

**THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SEATON WITH SLINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2026**

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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 July 2026, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved and signed by the Chair.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Please refer to minute number 7.

5 POLICE MATTERS

The Police reported that since the last meeting the following incidents had been reported in the parish area.

- Caravan set on fire
- Speeding vehicle – driver arrested
- Anti-social behaviour involving off-road bikes
- Vehicle crashed into a wall
- Concern related to children running across the A19
- Concern related to a male on the A1018
- A1018 - 3 broken down vehicles
- A19 - 3 road related incidents
- Abandoned vehicle on A1018
- Five dirt bikes weaving in and out of traffic on A1018
- Motorbike driving on the wrong side of the A1018

Following the last meeting the Police were advised of the on-going problems related to speeding on the B1404 and the incident that had occurred at Cairnside. The Police had advised that in relation to the incident at Cairnside there was no record on the incident log. With reference to speeding on the B1404 they had previously raised this issue and asked for frequent speed checks and speed watches.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Eastern Green Link 1 - Invitation

The Clerk reported the receipt of an invitation from Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) to the official opening of the new Visitor Centre for EGL1 to be held on 25 September 2026.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(ii) PACT Meeting

The Clerk reported that the next PACT meeting would be held on 15 October 2026 in Seaton Community Centre at 6pm.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

7 PLANNING APPLICATION

DM/26/01331/FPA – Two storey side extension and rear first floor extension, render external walls, demolish garage at 1 South View, Seaton Lane, Seaton

The Chair welcomed M Horn and H Vasey who were present at the meeting to raise concerns related to planning application DM/26/01331.

M Horn advised that he had not objected to the original plans, However, work had commenced on the property before planning permission had been granted. In addition, the replacement windows being installed were grey, square in design and substantially larger than the existing windows, therefore significantly altering the character and appearance of the property.

The windows were not consistent with the submitted plans. The size, design and colour of the replacement windows were inappropriate in the context of the existing dwelling, the adjoining property and other properties in the village.

M Horn was concerned that the size of the replacement windows would create a loss of privacy to the adjoining property. The larger square windows would allow views into the neighbouring property resulting in a loss of residential amenity. This was particularly relevant at first floor level as the window would allow views directly into the neighbouring bedroom.

The Chair thanked M Horn and H Vasey for their attendance and advised that the Parish Council understood their concerns and would be submitting a letter to Durham County Council outlining the concerns of the Parish Council.

Members discussed the application and raised the following concerns.

- Work had commenced on the property before planning permission had been granted. The Parish Council would like this matter to be investigated to establish if the works currently being undertaken were authorised. If any works were not covered by permitted development rights or another form of existing permission, would enforcement action be taken.
- The replacement windows being installed at the property were grey, square in design and substantially larger than the existing windows. These changes significantly alter the character and appearance of the property. The windows are not consistent with the submitted plans. The size, design and colour of the replacement windows were inappropriate in the context of the existing dwelling, the neighbouring property and other properties in the village.
- The size and design of the replacement windows would create a loss of privacy for the neighbouring property. The large square window would allow views into the neighbouring property resulting in a loss of residential amenity. This was particularly relevant at first floor level as the window would allow views directly into the neighbouring bedroom.

RESOLVED that the concerns of the Parish Council be forwarded to Durham County Council.

8 CLERKS REPORT

(1) Corner opposite Community Centre

The Clerk reported that at the last meeting Members asked for a breakdown of the £695 quotation received from Durham County Council to replant the corner opposite the Community Centre. The County Council had advised that the quotation was made up of the following; order and supply plants - £355; clear bed of weeds - £115; plant up bed - £225.

Following the last meeting the Chair was approached by a resident to ask if they could tidy up the corner and maintain it, which they had done. Members were advised that as a thank you to the resident the Chair had purchased a bouquet of flowers as a show of appreciation.

Members discussed replanting and agreed on a small number of Lavender plants.

RESOLVED that a small number of Lavendar plants be purchased and planted on the corner opposite the Community Centre.

(2) Parish Noticeboard

The Clerk reported that magnetic pins for the noticeboard were purchased at a cost of £9.98

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(3) Re-Staining Work

The Clerk reported that S McAuliffe had re-stained the seat on the corner opposite the Community Centre.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(4) Christmas Tree

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Seaham Town Council were asked if they would be purchasing real Christmas trees. They confirmed that they were ordering real trees and would be able to supply the Parish Council with a tree.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council place an order for a 16ft Christmas tree at a cost of £190 plus VAT.

(5) Traffic Safety - Hillrise Crescent

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting the concerns raised by S Johnson and D Marley related to vehicles parking on the corner of the junction at Hillrise Crescent and the B1404 were referred to Durham County Council.

Durham County Council had advised that Durham Constabulary had powers to deal with vehicles that were causing an obstruction to other road users. However, the offence of causing unnecessary obstruction was subjective and relied on the attending Police Officer exercising their professional judgement and discretion when assessing the circumstances. It was pointed out that the presence of waiting restrictions, such as yellow lines, was not required for this offence to be considered.

The County Council had advised that this location had been added to the future schemes list and would be reviewed by officers when considering whether the introduction of new restrictions may be appropriate at this location. Any proposed restrictions would be subject to consultation and the necessary amendments to the Traffic Regulation Order before implementation could take place, which was a lengthy process. The County Council had advised that any instances of obstruction

should be reported to Durham Constabulary via the non-emergency 101 service.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

(6) Footpath over A19 Bridge

The Clerk reported that following the last meeting Durham County Council were advised that the surface of the footpath running from the Seaton Lane Inn to the entrance of Haverley Drive was breaking up and in a poor state of repair.

The County Council had advised that following an investigation the footpath was not considered to be hazardous or dangerous, but they would keep a record of this for potential inclusion in a future schedule of work.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

9 PAYMENTS

RESOLVED that the following schedule of payments be approved.

CHQ NO	PAYMENT TO	DETAIL	COST	VAT	TOTAL
100978	HMRC	PAYE - August 2026	253.11		253.11
100979	Payroll	Wages - August 2026	721.34		721.34
100980	Durham County Council	Servicing of Rubbish/Dog Bins and Grass Cutting	1,669.54	333.91	2,003.45
100981	Durham County Council	Installation of Noticeboard	150.00	30.00	180.00
Direct Debit	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Registration	47.00		47.00
Sheet 192	HSBC	Bank Charges	1.60		1.60
100982	HMRC	PAYE - September 2026	318.28		318.28
100983	Payroll	Wages - September 2026	861.54		861.54
100984	JACS Accountancy Ltd	Payroll Services - August/September 2026	25.83	5.17	31.00
100985	A Slater	Reimbursement - Flowers	12.00		12.00
100986	J Thompson	Reimbursement - Noticeboard Pins	9.98		9.98
Sheet 193	HSBC	Bank Charges	2.80		2.80
		TOTAL	4,073.02	369.08	4,442.10

10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

.....Signed

.....Dated