

SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

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, 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 pay tribute to former Parish Councillors Hector Middlemiss and Joseph Theobald who have both left the Parish Council after many years of dedicated service.

I would also like to thank former County Councillors Karan Batey and Dave McKenna for their support and financial assistance over the last four years.

A Slater
Chair to Seaton with Slingley Parish Council

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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 2024/2025 was set at £14,652.

The Parish Councils 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 £14,652 for the 2024/2025 financial year. It used £2,325 of reserves to provide a precept of £12,327.

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 2024/2025 the Parish Council was consulted on 6 planning applications within the parish.

4. Grass Cutting

The Parish Council has a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council for them to undertake grass cutting on behalf of the Parish Council during the summer season in the parish area.

During the 2024/25 financial year the Parish Council purchased a green waste bin from Durham County Council. The bin was located at Seaton Community Centre and could be used by residents who assisted with grass cutting in the village during the growing season.

5. Litter/Dog Bins

The Parish Council has a Service Level Agreement with Durham County Council to empty litter/dog bins in the parish area on behalf of the Parish Council.

During the past year there has been concern related to the increase in dog fouling on the section of walkway in the Parish area. These concerns have been passed to Durham County Council with a request for signage reminding dog owners of their responsibilities to pick up after their dogs.

6. Section 137 Donations

Listed below are the payments made during 2024/2025 in line with the budgeted allocation.

Great North Air Ambulance	50.00
Salvation Army	<u>200.00</u>
Total	250.00

7. Speeding on the B1404

The Parish Council continues to liaise 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 parish area particularly 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 asked Durham County Council to provide a cost for the work that was required. Durham County Council provided 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 were completed during the 2024/2025 financial year.

10. Former Sinkhole – B1404

Durham County Council continues to monitor 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 2025.