

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2026**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Fuller.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 10 December 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 and PCSO B Ford to the meeting.

The Police reported that since the last meeting there had been 1 residential burglary and 1 vehicle crime in the parish area. No suspects had been identified for either crime.

Members had previously expressed concern regarding access and congestion at the junction between Haverley Drive and the B1404 following the introduction of the new traffic lights. The Parish Council had asked Durham County Council to consider installing a yellow box junction at this location to help keep the junction clear and avoid congestion. The Police advised that Durham County Council had agreed to install a yellow box junction.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) PACT Meetings 2026

The Clerk reported that the following PACT meetings would be held in Seaton Community Centre. All meetings would start at 6pm.

**19 February 2026
16 April 2026
11 June 2026
14 August 2026
15 October 2026
10 December 2026**

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Member Code of Conduct

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) advising that Durham County Council had amended its Member Code of Conduct.

The Clerk advised that in the past CDALC had recommended that parish and town councils adopt Durham County Councils Member Code of Conduct. Seaton with Slingley Parish Council had taken this advice and adopted the County Councils Code of Conduct.

Members were advised that the County Council had amended its Code of Conduct and added an additional paragraph 6 which read as follows:

“The right to freedom of expression under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights is the basis of democracy and will be upheld at all times. Members have a democratic duty to represent their constituents and engage in robust political debate. Therefore, in a political context, a degree of immoderate, offensive, shocking or provocative expression, is acceptable.”

This addition paragraph was discussed at forum meetings and by CDALCs Executive Committee, with little or no appetite to embrace it. The Executive Committee agreed that the addition of this paragraph was inappropriate and unnecessary and CDALC recommended that the original Code of Conduct be used by parish and town councils.

RESOLVED that the original Code of Conduct be adopted by Seaton with Slingley Parish Council.

(3) EGL1 Community Liaison Group Meeting

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) to attend a Community Liaison Group meeting on 11 February 2026 at 6pm at the Robin Todd Centre, South Hetton.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Lord Lieutenant Celebration Event

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the County Durham Association of Local Councils had advised that the event to celebrate the retirement of the Lord Lieutenant, Sue Snowdon, had been cancelled.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Village Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invoice from Horns Garden Centre for the supply and delivery of the village Christmas Tree in the sum of £320 (£266.67 plus £53.33 VAT).

Members were advised that Durham County Council had refused to collect the village Christmas Tree and arrangements were made to have it collected and disposed of at a cost of £100.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Feeder Pillar – Christmas Lights

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 21 January 2026

The Clerk reported that the Feeder Pillar was scheduled to be de-energised on 5 January 2026 at a cost of £91.60.

Members were advised that the appointment was cancelled by E-on Next and re-scheduled for 12 January 2026. E-on Next had advised that the Parish Council would not be charged the daily standing charge from 5 January 2026 and they had credited the Parish Council's account with £40.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Website Hosting

The Clerk sought approval for Madhouse Media to continue hosting the Parish Council website for a further 12 months on the bronze package at a cost of £480 plus VAT, the same price as last year.

RESOLVED that approval be granted for Madhouse Media to host the Parish Council website for a further 12 months on the bronze package at a cost of £480 plus VAT.

(4) Website - Domain Renewal

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had renewed its .gov.uk domain at a cost of £90 incl. of VAT.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(5) Parish Noticeboard

The Chair reported that she had been approached by several residents asking if the noticeboard that was previously located at Seaton Supply Stores would be re-located elsewhere in the parish area.

Members discussed the need for a noticeboard and made suggestions in relation to where it could be located. It was felt that as there was currently a noticeboard located outside the Community Centre it would need to be located somewhere between Seaton Supply Stores and the new traffic lights on the B1404.

The Clerk pointed out that the land adjacent the B1404, on both sides of the road, between Seaton Supply Stores and the new traffic lights belonged to Durham County Council and it would be advisable to speak to them initially as the landowner.

RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Durham County Council to discuss the possibility of installing a Parish Council noticeboard on Durham County Council land somewhere between Seaton Supply stores and the new traffic lights.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

Damaged Footpath

Members reported damage to the footpath on the corner of Haverley Drive and Eppleton Hall Close.

RESOLVED that the damaged footpath be reported to Durham County Council.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

Seaton with Slingley Parish Council – 21 January 2026

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100938	HMRC	PAYE - January 2026	253.11		253.11
100939	Payroll	Wages - January 2026	721.34		721.34
100940	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - January 2026	12.50	2.50	15.00
100941	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - November 2025 Re-Issued to replace cheque No 100927	12.50	2.50	15.00
100942	Madhouse Media	Domain Renewal .gov.uk	75.00	15.00	90.00
100943	Horns Garden Centre	Village Christmas Tree	266.67	53.33	320.00
100944	A Slater	Reimbursement	35.00		35.00
100945	A Slater	Reimbursement	100.00		100.00
100946	S McAuliffe	Fence Repairs around Village	215.00		215.00
Sheet 185	HSBC	Bank Charges	2.80		2.80
		TOTAL	1,693.92	73.33	1,767.25

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on **18 February 2026** at **6.45pm**.

.....Signed

.....Dated