

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 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 D McKenna and K Batey

**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 that since the last meeting there had been 3 thefts which included an outside tap from Sharpley Drive, a number plate from a vehicle in Byron Terrace and a horse trough from a farm in Seaton. There had also been an increase in fuel theft following the recent rise in fuel prices.

Members were advised that there had been an increase in complaints regarding Off Road Bikes throughout the Durham and Northumbria force area. The Police were doing what they could to identify riders and taking positive action where possible. Many of the riders using the track at Seaton were originating from the Northumbria area. The Police were considering the use of pea gravel to deter bikes as they were unable to ride through it. However, the walkway was used by cyclists, dog walkers, families with prams and wheelchairs and they would have to be considered. The views of legitimate bike riders were being sought to determine if it would achieve the desired outcome.

County Councillor K Batey reported that a PACT meeting would be held on 18 May 2022 at 6.30pm at Dawdon Community Centre. It was suggested that Councillor H Middlemiss attend the meeting as the Parish Councils representative.

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

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

**6 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**7 PLANNING**

There were no planning issues.

## 8 CLERKS REPORT

### (1) Internal Audit 2021/2022

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit would be undertaken on 22 April 2022 by Mr G Fletcher. RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (2) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2022

The Clerk reported that the external audit date had been set for 30 June 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

### (3) Annual Insurance Premium 2022/2023

The Clerk reported that the annual insurance for the Parish Council was due for renewal on 1 June 2022. Zurich Municipal had advised that the annual premium for 2022/23 was £257.60 the same amount as last year.

RESOLVED that the quotation from Zurich Municipal be accepted.

### (4) Welcome to Seaton Sign

The Clerk reported that following the Parish Councils request for a “Welcome to Seaton“ sign Durham County Council had advised that they had visited the site and designed a sign, details of which were outlined to Members. The County’s proposed location for the sign was adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn.

Whilst Members were happy to proceed with the design of the sign there was concern regarding the proposed location. It was pointed out that the Parish boundary started at Seaton Supply Stores on the B1404. There was currently a welcome to Seaham sign located on the boundary, opposite Seaton Supply Stores and it was suggested that the welcome to Seaton sign could be erected behind this. Anyone travelling west would see the welcome to Seaton sign and anyone travelling into Seaham would be met by the welcome to Seaham sign.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Council was happy to proceed with the sign and the alternative location for the sign be suggested to the County Council.

### (5) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that a site meeting was held on 7 April 2022 with representatives from Durham County Council to discuss the work required on the track that crossed the village green to the rear of Hillrise Crescent. The County Council had agreed to provide a quotation but, due to workloads, this could take up to 6 weeks.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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

The Clerk reported that following a request to the National Grid for a physical meeting to discuss the proposed Scotland to England Green Link Project, a provisional date of 18 May 2022 had been agreed. This was the date of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, and the time of the meeting may need to be brought forward or pushed back to accommodate the meeting.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

**(7) Burning - Former Garden Centre Site**

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

The complaint was referred to Durham County Council who advised that they had visited the site but had not witnessed any burning. The burning was random breaches which made it difficult to pin down to an individual builder.

Durham County Council had asked if there was a particular time or day when the burning was happening. Whilst the burning appeared to have reduced in its regularity, any burning was unacceptable, and they would continue to try and establish who was responsible.

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

**(8) Feeder Pillar**

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the on-going problems related to the Feeder Pillar and e-on Next.

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

**(9) Motion for the Ocean**

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting where the Parish Council declared an urgent need for ocean recovery information was provided on the Parish Councils website about ocean recovery. A letter was also forwarded to the Government asking them to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030.

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

**(10) Grounds Maintenance**

The Clerk reported that the rose bed adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn, the flower beds on the B1404 and the corner opposite the Community Centre all required weeding and maintaining. It was suggested that a local gardener, L Burdon Landscapes be asked to provide a quotation to maintain the beds 2/3 times per year.

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

**9 MEMBER ISSUES**

**(1) Pavement Parking – B1404**

Members reported that cars were continually parking on the pavement on the B1404 and obstructing the view of motorists leaving The Meadows and looking right.

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

**(2) Footpath – Pacific Hall Close**

Members reported the poor condition of the footpath that ran from Pacific Hall Close through the estate. The surface was uneven and there were holes in the Tarmac which posed a trip and fall risk. There was a build up of moss and lichen and the Tarmac was coming away at the boundary where it met the grass which also posed a slip and fall risk.

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The footpath was reported to Durham County Council in 2021 and at the time they advised that the potholes could not be repaired before the moss and lichen was removed. However, the moss could not be removed due to the condition of the surface. The sweeper was causing more damage by lifting the surface and this was creating further potholes and making the surface unsafe. At the time, the matter was to be referred to the highways section.

The Parish Council had received further complaints about the footpath. It was covered in moss and lichen and residents were slipping on it, it was felt that it was only a matter of time before someone was hurt.

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

**10 PAYMENTS**

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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100687	HMRC	PAYE - April 2022	142.20		142.20
100688	Payroll	Wages - April 2022	569.50		569.50
100689	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2022	13.30	2.66	15.96
100690	A Slater	Reimbursements	10.83	2.17	13.00
100691	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	181.20		181.20
100692	Zurich Municipal	Annual Insurance Premium	257.60		257.60
100693	e-on Next	Electric - Feeder Pillar	56.08	2.95	59.03
100694	A Taylor	Reimbursement - Green Waste Bin	35.00		35.00
Sheet 140	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.40		7.40
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,273.11</b>	<b>7.78</b>	<b>1,280.89</b>

**11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held 18 May 2022 at 7pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated