

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2021**

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

Also Present: County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Blacklock.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

4 POLICE

There was no Police report.

At the last meeting it was reported that there had been a garage burglary in the parish which was not included in the Police report. The Police were contacted and confirmed that there had been a burglary and it had been omitted from the report.

Councillor Williams reported an incident at Hillrise Crescent involving a vehicle. 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 20 October 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 Great North Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for the Chair to attend Seaham's Ecumenical Civic Carol Service on 1 December 2021.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Haswell and District Mencap

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation for the Chair to attend the Mencap Nativity Service at Durham Cathedral on 18 December 2021.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

DM/21/03133/OUT – Dwelling for essential rural worker at land to the south of Southridge, Stotfold farm, Seaton

DM/21/03619/FPA – Replacement dwelling and garage at Sharpley Hall Bungalow, Sharpley Manor, Seaton Lane, Seaham

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Budget Setting 2022/2023

The Clerk provided details of the figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the forthcoming 2022/2023 financial year.

Members were advised that the LCTRS grant for 2022/2023 was £228 which was a reduction of £15 from the previous year and the tax base had increased from 415.1 to 416.7.

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 2022/2023 budget based on a 0.5% increase to the precept.

(2) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Seaham Town Council had delivered the village Christmas Tree and an invoice for £320 plus VAT had been received.

Members were advised that E-on would re-energise the feeder pillar on 24 November 2021 for the Christmas lights. There was a charge of £91.60 to re-energise and a further charge of £91.60 to de-energise. The Clerk had discussed the option of leaving the feeder pillar energised but E-on had advised that this would be a more expensive option.

Durham County Council had agreed to assist with the erection of the tree and the Chair was authorised to purchase boxes of sweets as a thank you for the help provided.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Christmas Carol Singing - Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual Christmas carol singing with the Salvation Army would be held on 15 December 2021 at 7pm.

Members were advised that following the carol singing refreshments would normally be provided in the Community Centre. Unfortunately, this year due to concerns related to Covid there would be no refreshments, but toilet facilities would be available in the Community Centre.

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.

The Chair suggested that chocolate santas be purchased for children attending the carol singing and approval was also sought to purchase 4 road traffic cones to assist with traffic management during the

carol singing.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made to the Salvation Army from the Section 137 Budget and the Chair be authorised to purchase 40 chocolate santas and 4 road traffic cones.

(4) Estate of Ms J Pescod

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Chair and Clerk met with Durham County Council to discuss the options for planting trees in the parish. The County Council had advised that the only location suitable was the grassed area, on the B1404, between Seaton Crescent and Seaton Supply Stores. It was pointed out that due to the limited space and proximity to the highway we would be restricted to what could be planted. It was proposed to plant the trees in memory of Ms Pescod and for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. A plaque could be erected in recognition of the generous gift to the community from Ms Pescod and in recognition of the Jubilee.

Members were advised that the County Council had provided a provisional quotation of £2,100 plus VAT to purchase and install 9 trees.

At the last meeting it was reported that Ms Pescod liked roses and it was suggested that a rosebush called Joyce be sourced and planted in the parish. This was discussed with the County Council and they suggested a raised bed on the land adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn planted with roses called Joyce.

The County Council had provided a provisional quotation of £1,200 plus VAT for the rose bed.

It was pointed out that the quotations supplied by the County Council were estimates as they needed to be confirmed by the suppliers.

County Councillor McKenna advised that the County Councillors would contribute towards the cost of the trees from their neighbourhood budget.

At a previous meeting it was suggested that some of the money be used to fund a community orchard. The County Council had provided a quotation to supply the fruit trees, which at the time Members felt was expensive and it was felt that the trees could be purchased elsewhere. The Clerk advised that quotations had been sought from several companies, including Trees Please, suggested at the last meeting. The quotations received were just as expensive if not more than the County Council quotation which now looked reasonable.

Members suggested that in addition to the 9 trees proposed to be planted in the parish that additional trees be sought from The Queens Green Canopy which was a UK wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, inviting people to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

RESOLVED that the quotations from Durham County Council for 9 trees and a rose bed be accepted and the Clerk investigate obtaining trees from The Queens Green Canopy.

(5) Damaged Fencing

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Mr S McAuliffe had provided a quotation of £200 to repair a section of the post and rail fence at the top of the village green that had been damaged.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

(6) Dropped Kerb – Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had installed a dropped kerb at Hillrise Crescent.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Campaign to Protect Rural England - Annual Subscription

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 17 November 2021

The Clerk reported that the annual subscription fee for the Campaign to Protect Rural England was due for renewal.

RESOLVED that the annual subscription be renewed at a cost of £36.

(8) Updates

Pigeon Shooting

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the Police were contacted regarding noise generated by shotguns on a weekend, particularly a Sunday morning when shooting started as early as 7am.

The Police had advised that there was nothing they could do about it if what they were doing was lawful and they had the farmers permission to shoot in the fields.

Walkway

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were asked for a progress report on the request for a barrier to be installed on the walkway to prevent access to bikes and quads.

Durham County Council had advised that to authorise a barrier under Section 66 of the Highways Act the County Council needed to demonstrate that something was needed to protect and safeguard the public. Evidence for this would usually involve speaking with the local police to check reports regarding the area and liaising with the Countryside and Clean and Green teams to see what issues they were aware of. They also needed to be certain that they did not hinder any genuine footpath users with a barrier.

The County Council had confirmed that the Countryside team were in support of a barrier and they would contact the local Police for their views.

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
100655	HMRC	PAYE - November 2021	140.00		140.00
100656	Payroll	Wages - November 2021	559.49		559.49
100657	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2021	8.80	1.76	10.56
100658	E-on Next	Electric supply for Feeder Pillar	76.33	15.27	91.60
100659	Seaham Town Council	Christmas Tree	320.00	64.00	384.00
100660	J Thompson	Reimbursements	53.00	5.85	58.85
100661	CPRE	Annual Subscription	36.00		36.00
100662	Salvation Army	Section 137 Donation	150.00		150.00
100663	A Slater	Reimbursements	79.99	16.00	95.99
		TOTAL	1,423.61	102.88	1,526.49

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Remembrance Sunday

The Chair thanked Councillor Temple for representing the Parish Council and laying the Parish Councils poppy wreath at the Remembrance Day service held at New Seaham Cenotaph on 14 November 2021.

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

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Hillrise Crescent

It was reported that there had been several large heavy deliveries made to a property using the road to the rear of Hillrise Crescent which had caused damage the road surface. It was pointed out that the road was unadopted.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held 15 December 2021 at 6pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated