

# Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 30 May 2018 at 6.30 p.m. at New Hartley Memorial Hall (held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting).**

## PRESENT:

Cllrs: L Bowman, K Collier, S Dungworth, D Nesbitt, B Burt (Vice Chair), E Coulson, S Stanners (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  
8 members of the public

The meeting started at 6.32pm.

### PM001/18 1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr. S Stanners welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and 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.

### PM002/18 2. Presentation – Blyth Food Bank

Cllr Stanners introduced the Reverend Yvonne Tracey who was in attendance to give a short presentation on the work of Blyth Food Bank and the setting up of a parcel distribution centre in Seaton Valley.

The Reverend Tracey began by giving some background as to how the Blyth Food Bank came about i.e. The Mathew Project in Bedlington had been set up years earlier and had a number of Blyth clients – all concerned thought that it would be a good idea to have a self-sufficient Blyth Foodbank so the Mathew Project and representatives from Blyth Churches got together to set an organisation up.

The Blyth Health Trust awarded the new organisation a grant of £8,000 and an old doctor's surgery was provided to use as a warehouse. Schools and churches were approached to begin collecting for the Food Bank and relationships were struck up with the Briardale Community Association and the Silks Teen Bar to act as food parcel distribution centres.

These distribution centres were chosen because a number of potential food bank clients already visited these premises and as far as possible clients wouldn't be identifiable as specific food parcel recipients.

In the early days a significant majority of clients tended to be single men, but since a number of benefit changes have been introduced more and more clients are young families.

To receive a food parcels, clients have to be referred by a recognised agency (e.g. NETS, Social Services or Early Life Centres) and each client can receive a maximum of three parcels over a short period. The idea being that other social providers should become involved with clients during this period and more permanent solutions identified for clients.

Blyth Food Bank has been pleased to partner up with Seaton Valley Council to provide a food parcel distribution point in Seaton Delaval – it's early days, but a number of clients have already benefitted from the service and demand is expected to grow. The Council is developing its own network of donators and arranges to collect donations on a weekly basis to deliver these to the food bank.

The Reverend Tracey concluded her presentation at 6.55pm, and after answering a number of questions, she was thanked for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and providing a summary of the Food Bank’s work.

**PM003/18 3. Apologies for Absence**

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

**PM004/18 4. To agree the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2017**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17 May 2017 were agreed as being a correct record and were duly signed by Cllr Stanners.

**PM005/18 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 asked members if they wanted to highlight any of the items shown in the Annual Report. The following items were briefly enlarged upon.

- Floral Bedding
- Continued focus on reducing instances of dog fouling
- Funding for Public Toilet provision now included in base budget
- Seaton Sluice and New Hartley Post Office developments
- Vehicle Activated Signs
- Additional funding to support evening journeys on the 57A bus route
- Food Parcel Distribution Centre – early demand
- Neighborhood Plan – restart process

**PM006/18 5. Public questions**

There were two questions/observations from the floor. One concerned the need to cut some of the lower branches on trees that are obstructing new highways signage in New Hartley and the other concerned the recently established sustainable flower bed at Dale Top, Holywell.

In respect of the former, members responded by saying that the matter is in hand and advised that the Dale Top flower bed is being maintained by the Holywell in Bloom Group.

**PM007/18 6. Close of meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.00 pm and was followed immediately by the Annual Council Meeting.

Signed by the Chair: .....

Dated: .....