

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

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

Also Present: County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna

**The Chair asked Members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the death of
Her Majesty the Queen**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Faulkner and 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

There was no Police report.

5 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 20 July 2022 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Request for Financial Assistance

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be made from the Section 137 Budget.

(2) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Seaham Town Council advising of the civic carol service to be held on 7 December 2022 and a Christmas party night on 9 December 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Clarks Terrace

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident expressing concern in relation to issues at Clarks Terrace.

The resident had advised that Clarks Terrace was on a slight gradient and the footpath was a main thoroughfare for the elderly, children and residents. The two drains at this location were always blocked, never cleaned and during heavy rain they flooded which left the surrounding area filthy.

The area around the bus stop needed urgent repair and improvement. The parking area to the front of Clarks Terrace and the footpath were never swept and the drain was never cleaned.

The Clerk reported that the issues were referred to Durham County Council. County Councillor Batey advised that Durham County Council had investigated the issues and met with the resident to discuss their concerns.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) 30 MPH Sign - B1404

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from a resident expressing concern in relation to the location of the 30mph sign on the B1404 at Poppyfield Court. Their concern was that the sign was too close to the junction at Poppyfield Court. Vehicles were not slowing down prior to the junction which posed a risk to vehicles leaving Poppyfield Court or turning into it.

The resident felt that Poppyfield Court had extended the village and from a road safety point of view the sign should be re-located to the start of the residential area.

Members were advised that the matter had been referred to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Civility and Respect Pledge

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) encouraging the Parish Council to sign up to the civility and respect pledge.

Members were advised that nationally throughout the local authority sector, there was concern about the impact bullying, harassment, and intimidation was having on local councils, councillors, clerks and council staff.

The National Association of Local Councils, One Voice Wales, the Society of Local Council Clerks and county associations had responded to this by establishing a Civility and Respect Working Group to oversee the Civility and Respect Project. The Project had devised a Take the Pledge document to draw attention to these problems and help define the right behaviours within councils to prevent bullying and to support councils demonstrating high standards of conduct.

RESOLVED that Seaton with Slingley Parish Council sign up to the civility and respect pledge.

(6) Horden Parish Council – 75th Anniversary

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Horden Parish Council to attend a church service on 29 October 2022 to celebrate Parish Council's 75th anniversary.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

(1) Applications

DM/22/02624/FPA – Rear first floor extension and loft conversion at 14 Seaton Crescent, Seaham

DM/22/02812/FPA – Construction of 1 new detached dwelling at 6 Poppyfield Court, Seaton, Seaham

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022

The Clerk reported that Mazars LLP had completed the annual audit for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Members were advised that Mazars had reviewed Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) and in their opinion the information was in accordance with proper practices and no other matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Seaham Town Council had provided a quotation of £330 to supply a 20FT Christmas tree plus £150 delivery.

Members were advised that e-on would re-energise the feeder pillar on 10 November 2022 at a cost of £91. 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 quotation from Seaham Town Council for the village Christmas tree be accepted.

(3) Christmas Carol Singing - Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army would be held on 14 December 2022 at 7pm followed by refreshments in the Community Centre. It was suggested that the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on the same date at the earlier time of 6pm.

It was suggested that a donation of £150 be made to the Salvation Army from the Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that a donation of £150 be made to the Salvation Army from the Section 137 Budget and the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on 14 December 2022 at 6pm.

(4) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £10,050 to repair the track that crossed the village green to the rear of Hillrise Crescent. As the quotation was higher than expected a further meeting was held with the County Council to look at reducing costs.

The Clerk advised that the following revised quotations had been received.

Option 1 - £7,600

- Carriageway resurfacing.
- Concrete footway removed and replaced with topsoil and grass seed.
- Kerbs installed adjacent to the carriageway.
- Associated remedial works.

Option 1 had been re-costed based on a road closure, with no access/egress provision during the works, subject to successful resident consultation. Ground investigations would also be required prior to the start of any work to determine any shallow apparatus which may impact the project and subsequently any public utility costs.

Option 2 - £4,000

- Carriageway resurfacing.
- Associated remedial works.

Members were advised that County Councillors McKenna and Batey had agreed to contribute £4,000 towards the scheme leaving a shortfall of £3,600 to be funded by the Parish Council.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council proceed with option 1 and an application for funding be made to the County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget.

(5) Racecourse fencing

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for the racecourse fencing at the bottom of the village green to be re-stained as it was looking shabby.

RESOLVED that the re-staining of the fencing be deferred.

(6) Trees

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from a resident for mature trees to be planted in the village. Members were advised that there was limited suitable locations to plant any further trees in the village.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted.

(7) Warm Spaces

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council were offering financial support to community groups and organisations to create a network of places where people could go to safe, trusted spaces that happened to be warm.

Members were advised that the only suitable building in the parish area was the community centre which was managed by Seaton Community Association.

RESOLVED that the Clerk provide information on the warm spaces available in the vicinity on the Parish Councils website.

(8) Remembrance Sunday – 13 November 2022

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had purchased 2 poppy wreaths to be displayed in the village on Remembrance Sunday following which they would be laid on the 2 war graves in St Mary's Church, Seaham.

A further poppy wreath would be laid by the Chair of the Parish Council at a Remembrance Day service to be held at New Seaham Cenotaph on 13 November 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Byron Lodge – White Lines

The Clerk reported that the Chair had been approached by a resident asking if the white lines around Byron Lodge Estate and the entrance to Sharpley Drive could be refreshed.

Members were advised that the matter had been referred to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 19 October 2022

(10) Updates

(1) Welcome to Seaton Sign

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had installed a “welcome to Seaton” sign on the B1404.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Trees

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting it was reported that the hot weather had taken its toll on the newly planted trees. Following the meeting Seaham Town Council were approached for help and they agreed to water the trees as a one off.

Members reported that at least 3 of the trees were dead and would need replacing. It was suggested that Durham County Council be asked to inspect the trees and provide a quotation to replace any dead trees.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Bus Shelter opposite Seaton Grove

The Clerk reported that the bus shelter opposite Seaton Grove had been reported to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Footpaths

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had confirmed that the footpaths between Seaton Grove and Hillrise Crescent and over the bridge on the B1404 would be repaired,

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Environmental Permit – FM Coatings

County Councillor McKenna provided an update on the application from FM Coatings for an Environmental Permit.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Footpath - Pacific Hall Close

The Clerk reported that the footpath at Pacific Hall Close had previously been reported to Durham County Council. Councillor Theobald reported that residents were still unhappy with the condition of the footpath.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments made since the last meeting be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100721	HMRC	PAYE - October 2022	142.20		142.20

