

Seaton Valley Council

A Community Council

Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 28 July 2021 at 7.00 pm in the Council Offices, Seaton Delaval.

The meeting started at 7.03 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors:	S Dungworth (Chair), G Eastwood, E Coulson, L Bowman, S Bowman, E Chicken, D Ferguson and J Henderson
IN ATTENDANCE: S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	
	No members of the public were present.
CO034/20	1. Apologies for absence Cllr A Stanners had submitted her apologies for absence.
CO035/20	2. Disclosure of interests There were no declarations of interest.
CO036/20	3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on her thanks to all of the volunteers who had helped to prepare their villages for this year's In Bloom competition. The Chair then reminded Councillors that the Members Code of Conduct applies to the use of social media as well as to normal day to day activities and asked the Clerk if he could source a copy of NCC's Members Use of Social Media Guidance to circulate to Seaton Valley Councillors. The Chair also reminded the meeting that the referendum on the Council's Neighbourhood Plan was taking place on the following day (29 July). And finally the Chair announced that the Council's offices had now fully re opened following the recent relaxation of Covid restrictions, although visitors will still be required to wear a mask for the foreseeable future. There were no further civic announcements.
CO037/20	4. Public Question Time No members of the public were present and no questions had been submitted.
CO038/20	5. County Councillor Update Cllr Bowman provided an update on NCC matters. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid statistics still not particularly good in Northumberland – caution still required • New cabinet is now in place so new business/policies likely to be brought forward soon, • Some members of the public are finding it difficult to access NCC services as face to face service are not available yet – The Chair commented that this is having a knock on effect to Seaton Valley Council as vulnerable residents who would normally visit NCC Customer Services at the library are visiting the Council offices

	<p>instead,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of NCC staffs are continuing to work from home, • The new Britishvolt Gigafactory at Cambois has now received planning permission and construction of the plant will start very soon, • Some delays are being experienced with the collection of bulky household waste due to the effects of Covid on employee numbers, • Improvement works are due to start on the Avenue Head roundabout later this year, and • Social services staffs are very stretched and in addition the whole Social care service within Northumberland is to undergo a thorough review very soon. <p>Following Cllr Bowman's update a number of questions were asked about NCC services.</p> <p>Cllr Coulson asked if there was any news on when the Seaton Delaval library and NCC Customer Services desk would re-open - if not soon; could consideration be given to some type of mobile facility. Cllr's Bowman and Ferguson agreed to seek an update from NCC.</p> <p>The Chair asked if one of the County Councilors could seek an update on where NCC is with introducing door to door glass recycling</p> <p>The Chair also asked if Cllr Ferguson could find out what is happening with the proposed Beresford Road/Marine View highways improvement works which are to be introduced to discourage speeding in the area – Cllr Ferguson agreed to look into the matter.</p> <p>And finally the Chair asked if Cllr Ferguson could also look into what the outcomes were of the recent Parking Consultation exercise that was carried out with many residents in Seaton Sluice.</p>
CO039/20	<p>6. Minutes of the Council's last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting held on 19 May 2021 were agreed and accepted as a true record of that meeting.</p>
	<p>7. Minutes of the Planning sub Committee Meetings</p> <p>Council agreed to receive the minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1st June and the draft minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2021.</p>
CO040/20	<p>8. Services and Partnership Update</p> <p>In reviewing the Service Officer's report the Clerk/Chair highlighted the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A substantial amount of improvement works have been completed at a number of allotment sites this year, • The triangular bed at Seaton Sluice is to be completely overhauled with the design based on the look of the Fountain Head Bank roundabout planting, • Further thanks to the In Bloom volunteers who helped to prepare their villages for judging and to the NEAT Team for providing support, • There have been a number of incidents of vandalism in and around our play parks in Seaton Sluice – a meeting with the local police is being sought about the matter, • This vandalism has identified the urgent need to replace the fence at the Dunes Play Park, Seaton Sluice the cost of which will need to be funded from under spends elsewhere in the 2021/22 accounts. The Clerk agreed to seek three quotes for the required work. • Our bus shelter condition survey is to be updated to inform future refurbishments, • Two community litter picks per village are to be held between September 2021 and

	<p>April 2022,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent/content of our village Christmas events will be kept under review pending changes to the Covid regulations and guidance, and • After a little bit of negotiation with residents the uncut grassed areas have now been accepted although they could do with a bit of colour – wild seeds will be planted in the larger uncut areas next year. <p>At the end of the discussion of the Service Officers report, Council RESOLVED TO: note the requirement to replace the fence at the Dunes Play Park, Seaton Sluice and agreed to fund the cost of the works from under spends elsewhere in the Council's 2021/22 accounts.</p>
CO041/20	<p>9. Playgrounds Update</p> <p>The Clerk's report highlighted the significant amount of investment the Council has made in play parks over the last five years and sought confirmation of the Council's desire to go ahead with two schemes that had been put on hold until the Covid situation improved i.e. a pocket park at Northside Place, Holywell and an Outdoor Gym on the links at Seaton Sluice – both subject to formal planning approval.</p> <p>The Clerk said that the Section 106 contributions shown in his report were no longer available (£15,000) and would therefore need to be funded from balances, although he would do his best to identify alternative external funding sources.</p> <p>The budget for both schemes totals £60,000 i.e. £30,000 for each location.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the accessibility of proposed location of the Outdoor Gym Equipment (on the hard standing area opposite the Seaton sluice Middle School playing field) and therefore it was agreed to further consult residents in the immediate area, to seek their views on one or more alternative locations.</p> <p>At the end of the discussion Council RESOLVED TO:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Move forward with the two new schemes identified in the report i.e. the installation of an outdoor gym on The Links in Seaton Sluice and the installation of a pop up park in Holywell, Seek the views of nearby residents about their preferred location of the outdoor gym, Authorise a contribution of up to £45,000 from its Playparks Repairs and Renewals Fund, Authorise officers to submit an external funding application to Sport England for a £10,000 contribution to the Outdoor Gym Equipment; and Ask officers to try to identify additional external funding to contribute to the net costs of the two schemes.
CO042/20	<p>9. Northumberland Line</p> <p>Council agreed to receive the Engagement and Development officer's report which notified the Council that Northumberland County Council has been granted certain powers to facilitate the implementation of the Northumberland Line project.</p>
	<p>10. Sewer Gas Lamps</p> <p>The Engagement and Development Officer's report sought approval to go ahead with the repainting of the five sewer gas lamps remaining in Seaton Valley at a cost of circa. £2,400.</p> <p>All Councillors spoke in favour of the project and, therefore Council RESOLVED TO approve a project to repaint the 5 remaining Sewer Gas Lamps in Seaton valley at a cost of £2,400; said costs to be funded from unallocated reserves.</p>

	<p>11. Members Small Schemes Update The Clerks report summarised the expenditure that each village has either spent or committed against their £10,000 budgets and identified a balance still available to spend for each village (see paragraph 5 of the Clerk's report).</p> <p>Members discussed expenditure to date and agreed that further spending against the balances available per village should be agreed by Council prior to being committed.</p>																
CO043/20	<p>12. Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2021 Council agreed to receive the report, and noted that the Council's bank accounts had been successfully reconciled to its financial records.</p>																
CO044/20	<p>13. Budgetary Control Update The Clerk presented his report which analysed costs centres on a line by line basis and discussed any major variances between actual income and expenditure and expected income and expenditure levels to date.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to note the budgetary control position presented in the Clerks' report and in particular to note that the Play Park budget is likely to be over spent this years due to increased maintenance demands at the Dunes Play Area, Seaton Sluice.</p>																
CO046/20	<p>14. Dates of Future Scheduled Meetings</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>2021</th> <th>Committee/Council</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Venue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wednesday 29 September</td> <td>Full Council</td> <td>7:00 pm</td> <td>Seaton Sluice Community Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 27 October</td> <td>Finance & General Purposes</td> <td>6:00 pm</td> <td>Seaton Valley Council Offices</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 24 November</td> <td>Full Council</td> <td>7:00 pm</td> <td>TBC</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2021	Committee/Council	Time	Venue	Wednesday 29 September	Full Council	7:00 pm	Seaton Sluice Community Centre	Wednesday 27 October	Finance & General Purposes	6:00 pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices	Wednesday 24 November	Full Council	7:00 pm	TBC
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There being no other business on the Agenda the meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed by the Chair: _____

Dated: _____