

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2022**

Present: Councillors S Faulkner, G Fuller, S McAuliffe, A Slater,
A Taylor, D Temple, J Theobald, A Vila, S Williams

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor A Slater be elected Chair of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

COUNCILLOR A SLATER TOOK THE CHAIR

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock and H Middlemiss.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor D Temple be appointed Vice-Chair of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

5 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED that Mr G Fletcher be appointed Internal Auditor to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council for the ensuing year.

6 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED that the following Members be appointed to serve as representatives of the Parish Council on the external bodies listed for the forthcoming year:-

Area Action Partnership
Councillors A Slater and S Williams

Council for Protection of Rural England (Co Durham)
As required

County Durham Foundation Trust (South Sharpley Community Fund)
Mr A Teasdale – Resident

East Durham Association of Parish and Town Councils
Councillors G Fuller and D Temple

PACT Meeting
Councillor H Middlemiss

Seaton Community Association Management Committee
Councillors H Middlemiss and A Slater

Smaller Councils Forum – CDALC
Councillor D Temple

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7 DATE AND TIME OF ORDINARY MEETINGS OF SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED that meetings of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council be held on the third Wednesday of each month commencing at 6.45pm, except for August where no council meeting would be held due to recess.

Meeting dates were subject to change with the consent of the Chair of the Parish Council.

8 THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING held on 20 April 2022, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

9 POLICE MATTERS

The Police reported a theft from a farm. A known male was seen near the incident and was a person of interest to the Police. There had been several thefts of equipment from gardens, and it was likely these were linked to the same person.

Members were advised that a vehicle stolen from Seaham was recovered in Seaton. The incident was linked to other offences outside the area, and enquiries were ongoing. The Police had conducted house to house and CCTV checks in the area.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 CORRESPONDENCE – NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK ROUTE 1

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Sustrans advising of works on the national cycle network route 1 between Ryhope and Seaton.

Members were advised that, with funding from the Department for Transport, Sustrans were upgrading the route to improve accessibility for wheelchair and mobility scooters users, those with pushchairs and prams and users of adapted bikes.

The works would start late June or early July and would include resurfacing the path between Sea View/George Street, Ryhope and the A19 bridge at Seaton; improving signage and removing or reconfiguring barriers which prevented disabled access. During the works a diversion would be in place and public rights of way crossing the route would remain open.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

11 PLANNING APPLICATION

DM/22/01222/FPA – Two storey rear extension at 30 Sharpley Drive, Seaham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

12 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Internal Audit Report for the Year ending 31 March 2022

The Clerk reported the receipt of the internal audit report for 2021/2022 undertaken by Mr G Fletcher.

Members were advised that every smaller authority in England that received either gross income or expenditure exceeding £25,000 must complete Part 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) at the end of each financial year. The AGAR was made up of 3 sections along with an annual internal audit report which was to be completed by the Parish Council's independent internal auditor, who gave an opinion of the Parish

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Council's internal controls, details of which were outlined to Members.

The internal audit concluded that all the key controls contained within the internal audit section of the AGAR were examined and found to be working satisfactory.

RESOLVED that the internal audit report for 2021/2022 be accepted.

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

Consideration was given to a report prepared by the Clerk which reviewed the effectiveness of the council's internal controls to support the Annual Governance Statement, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

The Clerk proceeded to take Members through Section 1, Annual Governance Statement, which was approved and then Section 2, Statement of Accounts which was also approved.

RESOLVED that Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2022, be approved and signed by the Chair.

(3) Pavement Parking – B1404

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting problems related to vehicles parking on the pavement and obstructing the view of motorists leaving The Meadows was reported to the Police and Durham County Council.

The Police advised it was not their responsibility and would need to be referred to civil parking enforcement officers.

Parking Services advised that they had investigated the area and unfortunately as there were no parking restrictions, they were unable to enforce.

Legislation that allowed the County Council to issue notices to vehicles contravening parking restrictions specifically excluded them from being able to enforce offences such as dangerous parking and obstruction. The power to enforce these offences lay with the Police and enforcement action could only be undertaken by the Police. Parking services were responsible for parking offences where there were restrictions on the public highway.

The police were responsible for parking offences where there were no restrictions on the public highway such as dangerous parking, obstruction of the carriageway, preventing access/egress from property and obstruction of the pavements.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Police.

(4) 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 scheduled to be held on 25 April 2022. Unfortunately, the officer from Durham County Council was unable to attend and the meeting will need to be re-scheduled.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) 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.

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(6) Footpath - Pacific Hall Close

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had previously reported problems with the footpath at Pacific Hall Close. The surface of the footpath was uneven and there were holes in the Tarmacadam which posed a trip and fall risk. There was also a build up of moss and lichen and the Tarmacadam was coming away at the boundary where it met the grass.

Following investigation Durham County Council advised that the potholes were not actionable as the moss and lichen needed to be removed first. 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 more potholes. The matter was therefore referred to the highways section.

Following further complaints, the matter was referred to Durham County Council with a request that the footpath be inspected, and the problems rectified.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(7) National Grid - Scotland to England Green Link 1

The Clerk reported that representatives from National Grid provided the Parish Council and residents with a briefing on the Scotland to England Green Link 1 on 18 May 2022.

The proposed cable would run under the sea for most of its length, between East Lothian and Hawthorn Pit. It would come ashore just north of Seaham and run underground for approx. 10km to a new converter station and substation near the existing Hawthorn Pit substation.

The Chair reported that the briefing had been informative and had answered many questions which were not clear in the initial consultation papers.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(8) Rose bed

The Clerk reported that Durham County Council had topped the rose bed adjacent the Seaton Lane Inn with bark to help suppress the weeds.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(9) Walkway - The Meadows

The Clerk reported that Members had previously been advised of a meeting held with the Public Rights of Way officer to discuss the installation of a barrier to prevent access from the walkway to The Meadows.

Members were advised that the steps had been re-filled, and 2 heavy duty metal posts had been installed at the steps to restrict access.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

13 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Trees

The Chair reported that one of the newly planted trees at Seaton Crescent had snapped. Durham County Council had inspected the tree and advised that the tree would need to be replaced. The best time to do this would be in the winter.

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RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) B1404 – Footpath over A19 Bridge

The Chair reported that the surface of the footpath running from the Seaton Lane Inn to the entrance of Haverley Drive was breaking up and in a poor state of repair.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(3) Summer Bedding

The Chair reported that summer Bedding had been planted under the Seaton Grove sign.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Bus shelter

Members reported that the guttering on the bus shelter opposite Seaton Grove was rotten and it was only a matter of time before it came down and hurt someone.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(5) Japanese Knotweed

Members queried if the Japanese knotweed had been recently poisoned.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council’s Countryside Rangers.

14 PAYMENTS

The following schedule of payments was circulated.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100695	G Fletcher	Internal Audit	100.00		100.00
100696	HMRC	PAYE - May 2022	142.40		142.40
100697	Payroll	Wages - May 2022	569.30		569.30
100698	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - May 2022	10.00	2.00	12.00
100699	A Slater	Reimbursements - Bedding Plants	8.33	1.67	10.00
100700	J Thompson	Reimbursements - Stamps	24.48		24.48
Sheet 141	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.00		7.00
		TOTAL	761.51	3.67	765.18

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted and the payments be approved.

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 15 June 2021 at 6.45pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated