

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2021**

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

**Also Present:** County Councillor K Batey

Prior to the start of the meeting a fire drill was held.

The Chair asked Members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the death of Mr K Payne who had previously served as a Councillor on the Parish Council.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Fuller, S McAuliffe and County Councillor D McKenna.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors S Faulkner and S Williams declared an interest in item number 6(1).

**3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

**4 POLICE**

The Clerk reported that there was no Police report.

Members were advised that following the last meeting Inspector J Malkin was invited to attend a meeting of the Parish Council.

Inspector Malkin had advised that the former Chief Constable had stopped the neighbourhood teams from attending Parish Council meetings. This was because there were too many meetings in any one team area and officers were unable to get on with their job because of having to attend Council meetings. However, since COVID and the local elections, the Inspector was aware that Parish Council members could have changed, and she felt it was important that they were familiar with their neighbourhood officers.

For this reason, the Inspector had agreed that the neighbourhood officers could attend a particular Parish Council meeting once or twice a year to ensure members knew their local officers and could put a face to a name. Officers would not attend every monthly meeting but if shift patterns allowed the team would attend the next meeting.

The Inspector was unable to attend Parish Council meetings as it was not possible to attend every meeting and in the interests of fairness, she could not attend some and not others.

The Inspector had advised that in relation to a monthly police report, there was often nothing of note to update the parish about from a police perspective. In relation to incidents reported to the Police they were unable to provide any further details due to Data Protection and often the incident was still a live investigation.

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

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- 5 The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 July 2021 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

### 6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Seaham Town Council – Mayor “At Home”

The Clerk reported that the Chair had received an invitation to attend the Mayor “At Home”.

It was suggested that as a token of appreciation for the invites the Parish Council had received that a donation be made to the Mayors Charity Fund.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £50 be made to the Mayor’s Charity Fund from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Seaham Town Council advising of the Mayors Charity Night Bingo Goes Bonkers to be held on 23 October 2021.

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

(3) Urban Garden Project

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident asking if the Parish Council had considered doing something like Seaham Town Council’s Urban Garden Project.

Members were advised that as part of Seaham in Bloom the Town Council was trialing an Urban Gardening Project where residents could apply for a free floral display of perennial plants to be planted under and/or around a street sign.

It was explained that the Parish Council had no authority to allow planting under street signs as they were the responsibility of Durham County Council. However, the Parish Council had no objection to residents planting under the street signs and could ask the County Council not to weed kill under the signs if they had been planted with flowers.

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

### 7 PLANNING

Application - DM/21/02583/FPA – Detached garden room to front of dwelling at 1 Peartree Rise, Seaton

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

### 8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Village Green

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council had forwarded a letter to both parties outlining the decision of the Parish Council in this matter.

Members were advised that the owner of the property adjacent the village green had agreed to remove the last section of the small wood post and wire fence erected on the grassed corner adjacent the property. He had also agreed to purchase and install a sign indicating that the land at the bottom of his property was village green and open for public access.

The Clerk advised that the last section of the fence had been removed and following this

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meeting the sign would be installed.

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

### (2) Community Defibrillator

The Clerk reported that a community defibrillator had been installed on the external wall of the Seaton Lane Inn. The Seaton Lane Inn had agreed to take on all responsibility for the defibrillator.

The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks would be sent to the Seaton Lane Inn and an item posted on the Parish Council website. A poster would also be placed in the Parish Councils noticeboards.

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

### (3) Dog Fouling

The Clerk reported that there had been an increase in the number of complaints received in relation to dog fouling, particularly on the village green. Durham County Council had been advised of the problem and had undertaken a clean up of the area.

It was suggested that the Parish Council could provide dog bags via a dog bag dispenser for members of the public to use. The Clerk provided Members with costs for a dog bag dispenser and dog bags.

It was pointed out that responsible dog owners cleaned up after their dogs and it was felt that the provision of dog bags would not significantly help the situation.

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

### (4) Carols Around the Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that the Salvation Army was booked for the annual Christmas carol singing on 15 December 2021 at 7pm.

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

### (5) Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that last year the village Christmas tree was supplied by Seaham Town Council. It was suggested that they be asked to supply a tree this year. It was also suggested that Durham County Council be requested to assist with the erection of the tree.

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

### (6) Estate of Ms J Pescod

The Clerk had previously reported that the late Ms J Pescod had bequeathed £10,000 to the Parish Council in her Will. Members were advised that the £10,000 had now been received.

Members expressed their appreciation and gratitude that Ms Pescod had thought so highly of the Parish Council and felt that some of the money should be spent on a tribute to the late Ms Pescod.

Councillor A Taylor suggested a community orchard. A community orchard was traditionally a collection of fruit, nut or seed trees shared by communities and grown in publicly accessible areas. As the Parish Council did not own any land it was suggested that the Parish Council purchase the trees and offer them to residents to plant in their own gardens.

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The Chair suggested that the Parish Council could plant trees in the parish area and erect a plaque in recognition of the generous gift to the community from Ms Pescod. It was the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and the Parish could use some of the money to plant a tree in recognition of 70 years of service by the Queen.

The Clerk had previously made some initial enquiries with Durham County Council who had suggested a selection of trees which would be suitable for planting in the village. It was suggested that the County Council be asked to provide a quotation for the supply of trees for a community orchard.

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

### (7) Feeder Pillar – Village Green

The Clerk reported that the feeder pillar located on the village green had been vandalised and damaged.

Members were advised that Mr S McAuliffe had been asked to undertake the necessary repairs and secure the feeder pillar to prevent any future damage.

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

### (8) Number 71 Go Northeast Service

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been advised that due to falling passenger numbers the Go Northeast number 71 service may be withdrawn.

Members were advised that Go Northeast were contacted, and had advised that they were collaborating with Durham County Council and the service would remain as it is.

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

### (9) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been asked to provide an update on the quotation required for work to the track crossing the village green towards the back of Hillrise Crescent.

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

## 9 PAYMENTS

**RESOLVED** that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100638	HMRC	PAYE - August 2021	139.80		139.80
100639	Payroll	Wages - August 2021	559.69		559.69
100640	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - August 2021	8.80	1.76	10.56
100641	Durham County Council	Grasscutting and servicing of litter/ dog bins	1,352.97	270.59	1,623.56
100642	J Thompson	Reimbursements	12.42		12.42
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	35.00		35.00
100643	HMRC	PAYE - September 2021	140.00		140.00

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100644	Payroll		Wages - September 2021		559.49		559.49
100645	JACS Accountancy Limited		Payroll Services - September 2021		8.80	1.76	10.56
100646	Durham County Council		Website Hosting and Support		622.97	124.59	747.56
100647	County Durham Association of Local Councils		Good Councillor Guides		13.20		13.20
100648	Mayors Charity Fund - Seaham Town Council		Section 137 Donation		50.00		50.00
				TOTAL	3503.14	398.70	3,901.84

**10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held 20 October 2021 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated