

SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Message from the Chair

Over the last year the Parish Council has continued to work to meet the needs of the community by listening and responding to local issues. The Council works closely with the County Councillors, Police, Neighbourhood Wardens, County Councillors, Durham County Council, community groups and local organisations on matters which affect the parish area.

I would like to thank the Members of the Parish Council for their continued support during the past year.

I would also like to thank County Councillors Karan Batey and Dave McKenna for their support during the previous year.

A Slater
Chair to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council and Responsible Finance Officer

Joanne Thompson

Tel:- 0191 5279027

Email:- clerk.seaton@btinternet.com

The Council has had another active and productive year. The annual report gives a snapshot of the Parish Council's activities over the past year.

1. Precept

The Council's budget for 2023/2024 was set at £14,005.

The Parish Council's budget is financed by a Precept which is part of the Council Tax that is collected from local electors via their Council Tax payment. Wherever possible the Parish Council uses reserves to keep the precept as low as possible for residents.

The Parish Council required £14,005 for the 2023/2024 financial year. It used £1,739 of reserves to provide a precept of £12,266.

2. Finance

The Council remains in a healthy financial position.

3. Planning Applications

The Council is a statutory consultee on all planning applications submitted to Durham County Council. This means that the Council can comment, support or object on any application submitted from within the village.

During 2023/2024 the Parish Council was consulted on 5 planning applications within the parish.

4. Grass Cutting

The Parish Council has a contract with Durham County Council for them to undertake grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council during the summer season.

The Parish Council purchases a green waste bin from Durham County Council each year. The bin is located at Seaton Community Centre and can be used by residents who assist with grass cutting in the village during the growing season.

5. Litter/Dog Bins

The Parish Council has a contract with Durham County Council to empty litter and dog bins in the village on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. Section 137 Donations

Listed below are the payments made during 2023/2024 in line with the budgeted allocation.

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Great North Air Ambulance | 100.00 |
| Seaham Town Council | 50.00 |
| Salvation Army | <u>150.00</u> |
| Total | 350.00 |

7. Speeding on the B1404

The Parish Council continues to work with the Police in relation to issues related to speeding on the B1404 at Seaton Lane.

8. Off-Road Bikes and Quads

The Parish Council continues to work closely with the Police and Durham County Council in relation to issues related to off-road bikes and quads causing a nuisance in the village and on the walkway.

9. Hillrise Crescent

Following concerns received from residents about the condition of the track that crossed the Village Green to the rear of Hillrise Crescent the Parish Council approached Durham County Council to inspect the track and provide a quotation for the work that was required.

Durham County Council provided the Parish Council with a quotation of £7,600 to undertake the repairs to the track.

To help fund the project the Parish Council approached County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna for financial assistance. County Councillors Batey and McKenna very generously agreed to jointly fund the total cost of the works. The works are anticipated to start in 2024.

10. Former Sinkhole – B1404

Durham County Council regularly monitors the B1404 at Seaton lane where the sinkhole had been.

11. Remembrance Sunday - Poppy Wreaths

The Parish Council purchases 2 poppy wreaths which are placed in the village on remembrance Sunday. Following Remembrance Sunday, the wreaths are laid on the 2 war graves located in St Mary's Church, Seaham.

12. Carols around the Christmas Tree

The Parish Council held its annual Carols around the Christmas Tree with the Salvation Army. This annual event is popular with residents and always well attended. It will be held again in December 2024.

13. Royal Garden Party 2023

The Parish Council were lucky to be allocated tickets to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May 2023. The Parish Council was represented by Councillor Georgina Fuller.

For further details please visit our **website** www.seatonwithslingeyparish.co.uk

Email: clerk.seaton@btinternet.com

Tel: 01915279027