

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 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 D McKenna

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Fuller and S McAuliffe.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There was no public present at the meeting.

**4 POLICE**

The Police reported that since the last meeting 3 incidents had been reported.

Members were advised that the Chair had been contacted by residents who were concerned about an article in a local newspaper which referred to a spate of burglaries in the Seaton area. The Police were contacted and had advised that they were unaware of any burglaries in the Seaton area.

Councillor Williams reported that he was aware of a garage burglary which had taken place in the parish and the Clerk agreed to contact the Police to query this.

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

**5 The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 September 2021 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.**

**6 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Letter of Thanks**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Mayor of Seaham Town Council.

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

**(2) Request for Financial Assistance - Great North Air Ambulance**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance.

**RESOLVED** that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

**7 PLANNING**

Application - DM/21/03333/PA – Single storey rear extension at 12 Clarks Terrace, Seaham.

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

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Sinkhole

The Clerk reported that a section of the B1404 Seaton Lane was dipping where the sinkhole had previously been in 2019. The dip was slight, but noticeable as cars were dipping when they passed.

Durham County Council were contacted and asked to investigate the road to see if there had been any further sinking. Following a site visit the County Council had advised that the road had dropped slightly where the failure had previously occurred. However, they had given an assurance that the road was safe.

Durham County Council would continue to monitor the road and arrangements had been made for a GPR survey of the road which would highlight any voids or failures.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Seaham Town Council were asked to provide a quotation to supply the village Christmas tree.

Members were advised that the Town Council had quoted £320 plus VAT for a 20FT Christmas tree which would be delivered week commencing 8 November 2021.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Seaham Town Council be accepted.

(3) Christmas Tree Adjacent Seaton Lane Inn

The Chair reported that last year 2 sets of battery-operated lights were purchased to decorate the Christmas tree adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn. The Chair advised that one set of lights were damaged and suggested decorating the tree with large baubles. The large baubles were £5 for 7 and it was agreed that 4 packs be purchased together with a set of new lights.

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to purchase 1 set of battery-operated lights and 28 baubles to decorate the Christmas tree adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn.

(4) 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.

At the last meeting Councillor Taylor suggested using some of the money to fund a community orchard. 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.

The County Council were asked to provide a quotation for the supply of fruit trees, details of which were outlined to Members. The quotation from the County Council was expensive and it was felt that the trees could be purchased elsewhere.

Members discussed at length how many fruit trees would be needed and how they would be allocated to residents. Regarding letting residents know about the trees various suggestions were put forward which included flyers, posters and placing an article on the Parish Councils website asking residents if they would like to put their name forward for a tree.

At the last meeting it was also suggested that the Parish Council plant trees in the parish and erect a plaque in recognition of the generous gift to the community from Ms Pescod. It was also HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and some of the money could be used to plant a tree in recognition of the Jubilee.

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The Clerk had previously made some initial enquiries with Durham County Council who had suggested trees that were suitable for planting in the village. The County Council had advised that the only suitable place to plant trees was near the beds to the front of Seaton Crescent.

It was suggested that a site visit be requested with Durham County Council to discuss the options available for planting trees in the parish.

The Chair advised that Ms Pescod liked roses and suggested that a rosebush be planted on the corner opposite the Community Centre, behind the bench or on the bankside. It was further suggested that the Parish Council could source a rose called Joyce in remembrance of Ms Pescod.

**RESOLVED** that a site visit be requested with Durham County Council and further developments be awaited.

### (5) Remembrance Sunday – 14 November 2021

The Chair reported that the Parish Council had purchased 2 poppy wreaths to be displayed in the village on Remembrance Sunday following which they would be laid on the 2 war graves in St Mary's Church, Seaham.

County Councillor McKenna reported that a Remembrance Day service would be held at New Seaham Cenotaph and suggested that the Parish Council attend and lay a wreath. The Chair agreed to attend and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Councillor Taylor reported that J Gulliford Lowes, a local author and historian, had recently appeared on a Canadian YouTube Channel to discuss the 77th anniversary of the Slingley Bomber crash. Members were advised that on 17 October 1944 an RAF Whitley bomber aircraft with a trainee crew, took off from RAF Kinloss on a training flight and crashed at Slingley. Councillor Taylor advised that the broadcast was informative and suggested that a link to it be posted on the Parish Councils web site.

**RESOLVED** that;

- (i) the Chair be authorised to attend New Seaham Cenotaph Remembrance Day service and an additional wreath be purchased to be laid on the day
- (ii) a link to the broadcast about the Slingley Bomber crash be posted on the Parish Councils web site.

### (6) Dropped Kerb – Hillrise Crescent

County Councillor McKenna reported that Durham County Council had agreed to install a dropped kerb at Hillrise Crescent.

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

### (7) HSBC Safeguard Review

The Clerk reported that the HSBC bank had undertaken a safeguard review of the Parish Council's bank account on 8 October 2021.

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

### (8) Damaged Fencing

The Clerk had previously reported that a section of the post and rail fence at the top of the village green had been damaged, and Durham County Council were asked to undertake the repairs.

The repair was still outstanding, and it was suggested that Mr S McAuliffe be asked to repair the

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damage.

**RESOLVED** that Mr S McAuliffe be asked to repair the damaged fencing.

### 9 PAYMENTS

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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100649	HMRC	PAYE - October 2021	139.80		139.80
100650	Payroll	Wages - October 2021	559.69		559.69
100651	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - September 2021	8.80	1.76	10.56
100652	Great North Air Ambulance	Section 137 Donation	100.00		100.00
100653	A Slater	Reimbursements - Christmas lights & decorations	34.66	6.93	41.59
100654	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal	Poppy Wreath	20.00		20.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>862.95</b>	<b>8.69</b>	<b>871.64</b>

### 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### (1) Pigeon Shooting

A Member reported that residents from Avoncroft Close were concerned about the noise being generated by shotguns on a Sunday morning. Residents had reported shooting as early as 7am which was creating a disturbance.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be reported to the Police.

#### (2) Walkway

A Member reported that there had been an incident at The Meadows involving an off road bike that had gotten stuck and left a deep furrow in the grass.

The Clerk advised that the issue of access onto the walkway had previously been referred to Durham County Council with a request that a barrier be installed. The County Council had advised that because the authority only owned the land to the bottom of the steps, they were limited to what they could install. They had suggested an 'A Frame Barrier' which still allowed for pushchairs but stopped off-road bikes.

At the time the Parish Council had advised the County Council that any type of barrier would help the situation. The Parish Council had suggested that boulders, used elsewhere on the walkway, were another option.

**RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be asked for a progress report on this matter.

#### (3) National Grid – Scotland to England Green Link

Reference was made to the National Grid's proposal for a Scotland to England Green Link, which was a green electricity 'superhighway' running from East Lothian to Hawthorn. Concern was expressed in relation to the number of trees and hedges that would need to be cut down if the proposal was approved.

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County Councillor D McKenna advised that there had been objections to the proposal, particularly in relation to the proposed route for the link.

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

**(4) Drainage – Hillrise Crescent**

Members reported that water was pooling on the footpath and road outside residential properties at Hillrise Crescent.

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

**11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held 17 November 2021 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated