

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025**

Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, S Falkner,
G Fuller, S McAuliffe, H Middlemiss,
A Taylor, D Temple, S Williams.

Also Present: County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Theobald and A Vila.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

4 POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that Paige Cartwright was the new PCSO for the Seaton parish area.

The Police reported that between 1 February and 13 March 2025 15 incidents were reported in the Seaton parish.

1 vehicle crime – a car was stolen from the A19 after it was left there overnight following a road traffic collision.

1 burglary – a burglary took place on Seaton Lane, no suspects have been identified for the crime.

All other incidents were road related involving broken down vehicles on the A19.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

- 5** The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Seaham Town Council

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from the Mayor of Seaham to attend a fashion show on 10 April 2025 at Seaham Town Hall. Tickets were £5 and all proceeds would go to the Mayors Charity Fund.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Local Networks

The Clerk reported that the Area Action Partnerships (AAPs) would transition to the new Local

Networks (LNs) on 1 April 2025. Seaton with Slingley was currently located in the East Durham AAP and would move to the new East Durham North Local Network.

Members were advised that the LNs would be governed by new Panels that would be recruited for the LN meetings to start in September 2025. The positions for Town and Parish council members would be considered following the elections in May 2025.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Eastern Green Link 1

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence advising that the next Eastern Green Link 1 Community Liaison Group meeting would be held at the Robin Todd Centre, South Hetton on 26 March 2025.

The agenda would include an update on the ongoing enabling works, an overview of the upcoming construction works, and a wider look at the full extent of the project.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) South Sharpley Solar Park

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Stephenson Mohl Consultants advising that their clients REG Power and Grupotec, who were developers of renewable energy projects, were in the early stages of developing proposals for a solar park on land off Salter's Lane, Co Durham.

Members were advised that the proposed project was located on land within the Seaham Division and the nearest settlement was Murton. There was currently no live planning application, but a public consultation was underway to seek views from elected representatives and residents. A public exhibition was held in Murton on 18 March 2025 and a leaflet had been circulated to properties closest to the proposed site.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING ISSUES

There were no planning issues.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Internal Audit 2024/2025

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit would commence on 21 April 2025.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Annual Review of Policies and Procedures

The Clerk reported that a review had been undertaken of the Councils Risk Management Policy and Risk Management Strategy.

A review had also been undertaken of the parish council's policies and procedures and where necessary minor amendments were made.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Rose Bed

The Clerk reported that in June 2024, the Parish Council accepted a quotation from Durham County Council in the sum of £140 plus VAT to supply and plant 6 new roses in the rose bed adjacent to the Seaton Lane Inn.

The County Council had advised that the planting had been done, and an invoice had been received.

RESOLVED that the invoice from Durham County Council be paid.

(4) Website

The Clerk reported that Parish Councils website had been moved over to the new .gov.uk domain.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Parish Council Elections - Thursday 1 May 2025.

The Clerk reported that Parish Council elections would be held on Thursday 1 May 2025. Notice of the election had been posted on the Parish Council website and noticeboard.

Anyone wishing to stand for election would need to complete and submit their nomination papers by 2 April 2025. Completed nomination forms had to be hand delivered to the Returning Officer at County Hall, Durham.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) County Councillors

County Councillors Batey and McKenna reported that they would not be standing for re-election at the County Council elections to be held on 1 May 2025 and this would be the last Parish Council meeting they would attend.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chair thanked both County Councillors for their support over the last 4 years and wished them the best for the future.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

Dog Fouling

Members expressed concern at the increase in dog fouling on the walkway. It was reported that some dog owners were not picking up after their dogs. In some instances, those that did pick up were not disposing of it in a bin but were discarding the bags at the side of the walkway or hanging them in trees.

It was suggested that Durham County Council be asked to investigate and provide an additional bin on the walkway, in the vicinity of the steps leading from The Meadows, where the problem was particularly bad.

RESOLVED that the issue be reported to Durham County Council and they be asked to provide an additional bin on the walkway.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 19 March 2025

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO		DETAIL				COST	VAT	TOTAL
100888	HMRC		PAYE - March 2025				190.78		190.78
100889	Payroll		Wages - March 2025				698.97		698.97
100890	JACS Accountancy Limited		Payroll Services - March 2025				10.00	2.00	12.00
100891	Durham County Council		Supply and plant 6 new Rose Bushes				140.00	28.00	168.00
Sheet 175	HSBC		Bank Charges				5.80		5.80
						TOTAL	1,045.55	30.00	1,075.55

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 16 April 2025 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated