

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022**

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

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Temple and A Vila. Apologies for absence were also received from County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna.

**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 the since the last meeting there had been 3 thefts which included lead from a property at Byron Terrace, ladders from a van at Byron Terrace and an outside water tap from Rutherford Avenue. Members were advised that there were no suspects for any of the incidents. However, there had recently been several lead thefts across the Seaham/Murton area and suspects may have been identified.

A speed watch was undertaken on 20 February 2022 during which 35 vehicles passed the camera and 2 were over the speed limit.

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

**5 The minutes of the last meeting held on 16 February 2022 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.**

**6 CORRESPONDENCE**

Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Seaham Town Council for the Chair to attend the Mayor of Seaham's Swan Song Charity Evening on 22 April 2022.

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

**7 PLANNING APPLICATION**

DM/22/00554/FPA – First floor rear extension, internal works to add toilet to garage, and single storey side extension at 18 Blaykeston Close, Seaham.

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

**8 CLERKS REPORT**

(1) Grass Cutting Contract 2022/2023

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quotation from Durham County Council for grass cutting during the

## Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 16 March 2022

2022 season.

Members were advised that the quotation of £682,48 plus VAT was based on a 10 day cycle of grass cutting, weather permitting at the Village Green, Hillrise Crescent, land opposite either side of the farm entrance, Seaton Burn and land opposite Bankside.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

### (2) Litter/Dog Bins Contract 2022/2023

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quotation from Durham County Council for the emptying of 3 litter/dog bins.

Members were advised that the quotation of £704.28 plus VAT was based on each bin being serviced once a week at a cost of £4.52 plus VAT per collection per bin.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

### (3) Royal Garden Party 2022

The Clerk reported that Councillor Middlemiss was unable to attend the 2022 Royal Garden Party.

The County Durham Association of Local Councils had been advised and it was unlikely the Parish Council would be able to send a substitute.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (4) Burning - Former Garden Centre Site

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting there had been two further reports of rubbish being burnt at the housing development on the former garden centre site.

The complaints were referred to Durham County Council who carried out a site visit. Whilst there was no burning taking place at the time of the visit the offenders were identified and a letter was sent to the agents.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (5) National Grid - Scotland to England Green Link Project – “Electricity Superhighway”

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members were advised of a series of online events and a digital public information exhibition planned to provide residents with an update on the Scotland to England Green Link project.

Due to concerns that some residents may not have access to the internet and would be unable to access the digital information or online events the National Grid were asked to hold a physical meeting to allow residents the opportunity to attend in person and discuss the proposals. They had agreed to hold a meeting and a date was being sought.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (6) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that the quotation from Durham County Council for the work required on the track that crossed the village green to the rear of Hillrise Crescent was still awaited.

County Councillors Batey and McKenna had agreed to a financial donation of £1,000 from each of their Neighbourhood Budgets.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Welcome to Seaton Sign

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting a request for a welcome to Seaton sign was referred to Durham County Council. Members were advised that the request had been passed to Traffic Assets to investigate.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Motion for the Ocean

Councillor G Fuller reported that the model Motion for the Ocean had been developed in recognition that the oceans and climate were in a state of emergency, that coastal communities were on the frontline, and that local government had an essential part to play in tackling these interconnected crises. Local authorities were declaring a climate emergency, but the ocean was missing from many of their climate action plans.

The UK government's recent Marine Strategy assessment confirmed that the marine environment was not healthy. An ocean in crisis was bad for the climate, the fishing industry, aquaculture industry, tourism industry and for the health, wellbeing and prosperity of coastal communities. Ocean recovery would yield new jobs and opportunities, more resilient coastal economies, and happier, healthier people.

Members were advised that Plymouth City Council, Falmouth Town Council, South Tyneside Council and North Norfolk District Council had all declared an urgent need for ocean recovery.

The health of the ocean was inextricably linked with climate and human health, wellbeing and prosperity. A healthy ocean was fundamental in regulating the global climate system and was an ally in the fight against climate change. The ocean absorbed more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system and absorbed around 20% of annual carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions generated by human activity. However, decades of irresponsible marine exploitation and pollution had led to significant levels of degradation, and this together with the detrimental impacts of changing climate on marine ecosystems had led to global recognition that the world oceans were in crisis. An unhealthy ocean could not absorb or store carbon as effectively as a healthy one, further worsening the impacts of the climate crisis. Fish stocks continued to collapse from overfishing and poor water quality was impacting seafood and safe bathing. Beaches were covered in litter, much of it plastic.

The impact of the climate crisis on the ocean was profound, from rising water temperatures and changes in ocean chemistry, to sea level rise and increased storminess. This was changing what seafood was caught locally, accelerating the erosion of the coastline, and increasing the risk of flooding and storm damage.

Urgent action was needed to halt these devastating changes and recover the health of the ocean to enable it to deliver the full range of benefits, including climate regulation, carbon storage in coastal and marine habitats, coastal protection, a thriving local economy, clean safe recreation and happy, healthy coastal communities.

Following discussion the Parish Council RESOLVED to declare an urgent need for Ocean Recovery and pledged to:

- (a) Report to Full Council within 12 months any actions and projects that would assist with ocean recovery.
- (b) Embed ocean recovery in all strategic decisions, plans, budgets, activities and approaches to decisions by the Parish Council, particularly in planning, aligning with climate change mitigation and adaptation requirements, and considering ocean-based solutions in our goal towards a carbon neutral and climate resilient future.
- (c) Ensure that local planning supported ocean recovery.

## Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 16 March 2022

- (d) Promote closer working with partners locally and nationally to deliver increased sustainability in local marine industries and develop a sustainable, equitable and vibrant blue economy that delivered ocean recovery and local prosperity.
- (e) Where possible grow ocean literacy and marine citizenship and promote sustainable and equitable access to the ocean for everyone.
- (f) Provide information on the Parish Councils website about ocean recovery and signpost to ocean recovery information.
- (g) Write to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030 by;
  - (i) Ensuring Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Natural England had the resources they needed to effectively research and monitor the growing number of marine protected areas, and to set and enforce appropriate fishing levels that supported local economies and delivered environmental sustainability.
  - (ii) Ensuring coastal communities had a meaningful say in the development of marine policy to ensure it delivered equitable and sustainable outcomes.
  - (iii) Appoint a dedicated Minister for Coastal Communities.
  - (iv) Listening to marine scientific advice, including marine social science, to update the Marine Policy Statement and produce a national Ocean Recovery Strategy which would:
    - Enable the recovery of marine ecosystems rather than managing degraded or altered habitats in their reduced state.
    - Consider levelling up, marine conservation, energy, industrial growth, flood and coastal erosion risk management, climate adaptation and fisheries policy holistically rather than as competing interests.
    - Develop a smarter approach to managing the health of the entire ocean that moved beyond Marine Protected Areas and enabled links to be made across sectors towards sustainability.
    - Establish improved processes for understanding the benefits of ocean recovery, leaving no doubt the links between this and human lives, livelihoods, and wellbeing.
    - Stop plastic pollution at source by strengthening the regulations around single-use plastics and set standards for microfibre-catching filters to ensure that all new domestic and commercial washing machines were fitted with a filter that captured a high percentage of microfibres produced in the wash cycle.

### (9) Queens Green Canopy

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been advised of the Parish Councils application to The Queens Green Canopy, which was a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, inviting people to plant a tree for the Jubilee.

The application was successful, and the Parish Council had received a small urban tree pack. Members discussed various locations suitable for planting the trees and agreed to plant them throughout the parish area.

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

### (10) Policies and Procedures

The Clerk reported that a review had been undertaken of the Councils Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy.

A review had also been undertaken of the following policies and procedures and where necessary minor amendments were made.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 16 March 2022

Code of Conduct  
 Complaints Policy  
 Data Protection Policy  
 Document Retention Policy  
 Equal Opportunities Statement  
 Financial Regulations  
 FOI Publication Scheme  
 Fraud and Corruption Policy  
 Grants and Donations Policy  
 Internal Audit Policy  
 Public Filming, Recording and Reporting at Council Meetings  
 Public Participation Policy  
 Standing Orders

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Safety Barrier – B1404

Members reported that following the repair of the safety barrier on the B1404 the footpath had been left strewn with debris some of it sharp and dangerous.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(2) Walkway – Damaged Gate

Members reported that the gate at the entrance to the walkway heading north had been damaged.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(3) 30 MPH Sign

Members reported that the 30 MPH sign at the bottom of the Burn Bank was covered in graffiti.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100683	HMRC	PAYE - March 2022	186.93		186.93
100684	Payroll	Wages - March 2022	666.20		666.20
100685	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - March 2022	8.80	1.76	10.56
100686	J Thompson	Reimbursements	51.65	7.16	58.81
Sheet 139	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.40		7.40
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>920.98</b>	<b>8.92</b>	<b>929.90</b>

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held 20 April 2022 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated