

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2025**

**Present: Councillor A Slater (Chair)
Councillors A Blacklock, S Faulkner, G Fuller,
S McAuliffe, A Taylor, D Temple, S Williams**

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A Vila.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 November 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

The Chair welcomed PCSO P Cartwright to the meeting.

The Police reported that there had been a van stolen in the parish area, but no suspect had been identified.

Members were advised that off-road bikes continued to be an issue not only in the Seaham area, but across County Durham. The Police had recently seized two off-road bikes in the parish area and identified the riders.

The Police had undertaken a speed watch on Seaton Lane and had positioned themselves above the new traffic lights. During the speed watch a number of drivers triggered the safety camera, and were issued with a warning letter.

Members reiterated the problems related to speeding on the B1404. It was felt that the introduction of the new traffic lights had exacerbated the situation as drivers were speeding up once they passed them. PCSO Cartwright agreed to refer the matter to the Traffic Management Officer for further consideration.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) Royal Garden Party 2026

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils which gave details of the Royal Garden Party to be held in 2026.

RESOLVED that Councillor D Temple be nominated to attend the Royal Garden Party on behalf of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council.

(2) Lord Lieutenant Celebration Event

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils which gave details of an event to celebrate the retirement of the Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowdon.

Members were advised that one member per council was invited to be nominated to attend the event to be held on 25 February 2026 at Raby Castle.

RESOLVED that Councillor D Temple be nominated to attend the celebration event on behalf of Seaton with Slingley Parish Council.

(3) Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1)

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) advising that construction work on their project north of Seaham would take place between 8 and 19 December 2025 and would affect traffic using Stockton Road.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) County Councillors Surgery

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence advising that the County Councillors for the Seaham, Dalton and Dawdon wards would be holding a surgery on 18 December 2025 at Seaham Contact Centre between 9am and 10am.

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 that at the last meeting Members were provided with draft figures related to the budget, precept and tax base for the forthcoming 2026/2027 financial year.

The Clerk provided Members with options and a range of figures for consideration. It was pointed out that in the past the Parish Council used reserves to keep the precept as low as possible. Members were advised that this was no longer possible, and reserves could not be used to keep the precept artificially low. It was suggested that a budget be set based on a 15% increase to the precept.

The Clerk took Members through the detailed budget based on this and advised that the Parish Council required a budget of £16,360 for the 2026/2027 financial year.

RESOLVED that Durham County Council be advised that the Parish Councils precept request for 2026/2027 was £16,360.

(2) Christmas Tree

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

Horns had advised that their supplier had let them down and the cost of the tree would be in the

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region of £300.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Feeder Pillar

The Clerk reported that the Feeder Pillar would be de-energised on the 5 January 2026 at a cost of £91.60 inclusive of VAT.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Christmas Carol Singing – Salvation Army 2026

The Clerk reported that the annual carol singing with the Salvation Army would be held on 9 December 2026 at 7pm. It was suggested that the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on the same date at the earlier time of 6pm.

RESOLVED that the December meeting of the Parish Council be held on 9 December 2026 at 6pm followed by carol singing with the Salvation Army at 7pm.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

| CHQ NO | PAYMENT TO | DETAIL | COST | VAT | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 100931 | HMRC | PAYE - December 2025 | 253.11 | | 253.11 |
| 100932 | Payroll | Wages - December 2025 | 721.34 | | 721.34 |
| 100933 | JACS Accountancy Limited | Payroll Services - December 2025 | 12.50 | 2.50 | 15.00 |
| 100934 | Salvation Army | Section 137 Donation | 200.00 | | 200.00 |
| 100935 | Durham County Council | Grounds Maintenance | 317.34 | 63.47 | 380.81 |
| 100936 | A Slater | Reimbursements | 19.50 | | 19.50 |
| 100937 | E.ON Next | Electric - Christmas Lights | 35.22 | 1.76 | 36.98 |
| Sheet 184 | HSBC | Bank Charges | 2.80 | | 2.80 |
| TOTAL | | | 1,561.81 | 67.73 | 1,629.54 |

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 21 January 2026 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated