

Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 19 September 2018 at 7.00 p.m. at Seaton Sluice Community Centre.

The meeting started at 7.04 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillors: S Stanners (Chair), A Stanners, S Dungworth, L Bowman, B Burt and E Coulson

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Members of the public - 4

CO069/18 1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Collier, Hartland and Nesbitt.

CO070/18 2. Disclosure of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

CO071/18 3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and then went on to congratulate all of the entrants to this years' Gardening Competition on the standard of their entries.

CO072/18 4. Public Question Time

One resident complimented the Council on the standard of its floral planting displays despite the difficult weather conditions faced during the summer months and another resident reported an overhanging branch that was partially obscuring a school patrol sign in Holywell.

In response to a matter raised at Public Question Time on 25 July the Chair reported that the Seghill Village Christmas Tree will be located outside the Blake Arms this year. He went on to say that the tree could no longer be located outside of the Community Centre due to installation and health and safety concerns raised by NCC and the installation contractor.

There being no further questions; public question time closed at 7.10pm

CO073/18 5. County Councillor Update

In the absence of Cllr Pidcock, Cllr Dungworth provided a brief update on County Council matters.

- Cllr Dungworth began by urging residents to review the recordings of recent NCC Council Meetings to observe how NCC Council business is being conducted,
- Secondly she asked residents to look out for notices that will be issued within the next few weeks about changes to the days domestic refuse bins are emptied in the area,
- And lastly she referred to NCC's Local Transport Plan for 2019/20 whereby all Parish Councils have been asked to submit their top three highway improvement schemes for potential inclusion in the plan.

CO074/18 6. Minutes of the Council's last meeting held on 25 July 2018

Prior to agreeing these minutes the Chair referred to item 12 of the minutes – Local Transport Plan 2019/20 and said that following discussions with all members of the Council the following

three highway safety improvement schemes would be submitted to the County Council for potential inclusion in its plan:

- Installation of a Pegasus Crossing on The Avenue, just west of the New Hartley turn off,
- Introduction of 20 mph zones on all residential housing estates in Seaton Valley, and
- Installation of more regular signage for the extended 30 mph zone on the approach to Seghill from Annitsford.

Following this update, the minutes of the Council's Meeting held on 25 July 2018 were agreed as being a correct record and were duly signed and dated by the Chair.

CO075/18 7. Services and Partnership Update

The Chair introduced the Services Officer's report and referred in particular to a number of items:

- A meeting will be held in the near future with Partnership Team Managers to discuss the relationship between the main Partnership Contract and the separate Floral Planting Contract,
- Dog Poo Bag dispensers have now been installed at 10 separate sites in the Valley. So far the dispensers appear to be being used correctly at most sites, but the ones located at Astley Park and Mitford Avenue Play Area have already been slightly damaged. These dispensers have been relocated and their use will be monitored closely over the coming weeks,
- The new Enforcement Officer (Dog Fouling) employed via NCC, but funded by the Council, will commence her duties in early October. She will be located in Seaton Valley two days per week,
- Repairs will soon be carried out to the fencing surrounding the Dunes Play Area at Seaton Sluice. A number of posts are loose and substantial repairs need to be carried out – two quotes for the work are currently being sought,
- The Chair and Councillor Dungworth led a discussion about whether or not the Council should continue to take part in Northumbria in Bloom. Some members felt that the initial objectives of taking part are not being met in some villages i.e. increasing community involvement, and felt that the Council could oversee its own Seaton Valley in Bloom project instead. Members asked for a discussion document to be presented to its next meeting to debate the matter further,
- This year's Gardening Competition had once again been a tremendous success. The awards ceremony had been well attended and members offered their congratulations to all entrants and in particular to the winners of the various categories,
- Details are still awaited from the Partnership Team about where and when the trial of public recycling bins will begin and be located,
- An schedule of Community Litter picks was agreed as shown in the table below:

Date	Village	Times
13 October 2018	Seaton Sluice	9.30 – 10.30am
27 October 2018	Holywell	9.30 – 10.30am
17 November 2018	New Hartley	9.30 – 10.30am
19 January 2019	Seghill	9.30 – 10.30am
9 February 2019	Seaton Delaval	9.30 – 10.30am

- The dates for our Christmas events are:

Fri 23 November – Seghill
 Sat 24 November – Seaton Sluice
 Sun 25 November – Seaton Delaval
 Sat 30 November – Holywell
 Sun 1 December – New Hartley

Following the Chair's summing up, Council agreed to receive the Services Officer's report.

CO076/18 8. WW1 Beacons of Light

The Clerk presented the Engagement and Development Officers report which provided details of a planned Beacons of Light Ceremony which is scheduled to take place at Seaton Sluice, on Remembrance Sunday from 6.30pm.

The Clerk reported that Planning Permission had now been received to install the Beacon on the promontory behind the Kings Arms and that groundworks testing will take place within the next two weeks. Subject to the groundwork test being successful the Beacon will be ordered from, and constructed by a local firm and installed by the Partnership Team.

Local church officials are aware of the plans and are looking forward to taking part in the ceremony.

Members fully support the event and are keen to see it publicised as widely as possible.

CO077/18 9. New Hartley Play Parks

The Clerk presented his report which provided an update on the outcome of recent consultation exercise on the Councils proposals to create a new play park at Hastings Gardens, New Hartley and to replace a piece of under used equipment in the existing New Hartley junior play area. In summary only three written responses had been received, 2 against and 1 in favour, but the overwhelming verbal responses to both proposals had been very favourable.

Members were minded to move ahead with both proposals, but before doing so the Hartley Ward Councillors agreed to visit each property that backs onto the proposed Hastings Gardens play park to seek comments from the residents of each individual property. Should this exercise confirm that the vast majority of residents are in favour of the development approval will be given to progress both projects.

Members were reminded that formal planning permission may be required for the Hasting Gardens play area and that such permission would be sought (if required) once final approval for the scheme has been confirmed.

At the end of the debate Cllr Dungworth said that she would make a £3,600 contribution to the scheme (from her NCC Members Small Scheme Budget) to avoid the necessity of drawing any monies from reserves.

Following the debate **Council RESOLVED TO:**

- **Move forward with the proposals to create a new play park at Hastings Gardens, and to replace a piece of under used equipment in the existing New Hartley junior play area subject to the further consultation with Hastings Gardens described above and to**
- **Note that the budgeted shortfall of £3,600 required to fund both schemes will be met from a contribution from Cllr Dungworth's NCC Members Small Schemes budget.**

CO078/18 10. Council Tax Support 2019/20 – NCC Proposals

The Chair presented the Clerk's report which provided details of NCC's proposal to reduce Council Tax Support on working age claimants Council Tax bills to 92% (currently qualifying claimants receive 100% support) from 2019/20. NCC's is consulting on its proposal which will contribute a saving of circa. £1M per annum towards its overall savings target which is in excess of £20M per annum.

Councillor Dungworth opened the debate and said that she is very concerned that this proposal will have a devastating effect on those families that are already under serious financial pressure and that if implemented, the additional financial burden could push some families over the edge. She went on to say that she finds it hard to believe that the ruling party at NCC has even

contemplated introducing this draconian measure even in the knowledge that some other Council's in the UK already have the policy in place. She hoped that all present would wholeheartedly back her proposal for the Council to write to NCC vehemently opposing the implementation of its proposal.

Cllr Dungworth's comments were repeated and supported in one way or another by all members present and at the end of the debate **Council RESOLVED TO: write to NCC to say that the Council vehemently opposes its proposal to reduce Council Tax Support on working age claimants Council Tax bills to 92% because it will disadvantage families that already face serious financial pressures.**

CO079/18 11. Bank Reconciliation as at 06 September 2018

Council agreed to receive the report, and noted that the Council's bank accounts had been successfully reconciled to its financial records.

CO080/18 12. Budgetary Control Report

The Clerk presented his report which provided detailed and summarised information on the Council's income and expenditure compared to budget as 31 August 2018. In summary, the Clerk said that the Council's income and expenditure is more or less in line with budgets when known variations are taken into account. The report highlighted one or two of these variances and provided explanations where required. Council **RESOLVED TO: receive and note the content of the report.**

CO081/18 13. Schedule of 2019 Meeting Dates

The schedule of meetings and associated dates of meetings shown in the Clerks report (Appendix 8A) was agreed and will be posted on the Council's website within the next few weeks

CO082/18 14. Dates of Future Meetings

2018	Committee/Council	Time	Venue
Wednesday 31 October	Finance & General Purposes	6pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
Wednesday 28 November	Full Council	7pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
Wednesday 12 December	Finance & General Purposes	6pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
2019			
Wednesday 30 January	Full Council	6pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices (to be confirmed at Council 19 September)

There being no other business on the Agenda, the meeting closed at 7.48pm

Signed by the Chair:

Dated: