

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

**Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, S Faulkner,
S McAuliffe, A Taylor, A Vila, S Williams**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Fuller and D Temple.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2025, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was no public present at the meeting.

5 POLICE MATTERS

There was no Police report.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) Local Community Fund

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) advising that the EGL1 Local Community Fund was open, details of the fund were circulated to each Member and posted on the Parish Councils website.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Article 4 Direction

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Durham County Council advising that the County Council had confirmed a non-immediate Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights that currently allowed the conversion of dwelling houses into Houses in Multiple Occupation for between 3 and 6 residents (HMOs) without the need for planning permission.

The County Council had already introduced this measure for smaller HMOs in areas where there was a concentration of student properties. The Article 4 Direction would come into force on 17 August 2026 and would cover the remainder of County Durham. Planning permission would then be required for any new HMO conversions from that date onward.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning issues.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Precept and Budget 2026/2027

The Clerk reported details of the figures related to the tax base for the forthcoming 2026/2027 financial year.

Members were provided with budget options and a range of figures for consideration. Members discussed the options and suggested that a 15% increase be applied to the precept.

RESOLVED that the Clerk prepare a draft 2026/2027 budget based on a 15% increase to the precept.

(2) Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that Horns Garden Centre had quoted between £150 - £180 for a 17ft Christmas tree plus £20 delivery.

Members were advised that the tree would be delivered the last week in November 2025.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

(3) Feeder Pillar

The Clerk reported that the Feeder Pillar was re-energised for the Christmas lights on 29 October 2025 at a cost of £91.60 inclusive of VAT.

Members were advised that a daily fixed price of 56p and 65p per kwh had been negotiated with E-On Next.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Christmas Carol Singing – Salvation Army

The Clerk reported that the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army would be held on 10 December 2025 at 7pm followed by refreshments in the Community Centre. The December meeting of the Parish Council would be held on the same date at the earlier time of 6pm.

Members were advised that expenditure for the event included selection boxes £37.19, refreshments/sweets £63.51 and table covers £11.98.

The Chair reported that Santa would be attending to pass out the selection boxes to the children. It was suggested that a token of appreciation be made to Santa from the Section 137 Budget.

RESOLVED that a gift to the value of £20 be made to Santa from the Section 137 Budget.

(5) Grounds Maintenance

The Clerk reported that L Burton, who maintained the beds in the parish, would be unable to do so for approx. 6 months.

In his absence Durham County Council were asked to provide a quotation to weed and cut back the rose bed at the Seaton Lane Inn and the beds at Seaton Crescent and had quoted £317.34 excl VAT.

RESOLVED that the quotation be accepted.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 19 November 2025

(6) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that the next PACT meeting would be held on 27 November 2025 in Seaton Community Centre at 6pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

Speeding – Hillrise Crescent

Members reported ongoing problems related to vehicles speeding on Hillrise Crescent. Reference was made to large vehicles from local businesses based in the parish who used Hillrise Crescent when going in and out.

Members reported that a vehicle, travelling at speed, had hit one of the speed humps and created a large gouge that required attention.

It was suggested that the speeding be reported to both the Police and Durham County Council and the County Council be asked to re-paint the speed humps.

RESOLVED that the issues referred to be reported to the Police and Durham County Council.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100925	HMRC	PAYE - November 2025	252.91		252.91
100926	Payroll	Wages - November 2025	721.54		721.54
100927	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2025	12.50	2.50	15.00
100928	A Slater	Reimbursement - Christmas Refreshments	52.93	10.58	63.51
100929	A Slater	Reimbursement - Christmas Table Coverings	9.98	2.00	11.98
100930	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Stamps	13.92		13.92
Sheet 183	HSBC	Bank Charges	1.60		1.60
		TOTAL	1,065.38	15.08	1,080.46

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 10 December 2025 at 6pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated