

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL 2026**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor G Fuller, A Taylor and A Vila.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 March 2026, 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's C Hutton and X Todd to the meeting.

The Police reported that there had been a report of suspicious activity near the wind turbines.

Members reported recent incidents involving quads and off-road bikes, one of which was reported to the Police. The Police advised that this was an on-going issue and they now had a drone which could be deployed when reports were received. Regular patrols were carried out along the walkway and there was the possibility of a joint operation with Northumberland.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(1) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that the next PACT meeting would be held on 16 April 2026 in Seaton Community Centre at 6pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(2) Eastern Green Link (EGL1) Project

The Clerk reported the receipt of correspondence from the Eastern Green Link (EGL1) project which outlined details of the on-going works. All correspondence received had previously been forwarded to Members and residents were being kept informed with regular leaflet drops

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no planning matters.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/2026

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) VAT Claim 2025/2026

The Clerk reported that a VAT claim for £615.38 for the 2025/2026 financial year had been submitted.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Parish Noticeboard

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting quotations had been received from the Parish Notice Board Company.

Members were advised of the available sizes and options. Following discussion, it was agreed that the most suitable size would be the 6A4 classic noticeboard.

The 6A4 classic range noticeboard was a freestanding 3mm thick flat solid plate aluminum sign approx. 1175mm x 1215mm with a shaped top. The aluminum sign would be vinyl coated in green with vinyl lettering on the shaped top. Attached to the noticeboard were 2 poster display cases (display area 940mm x 460mm). The poster cases were weatherproof, manufactured from aluminum with a magnetic insert panel. They had a full-length hinged and lockable door with a poly-carbonated front protection panel and were secured with allen key security locks. The noticeboard would be mounted onto 2 x 76mm diameter 3m long powder coated aluminum posts which were supplied with end caps and channel clip fixings.

The Clerk advised that the cost to supply the noticeboard was £1,050 plus £210 VAT. Delivery was £65 plus £13 VAT. Durham County Council had provided a quotation of £150 plus £30 VAT for installation.

The total cost to supply, deliver and install was £1,265 plus £253 VAT giving a total of £1,518.

RESOLVED that the quotations be accepted.

9 MEMBER ISSUES

(1) Bus Service 71

The Chair reported the receipt of complaints related to the Chester le Street to Seaham 71 bus service, operated by Gateshead Central Buses.

Residents were frustrated that the bus rarely ran to schedule, it was often late or early and regularly did not turn up at all. Residents reported that they had been left, in the cold, waiting for hours for the next bus to turn up. When it failed to turn up, they were forced to organise alternative transport such as a taxi

This service was well used by residents living in the Seaton area. Many of the residents who used the service were elderly and relied on it for doctors and hospital appointments as well as shopping.

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to G Morris MP.

(2) Road Markings

Members reported that the road markings on the Burn Bank road were faded and needed a refresh.

RESOLVED that the matter be reported to Durham County Council.

(3) Poppy Wreaths

The Chair suggested that the Parish Council purchase 2 poppy wreaths. The wreaths would be displayed in the village on Remembrance Sunday then laid on the 2 war graves in St Mary’s Church, Seaham.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council purchase 2 poppy wreaths.

10 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100955	HMRC	PAYE - April 2026	252.91		252.91
100956	Payroll	Wages - April 2026	721.54		721.54
100957	JACS Accountancy Limited	Payroll Services - April 2026	12.90	2.58	15.48
100958	Madhouse Media	Microsoft Email Accounts	55.20	11.04	66.24
100959	County Durham Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	253.05		253.05
100960	J Thompson	Reimbursement	9.27		9.27
Sheet 188	HSBC	Bank Charges	1.20		1.20
		TOTAL	1,306.07	13.62	1,319.69

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on 20 May 2026 at 6.45pm.

.....Signed

.....Dated