

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022**

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, S Faulkner, 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 G Fuller.

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 4 offences reported since the last meeting which included a theft of lead, a theft from a work van, theft of a vehicle and an attempted burglary.

There was an accident at the top of the slip road leaving the A19 and joining the B1404. No cause had been identified for the accident.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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

6 CORRESPONDENCE

A19 Slip Road/B1404 Accident

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident expressing concern related to the recurring accidents on the A19 slip road joining the B1404 at Seaton Lane.

Members were advised that on 20 December 2021 a car driving up the slip road had failed to give way and crashed into the barrier. Drivers leaving the A19 via the slip road appeared to assume the slip road was a dual carriageway which carried on and was not a junction. The resident felt the current signage was inadequate and had suggested speed ramps on the slip road would slow the traffic and forewarn of the upcoming junction.

The Clerk advised that the correspondence was forwarded to the County Councillors to raise with Durham County Council's Highways Section, and it was also forwarded to the local Police.

County Councillor McKenna advised that the A19 slip road was managed by Autolink, and he would contact Highways England to highlight the issue on the A19 slip road at Seaton Lane.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING APPLICATION

DM/21/04287/RM – Proposed dwelling on Plot 6 at former Seaton Garden Centre, Seaton Lane, Seaton.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Budget 2022/2023

The Clerk reported that at a meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 December 2021 Members were 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 had reduced from £243 to £228 which was a reduction of £15 from the previous year and the tax base had increased from 415.1 to 416.7.

Members had agreed a 0.50% 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 £12,638 for the 2022/2023 financial year. It was suggested that the Parish Council use £265 of reserves to provide a precept of £12,145 which together with the grant of £228 gave a figure of £12,373.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the Parish Council set a budget of £12,638 for the 2022/2023 financial year
- (ii) approval be granted to use £228 of reserves to give a precept request of £12,145
- (iii) Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2022/2023 was £12,145 in addition to a grant of £228 giving a total of £12,373.

(2) HSBC Bank Charges

The Clerk reported that HSBC had advised they would be charging a monthly fee of £5 to maintain the Parish Councils bank account. A charge of 40p for every cheque issued would also be made.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Feeder Pillar

The Clerk reported that despite numerous requests e-on next had not de-energised the feeder pillar. Due to the length of time it was taking to have the supply de-energised a formal complaint had been raised.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Carol Singing 2022

The Clerk reported that the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army was scheduled to be held on 21 December 2022. The December meeting of the Parish Council would traditionally be held at 6pm followed by the carol singing at 7pm.

As this date was close to Christmas it was suggested that it be brought forward to 14 December 2022.

RESOLVED that the December meeting of the Parish Council and the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army be held on 14 December 2022.

(5) Carol Sheets

The Chair reported that there had been insufficient carol sheets for everyone who attended the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army.

Members were advised that carol sheets could be purchased in packs of 25 and the Chair sought approval to purchase 7 packs at a cost of £91.49.

RESOLVED that approval be granted to purchase 7 packs of carol sheets at a cost of £91.49.

(6) 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 prevent quads and off-road bikes accessing the Meadows.

The County Council had consulted the local Police and they had confirmed that reports related to this location were minimal. They were however aware that the walkway was a problem location regarding quads and off-road bikes, and they would support any action taken to reduce incidents at The Meadows.

Durham County Council owned part of the land in question, but it was likely that a barrier would need to be placed on land not in the ownership of the County Council and therefore permission would be needed from the landowner.

The Clerk advised that a site meeting, to discuss the options for a barrier, was scheduled to be held with Durham County Council on 25 January 2022 at 10am.

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

(7) Tree Planting B1404

The Clerk reported that nine trees had been planted on the grassed areas on the B1404 between Seaton Crescent and Seaton Supply Stores.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Rose Bed adjacent The Seaton Lane Inn

The Clerk reported that the rose bed located adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn was complete and Durham County Council had been asked to top off the bed with bark to suppress the weeds. The County Council had agreed to do this, at no extra cost once the bed had settled.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a rough quotation for the work required to repair the track that crossed the village green leading to the rear of Hillrise Crescent. Members were advised that estimates ranged from doing the bare minimum at a cost of £250, up to a more substantial repair costing approx. £3,200.

County Councillors Batey and McKenna had been asked to assist with the cost of the repairs from their neighbourhood budgets and both had agreed to consider a contribution.

The Clerk suggested that the County Council be asked to provide a detailed quotation for the work to allow an application to be made for funding.

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

(10) Noticeboard

The Clerk reported that Mr McAuliffe had been asked to repair the Parish Council noticeboard which was damaged during storm Arwen.

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
100672	HMRC	PAYE - January 2022	140.00		140.00
100673	Payroll	Wages - January 2022	559.49		559.49
100674	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - January 2022	8.80	1.76	10.56
100675	A Slater	Reimbursements	116.49		116.49
100676	J Thompson	Reimbursements	17.34	0.30	17.64
100677	Durham County Council	Supply and Installation of Planter and Rose bed	1,310.50	262.10	1,572.60
100678	Durham County Council	Supply and Planting of 9 Trees	2,432.00	486.40	2,918.40
	HSBC	Bank Charges	9.40		9.40
		TOTAL	4,594.02	750.56	5,344.58

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Dog Fouling

Members reported a noticeable increase in dog fouling throughout the village, particularly on the grassed area at Hall Close. It was pointed out that guests staying at the Seaton Lane Inn had been seen allowing their dogs their dogs to foul on the grassed area adjacent the pub at Hall Close.

It was suggested that additional signage in the village would help, and it was also suggested that the Seaton Lane Inn be contacted with a request that guests staying at the pub be reminded of the need to clean up after their dogs.

RESOLVED that the dog fouling be reported to Durham County Council and a letter be forwarded to the Seaton Lane Inn asking that all guests be reminded of the need to clean up after their dogs.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held 16 February 2022 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated