

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

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Faulkner, G Fuller and 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 that off road bikes and quads had damaged crops at a local farm. The Police were unaware of the identity of those responsible, but the off-road Police team had arranged a meeting with the farmer to discuss the problem and look at solutions to prevent it happening again.

Members were advised that there had been an abandoned car in the village, but it was taxed and insured and not reported as stolen.

A speed camera had been located on Seaton Lane over the last month and the Police would provide the figures once they were available.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

5 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2022 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Letter of Thanks

The Clerk reported the receipt of a letter of thanks from the Great North Air Ambulance Service.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Haswell and District Mencap

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation to attend the Mencap Nativity Service at Durham Cathedral on 17 December 2022.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

Land at Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that new homes by believe housing intended to submit a planning application for 52 new homes on land at Hillrise Crescent, Seaton.

Before submitting the planning application an in-person consultation event was held on 31 October 2022 at Seaton Community Centre. The purpose of the event was to allow residents the opportunity to view the proposals and provide feedback on the proposed development.

A leaflet, outlining the proposal had been delivered to households in the parish and residents were also invited to complete a survey. They were asking for comments relating to the homes, the proposed access, appearance, landscaping, layout and size. The deadline for comments was Friday, 25 November 2022.

The proposed development included new build housing for sale and affordable properties which included 4 two-bedroom bungalows; 29 three-bedroom houses; 16 four-bedroom houses and 3 five-bedroom houses.

Members were advised that at this stage no planning application had been submitted to Durham County Council.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Budget Setting and Precept 2023/2024

The Clerk provided details of the figures related to the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) grant and tax base for the forthcoming 2023/2024 financial year.

Members were advised that the Parish Council would not receive a LCTRS grant for 2023/2024 which was a reduction of £228 from the previous year.

The Clerk provided various budget options and a range of figures for consideration. Members discussed the options and suggested that as the Parish Council was in a financially stable position a 1% increase be applied to the precept and the Clerk prepare a budget based on this for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Clerk prepare the draft 2023/2024 budget based on a 1% increase to the precept.

(2) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Seaham Town Council had delivered the Christmas tree and e-on had re-energised the feeder pillar for the Christmas lights at a cost of £91.60.

Durham County Council had agreed to assist with the erection of the tree and the Chair had purchased boxes of sweets as a thank you for the help provided.

The Chair had also purchased a new set of Christmas lights as the old ones were not working at a cost of £79.99.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the Chair be reimbursed.

(3) Christmas Carol Singing - Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual Christmas carol singing with the Salvation Army would be held on 14 December 2022 at 7pm.

Members were advised that following the carol singing refreshments would be provided in the

Community Centre.

The Parish Council had previously agreed to donate £150 to the Salvation Army as a thank you for their attendance.

The Chair had purchased the refreshments and suggested that selection boxes be purchased for the children attending the carol singing.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the Chair be authorised to purchase selection boxes for the children attending the carol singing.

(4) Trees

The Clerk reported that during the summer the hot weather had taken its toll on the newly planted trees, and it was thought that at least 3 of the trees were dead and would need replacing.

Members were advised that following the last meeting Durham County Council were asked to inspect the trees and provide a quotation to replace any dead trees. The County Council had confirmed that 3 of the trees were dead and had quoted £550 to supply and plant 3 new trees.

It was pointed out that one of the trees was damaged when the trees were first planted. Members expressed concern that, due to its location, if it was re-planted this tree could be damaged again. It was suggested that Durham County Council be requested to replace two of the dead trees.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be requested to supply and plant 2 trees to replace the dead ones.

(5) Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members accepted a quotation from Durham County Council to re-surface the track that crossed the village green to the rear of Hillrise Crescent, remove the concrete footway and replace it with topsoil and grass seed, install Kerbs and undertake associated remedial works at a cost of £7,600.

The project would be jointly funded by County Councillors Batey and McKenna contributing £2,000 each from their Neighbourhood Budgets and the Parish Council would fund the shortfall of £3,600 giving a total of £7,600.

Members were advised that the Clerk had completed and submitted the application form for £4,000 funding from the County Councillors Neighbourhood Budget.

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

(6) Sinkhole – B1404

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had been requested to provide an update on the monitoring of a section of the B1404 where the sinkhole had previously been.

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
100731	HMRC	PAYE - November 2022	318.13		318.13

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 16 November 2022

100732	Payroll		Wages - November 2022		939.77		939.77
100733	JACS Accountancy Limited		Payroll Services - November 2022		10.00	2.00	12.00
100734	L Burton Landscapes		Groundworks		50.00		50.00
100735	CPRE		Annual Subscription		36.00		36.00
100736	A Slater		Reimbursement - Christmas lights, chocolates and refreshments		112.15	19.33	131.48
100737	J Thompson		Reimbursements		16.32		16.32
100738	Salvation Army		Section 137 Donation		150.00		150.00
Sheet 147	HSBC		Bank Charges		8.60		8.60
			TOTAL		1,640.97	21.33	1,662.30

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held **14 December 2022** at 6pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated