

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE 2022**

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

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 a burglary and a stolen vehicle which was found close to the location of a garage burglary in Seaton Grove. In relation to the burglary where a vehicle was stolen, a suspect was identified and charged with 4 dwelling burglaries, 3 of which were in Northumberland, where the suspect originated from. There was insufficient evidence to prove he was responsible for the garage burglary in Seaton.

Members referred to the on-going problems related to off road bikes. Reference was made to a serious incident on the walkway, which was reported to the Police, but was not included in the report.

There had also been an incident involving off road bikes accessing the walkway via the steps at The Meadows despite the additional measures installed by Durham County Council to prevent access.

County Councillor Batey reported that a PACT meeting would be held on 29 June 2022 at Dawdon Community Centre. Councillors Faulkner and Theobald agreed to attend the meeting as the Parish Councils representatives.

RESOLVED that the issues related to Off road bikes be referred to the Police.

- 5** The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 18 May 2022 together with those of the Annual Assembly of Electors held on 18 May 2022 copies of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Seaham Town Council to attend a traditional afternoon tea in aid of the Mayors charity on 16 June 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Freedom of the Town

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Seaham Town Council advising that Seaham had given the Northeast Gunners, 4th Field Regiment Royal Artillery the Freedom of the Town. A ceremony to celebrate the affiliation would be held on Terrace Green, Seaham on 23 July 2022.

RESOLVED that the Chair be authorised to attend as the Parish Councils representative.

7 PLANNING APPLICATION

DM/22/01496/FPA - 3m extension to existing single story clubhouse building to provide improved kitchen and WC facilities at Sharpley Golf Course, Seaton, Seaham SR7 ONP for Sharpley Golf.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk had previously reported that the rose bed adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn, the beds on the B1404 and the corner opposite the Community Centre all required regular weeding and maintenance. A local gardener, Mr Bellshaw had provided a quotation of £15 per hour to maintain the areas 2/3 times per year.

Members were advised that Mr Bellshaw had undertaken 3 hours work on the areas identified at a cost of £45 which the Chair had paid.

RESOLVED that the Chair be reimbursed £45 for the grounds maintenance work undertaken.

(2) "Welcome to Seaton" Sign

The Clerk reported that a site meeting with Durham County Council to discuss the location of a "Welcome to Seaton" sign was arranged for 21 June 2022 at 10.30am.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) B1404 – Footpath over A19 Bridge

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were asked to inspect the footpath that ran from the Seaton Lane Inn to the entrance of Haverley Drive as the surface was breaking up and it was in a poor state of repair.

Members were advised that the County Council had inspected the footpath and concluded that it was not hazardous or dangerous and did not require any essential maintenance. In accordance with their highway safety maintenance regime, which followed national guidelines, they would not undertake any work on the footpath. They would continue to monitor the area through routine safety inspections and any repairs deemed necessary would be undertaken.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Japanese Knotweed

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were contacted for an update on the Japanese Knotweed. They had advised that the knotweed had been poisoned twice and they were monitoring it. The Knotweed was poisoned at the end of May and was now 90% gone and only a small area would need further treatment.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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(5) Burning - Former Garden Centre Site

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had asked if there had been any further complaints related to burning at the housing development on the former garden centre site.

Members advised that there had been some burning, but it was low level and not on the scale previously reported.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be advised of the situation.

(6) Pavement Parking – B1404

At the last meeting Members reported vehicles parking on the pavement on the B1404 and obstructing the view of motorists leaving The Meadows and looking right. The matter was referred to the Police and Durham County Council.

Responsibility for this matter was unclear. However, as the Police were responsible for parking offences where there were no restrictions on the public highway it was referred to them to investigate.

Members were advised that since the last meeting the situation had improved. One vehicle was now parked on the drive and the other vehicle obstructing the view was not there as often.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) Bus Shelter opposite Seaton Grove

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the bus shelter opposite Seaton Grove was reported to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) 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.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Footpath - Pacific Hall Close

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the footpath at Pacific Hall Close were referred to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(10) Poppy Wreaths

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had purchased 3 poppy wreaths at a cost of £53.97. The wreaths would be displayed in the village on Remembrance Sunday then laid on the 2 war graves in St Mary's Church, Seaham. The Parish Council would also lay a wreath at the Remembrance Day service to be held at New Seaham Cenotaph.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Speeding

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Members reported that vehicles speeding and overtaking on the B1404 at Seaton was getting worse. Members had received several complaints of cars overtaking at speed and it was felt it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident.

The Police had advised that they intended to undertake a speed watch in the area, but it was felt that these were too visible to motorists and didn't give a true reflection of the problem.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Police.

(2) Armed Forces Day – 25 June 2022

County Councillor McKenna reported that a Drumhead Service for Armed Forces Day would be held on Saturday 25 June 2022 at Seaham Town Park at 11.45am.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100701	HMRC	PAYE - June 2022	142.40		142.40
100702	Payroll	Wages - June 2022	569.30		569.30
100703	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - June 2022	10.00	2.00	12.00
100704	A Slater	Reimbursement - Groundworks	45.00		45.00
100705	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Poppy Wreaths	53.97		53.97
Sheet 142	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.80		7.80
		TOTAL	828.47	2.00	830.47

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

.....Signed

.....Dated