

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025**

Present: Councillors S Faulkner, S McAuliffe,
A Slater, A Taylor, D Temple, 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 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

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

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock and G Fuller.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR

RESOLVED that 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:-

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

East Durham North Local Network
Deferred

PACT Meetings
Councillor S Faulkner

Seaton Community Association Management Committee
Councillors S Faulkner and A Slater

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**Smaller Councils Forum – CDALC
Councillor D Temple**

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 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 16 April 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

9 POLICE MATTERS

The Police reported that 24 incidents were reported in the Seaton parish area between 17 March and 9 May 2025. This included 1 burglary on Seaton Lane. All other incidents were either reliable sightings or road related involving accidents or broken-down vehicles on the A19.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

11 PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues.

12 CLERK'S REPORT

(1) Internal Audit Report for the Year ending 31 March 2025

The Clerk reported the receipt of the internal audit report for 2024/2025 undertaken by G Fletcher.

Members were advised that every smaller authority in England where the higher of gross income or gross expenditure was £25,000 or less, could certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review, and complete part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) at the end of the financial year. The AGAR part 2 was made up of 2 sections along with an annual internal audit report which was to be completed by the Parish Council's independent internal auditor.

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 satisfactorily.

RESOLVED that the internal audit report for the year ending 31 March 2025 be accepted.

(2) Effectiveness of Internal Control

Consideration was given to the report of 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.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

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(3) Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2025

The Clerk reported that all councils were required to complete the appropriate part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) which applied to them.

At the last meeting Members were advised that smaller authorities where the higher of gross income or expenditure was £25,000 or less and they met the qualifying criteria could certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review. As the Council's gross income and expenditure was less than £25,000 it was agreed that the Parish Council complete part 2 and certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council certify itself exempt from a limited assurance review and complete part 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

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.

FURTHER RESOLVED that sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2025, be approved and signed by the Chair.

(4) Summer Bedding

The Chair reported that summer bedding to be planted under the Seaton Grove sign had been purchased at a cost of £12.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Updates

(i) Dog Fouling

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were contacted regarding concerns raised about the increase in dog fouling on the walkway.

The County Council were asked to provide signage on the walkway advising dog owners of their responsibility to pick up after their dogs and dispose of it properly.

Members were advised that the Countryside Ranger had referred the matter to the Neighbourhood Wardens.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) Steps leading to The Meadows

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were advised of problems associated with off-road bikes gaining access to The Meadows at the steps leading from the walkway.

In 2022 Durham County Council undertook work to prevent access for off-road bikes at the steps leading from the walkway at Seaton into The Meadows. The works to the bankside included boulders and wooden stakes.

Durham County Council had been asked to inspect the steps and bankside and undertake any repairs that were needed or additional work to prevent access to the off-road bikes.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

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13 MEMBER ISSUES

(i) Damaged Fencing

Members reported that a section of fencing at the car park at the entrance to the walkway had been damaged.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

(ii) Weedkiller

Members expressed concern at Durham County Councils excessive use of weedkiller on the grass verges in the parish area.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be advised of Members concerns.

14 PAYMENTS

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

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100898	HMRC	PAYE - May 2025	243.31		243.31
100899	DESTROYED				
100900	Payroll	Wages - May 2025	698.97		698.97
100901	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - May 2025	12.50	2.50	15.00
100902	Mr G Fletcher	Internal Audit	100.00		100.00
100903	Mahouse Media	Microsoft Email Account	55.20	11.04	66.24
100904	A Slater	Bedding Plants	10.00	2.00	12.00
Sheet 177	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.80		7.80
		TOTAL	1,127.78	15.54	1,143.32

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 18 June 2025 at 6.45pm.

..... Signed

..... Dated