

Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 17 May 2017 at 6.30 p.m. at New Hartley Memorial Hall (held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting)

PRESENT:

Cllrs: L Bowman, K Collier (Vice Chair), S Dungworth, D Nesbitt, B Swinhoe, E Coulson, S Stanners (Vice Chair), A Stanners and S Hartland

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
 L Fox – Services Officer
 D Freeman – Engagement and Development Officer
 B Adams – Administration Assistant
 10 members of the public

The meeting started at 6.35pm.

PM001/17 1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr. S Stanners took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. He particularly welcomed new Councillors Eva Coulson and Dan Nesbitt to their first Council meeting after being elected to represent the wards of Holywell and Seghill with Seaton Delaval respectively. Cllr Stephens also took the opportunity to wish Cllr Collier a happy birthday as the meeting coincided with her birthday.

Cllr Stanners then went on to explain that the Annual Parish Meeting would look back at the achievements of the Council in the previous year and that immediately following the conclusion of that meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Council itself would take place. This meeting would consider nominations for the position of Chair for the ensuing Council year and would make various appointments to Council committees.

PM002/17 2. Presentation – Neighbourhood Policing – Seaton Valley

Cllr Stanners introduced PC's Mick Gair and Peter Miller who were in attendance to give a short presentation on Neighbourhood Policing in Seaton Valley.

The PC's began by giving an overview of how the Police are organised in the area. The main 24/7 station is now in Bedlington, whilst Seaton Valley PC's are based at the Manor Walks premises which are open on a 9 to 5 basis. The Cramlington Station has 7 PC's and 3 PCSO's attached to it and of these 3 PC's and 1 PCSO normally work in the Seaton Valley area.

Northumbria Police have agreed three main priority areas: vulnerability, demand and dwelling burglaries, which means that any crimes falling within these categories will be earmarked for priority response times. Notwithstanding these priorities the PC's both agreed that their main role is to be visible in the community and be seen as the face of Northumbria Police in Seaton Valley. Seaton Valley is a reasonably quiet area with little crime activity, however the PC's did mention the higher than normal incidences of anti-social behaviour in the Seghill area and the spate of allotment burglaries that had taken place over a year ago in Seaton Delaval. With regard to the former the PC's explained that they had successfully used Dispersal Orders to address the ASB issue and were reasonably happy with the outcome.

The PC's concluded their presentation by inviting questions from the floor.

After one or two general questions a more detailed question was asked about how the PC's thought a longer term solutions could be found to ASB issues. In reply the PC's outlined their work with Youth Clubs and Schools in which they endeavour to make informal contact with the relevant young people. Alternative activities are an obvious answer but the PC's highlighted funding issues as a barrier to financing such activities.

The PC's concluded their presentation at 6.50pm and left the meeting after being thanked for their attendance.

PM003/17 3. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence as all members were present.

PM004/17 4. To agree the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2016

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25 May 2016 were agreed as being a correct record and were duly signed by Cllr Stanners.

PM005/17 3. Receive Annual Report for 2016/2017

Cllr Stanners advised that a Summary Annual Report would be distributed to all households in Seaton Valley in due course as part of the Council's next newsletter. Additionally, a more detailed report had been distributed with tonight's agenda and would be published in full on the Council's website. Cllr Stanners then proceeded to summarise the annual report highlighting a number of the Council's achievements during the year including:

- Continued good performance of the Neighborhood Partnership Team
- Successful first year of the Floral Planting contract
- Improvements to play parks
- A successful series of Christmas events
- More focus on Dog Fouling Issues
- Successful completion of the Art Stop project
- Installation of the Gateway to Seaton Valley signage, and
- Supporting retail outlets on Seaton Delaval high street.

In concluding his summary Cllr Stanners drew specific attention to a number of matters that would be attracting the Council's attention in the ensuing year, including

- Further improvements to play parks in Seghill
- Participation at the New Hartley Public Enquiry
- Improvements to Fountain Head Bank roundabout, and
- An event to welcome the Tour of Britain back to Seaton Valley.

PM006/17 5. Public questions

There were four questions/queries from the floor. One concerned the area adjacent to the Avenue Head toilets, another queried how the grass surround would be cut on the newly designed Fountain Head Bank roundabout; the third question was about the condition of the verges between Holywell Bridge and Briar Dene Farm and the final query was about the amount of grass arising's throughout the Valley and in particular on the green space between Linden Road and Wheatridge.

The Clerk agreed to look into each of the matters raised with a view to getting them resolved within a short timescale.

PM007/17 6. Close of meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.05 pm and was followed immediately by the Annual Council Meeting.

Signed by the Chair:

Dated: