

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2025**

**Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)  
Councillors S Falkner, S McAuliffe,  
H Middlemiss, S Williams.**

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Blacklock, G Fuller, A Taylor, D Temple, J Theobald, A Vila and County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The Chair welcomed Mrs Davidson who was present at the meeting to discuss the on-going problem of speeding traffic on the Burn Bank road which was a single lane. Mrs Davidson was also concerned about the lack of passing points and the general condition of the road.

Mrs Davidson explained that the speed of traffic using the road was excessive and it was only a matter of time before there was a serious accident. The road was a single lane with no passing points and both sides of the road were breaking up due to traffic being forced into the verge to pass other vehicles.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had previously made a request to Durham County Council for passing points to be installed on this road. The condition of the road was last reported to Durham County Council in March 2024. The County Council had agreed to add the request to the work programme, and it was hoped the work would have been undertaken in the 2024/2025 financial year.

**RESOLVED** that the concerns raised be forwarded to Durham County Council with a request for traffic calming measures, passing points to be installed and repairs to the road to be undertaken.

**4 POLICE MATTERS**

There was no Police report.

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

**6 CORRESPONDENCE**

**(1) Durham Pride**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request for financial assistance from Durham Pride for the Durham Pride in May 2025.

**RESOLVED** that no donation be made.

**7 PLANNING ISSUES**

There were no planning issues.

## **8 CLERKS REPORT**

### **(1) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/2025**

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.

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 suggested 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.

### **(2) Grass Cutting Contract 2025/2026**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quotation from Durham County Council for grass cutting during the 2025 season.

Members were advised that the quotation of £790.05 plus VAT was based on a 10-day cycle of grass cutting, weather permitting at the Village Green, Hillrise Crescent, land opposite either side of the farm entrance, Seaton Burn and the land opposite Bankside.

**RESOLVED** that the quotation be accepted.

### **(3) Litter/Dog Bins Contract 2025/2026**

The Clerk reported the receipt of a quotation from Durham County Council for the emptying of 3 litter/dog bins.

Members were advised that the quotation of £815.28 plus VAT was based on each bin being serviced once a week at a cost of £5.23 plus VAT per collection per bin.

**RESOLVED** that the quotation be accepted.

### **(4) County Councillors**

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting County Councillors K Batey and D McKenna advised that they would not be standing for re-election at the County Council elections to be held on 1 May 2025.

It was suggested that the Parish Council send a letter of thanks to both Councillors for their support over the last 4 years.

**RESOLVED** that a letter of thanks be sent to Councillors K Batey and D McKenna.

## **9 MEMBER ISSUES**

### **(1) Steps at the Meadows**

Members reported that off road bikes were accessing The Meadows at the steps leading off the walkway.

**RESOLVED** that the matter be referred to Durham County Council.

**(2) Dog Fouling**

Members expressed concern at the amount of dog fouling on the walkway and suggested that Durham County Council be asked to provide signage advising dog owners of their responsibilities to pick up after their dogs.

The Chair reported that following the last meeting a sign had been erected near the steps leading to The Meadows asking dog owners to pick up after their dogs and the situation had improved.

**RESOLVED** that Durham County Council be asked to provide official signage on the walkway advising dog owners of their responsibilities to pick up after their dogs.

**10 PAYMENTS**

**RESOLVED** that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100892	HMRC	PAYE - April 2025	243.11		243.11
100893	Payroll	Wages - April 2025	699.17		699.17
100894	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2025	15.80	3.16	18.96
100895	Luke Burton Landscapes	Grounds Maintenance	50.00		50.00
100896	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	248.34		248.34
100897	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Stamps	27.52		27.52
Sheet 176	HSBC	Bank Charges	7.00		7.00
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,290.94</b>	<b>3.16</b>	<b>1,294.10</b>

**11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next meeting be held on 15 May 2025 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated