance work on the footpath at Pacific Hall Close but issues which were not addressed had been reported.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100599	HMRC	PAYE - February 2021	120.00		120.00
100600	Payroll	Wages - February 2021	479.56		479.56
100601	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - February 2021	8.80	1.76	10.56

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 17 February 2021

100602	A Slater			Reimbursements			47.49	9.50	56.99
100603	J Thompson			Reimbursement - Postage			15.84		15.84
				TOTAL			671.69	11.26	682.95

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

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Salt Bin

Members reported a request from residents for an additional grit bin to be located at the bottom of the Burn.

RESOLVED that a request for an additional grit bin be submitted to Durham County Council.

(2) Hillrise Crescent

Members reported continuing problems related to traffic on Hillrise Crescent.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to the Police.

(3) Walkway

Members advised that work had taken place on the walkway to fix the damaged drain/manhole.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 17 March 2021 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated