

# Seaton Valley Council

## A Community Council

**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Council's Offices, Seaton Delaval, on Wednesday 27 April 2022 at 7.00 pm.**

The meeting started at 7.01 p.m.

<b>PRESENT:</b> Councilors:	S Dungworth (Chair) , G Eastwood (Vice Chair), L Bowman, S Bowman, A Stanners, E Coulson, D Ferguson, E Chicken and J. Henderson.
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	
Two members of the public were present.	
<b>CO036/22</b>	<b>1. Apologies for absence</b> None – all present
<b>CO037/22</b>	<b>2. Disclosure of interests</b> There were no declarations of interest.
<b>CO038/22</b>	<b>3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that she had been approached by the company that has been awarded the contract to build the new stations for the Northumberland Line – Morgan Sindall. The company is keen to establish links with the Seaton Valley community and is similarly keen to meet Councillors. The Chair went on to suggest that the company be invited to address Councillors at the council's meeting in July.  There were no further civic announcements.
<b>CO039/22</b>	<b>4. Public Question Time</b> A Seaton Delaval resident raised a query about recent incidents of anti-social behavior and large gatherings of youths in Astley Park. The resident also questioned why youths were allowed to use the tennis courts for football activities rather than tennis. The noise generated from a hard ball bouncing on a hard surface can be quite deafening.  In reply the Chair said that the council is working in partnership with colleagues from the Police, Youth Services and Public Protection (Anti-Social Behavior Team) to try to address these issues and in particular to create alternative activities for the youths to take part in. The Chair went on to say that this joint working initiative has been going on for a number of months and whilst she hoped that the initiative would reduce ASB in the area she acknowledged that the issue is a difficult matter to resolve.  With regard to the inappropriate use of the tennis courts the Chair again acknowledged that this has been a difficult issue to address since the demise of Park Attendants some years ago. However, the Chair said that she would pass the residents complaint onto officers at the County Council (which is responsible for the operation of Astley Park) to see if something specific can be done to address the matter.  Before moving on to the next question the same resident asked if an update could be provided on when the fence (near Ridsdale Close) in Astley Park, damaged by Storm

	<p>Arwen in November, was going to be replaced. In response the Chair said that council officers had approached the County Council on a number of occasions to chase this repair and that they would do so again.</p> <p>A Holywell resident complimented the Holywell In Bloom team for the outstanding floral displays they have installed throughout the village. The same resident asked if NCC could be approached to find out when the fence at Bates Welfare is going to be repaired and she thanked the Council for progressing the flooding issue outside St Mary's church that she had raised at the council's last meeting. The Chair thanked the resident for her comments and confirmed that SVC officers would contact the County Council about the Bates Welfare fence.</p> <p>There were no further questions from members of the public.</p>
<b>CO040/22</b>	<p><b>5. County Councillor Update</b></p> <p>Cllr L Bowman updated Councillors on the likely design option to be chosen for the new Middle and High School in Seaton Delaval. Option 6 of the recent consultation exercise, which is based on a split site with car parking facilities on Western Avenue together with the School itself and playing fields being located on land east of Manners Gardens, is likely to be agreed by NCC's Cabinet at a forthcoming meeting. The school site will include parking for staff and a small number of visitors but the main visitors' car park will be located on the old Whytrig Middle School site on Western Avenue.</p> <p>Cllr Bowman welcomed the decision and said that he was delighted that years of discussions were finally coming to fruition with the budgeted cost of the project likely to be in the region of £40M.</p> <p>Whilst the new facilities are expected to open in 2026, Cllr Bowman stressed that the decision on which option to proceed with was only the start of the process and that the detailed planning stage and further consultations would continue as the project develops.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson similarly stressed that residents would have plenty of time and opportunities to submit their views as the project moves forward.</p>
<b>CO041/22</b>	<p><b>6. Minutes of the Council's last Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes of the Council's meeting held on 30 March 2022 were agreed and accepted as a true record of that meeting.</p>
<b>CO042/22</b>	<p><b>7. Minutes of the Planning Sub Committee</b></p> <p>The minutes of Planning Committee held on Friday 1 April 2022 were received and noted by council. Cllr Eastwood took the opportunity to inform other Councillors that he had recently attended a NCC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting to voice the Council's objections to further variations to the Barratt Homes North East, Church Fields development in New Hartley. Cllr Eastwood said that despite his best efforts and the efforts of residents' representative Mr J Barrell, the application to vary the site layout had still been allowed.</p>

<p><b>CO043/22</b></p>	<p><b>8. Question submitted by Cllr Ferguson in accordance with Section 8 of the council's Standing Orders.</b>  Cllr Ferguson read out his question – The new arch installed at New Hartley looks fantastic but who paid for it and what did it cost?</p> <p>In reply the Chairs said that the arch cost £8,200 and that the Council had paid for it out of the New Hartley element of the Members Small Schemes budget.</p> <p>Cllr Ferguson asked a follow up question – were all ward Councillors consulted about the scheme?</p> <p>The Chair answered that all Ward Councillors had been asked if they supported the proposal in an email sent out by the Clerk in September 2021 and that all Ward Councillors had confirmed their support for a proposal to install an arch at the entrance to the Memorial Garden in New Hartley.</p>
<p><b>CO044/22</b></p>	<p><b>9. Service and Partnership Update</b>  The Clerk spoke to the Service Officers report which gave a brief update on issues related to allotments, floral planting, in bloom activity, food bank partnership, dog fouling, playgrounds, bus shelters, litter bins, the upcoming gardening competition and the neighbourhood partnership agreement. The Clerk drew particular attention to a replacement fence that is to be installed within the next month or so at the Dunes Play Area ,Seaton Sluice.</p> <p>The Chair asked for an update on progressing the installation of an outdoor gym in Seaton Sluice and in reply the Clerk said that he is currently in the process of writing to local groups (sports groups mainly) to seek support for the proposal to use in the council's grant application to Sport England. He went on to say that a planning application will be submitted once all funding is in place.</p>
<p><b>CO045/22</b></p>	<p><b>10. Avenue Head Roundabout Clock</b>  The Chair introduced the Engagement and Development Officers report which identified two options for repairing the clock. The first option would cost £6,600 plus Vat and included replacing the LED lighting and the chiming system within the clock. The second option would cost £980 plus Vat but only involved replacing the LED lighting.</p> <p>After a short debate all Councillors agreed to go with the second option as they all felt that the cost of replacing the chimes offered poor value for money. Consequently, council <b>RESOLVED TO: replace the LED lighting within the Avenue Head clock at an estimated cost of £980 plus Vat. The costs will be met from the council's Community Fund budget.</b></p>
<p><b>CO046/22</b></p>	<p><b>11. Internal Auditors Report and Summary of Findings 2020/21</b>  The Clerk spoke to the Internal Auditors report and firstly gave his thanks to Mr A Siney for stepping in at short notice. The auditor is generally happy with the systems and procedures operated by the Council and he has signed off the Internal Audit Section of the Council's Annual Governance and Accountability Return.</p> <p>In reviewing the Internal Auditors report and the accompanying appendix detailing the Audit Work Carried Out by Mr Siney, Council <b>RESOLVED TO: receive and note the content of the Internal auditors report.</b></p>

CO047/22	<p><b>12. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2021/22</b></p> <p>In presenting his report the Clerk drew attention to the Annual Governance Statement at Section 1 of the accompanying Annual Governance and Accountability Return which contains a number of statements about the controls the Council has in place to ensure that it has a sound system of internal control. The Clerk reminded Councilors that both they and the Clerk are jointly responsible for signing off this statement.</p> <p>In receiving the Clerks report, Council <b>RESOLVED TO:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Note the contents of the Annual Internal Audit Report included at page 3 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return attached at Appendix 3A.</b></li> <li>• <b>Approve the Annual Governance Statement included as Section 1 (page 4) of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return attached at Appendix 3A, and</b></li> <li>• <b>Approve the Accounting Statements included as Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return attached at Appendix 3A.</b></li> </ul>																
CO048/22	<p><b>13. Budgetary Control Update</b></p> <p>In presenting his report the Clerk said that the under spend on the 2021/22 accounts is £28,000 after adjusting for budget carry forwards and contributions to earmarked reserves. This level of under spend is in line with previous estimates.</p> <p>His report identified the main reasons for the under spend, all of which had been previously drawn to council's attention. The council's overall reserves stand at £305,000, £90,000 of which is the agreed minimum reserve level. The balance is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budgets carried forward to 2022/23 - £43,000</li> <li>• Earmarked Reserves - £91,000</li> <li>• Unallocated Reserves - £81,000</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED: to note the budgetary control position presented in the Clerks' report and agree to carry forward the budgets identified at paragraph 4 of the Clerk's report.</b></p>																
CO049/22	<p><b>14. Bank Reconciliation as at 31 March 2022</b></p> <p>Council agreed to receive the Clerk's report and noted that the Council's bank accounts had been successfully reconciled to its financial records.</p>																
CO050/22	<p><b>15. Dates of Future Scheduled Meetings</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="320 1532 1495 1767"> <thead> <tr> <th>2022</th> <th>Committee/Council</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Venue</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Wednesday 25 May</td> <td>Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting</td> <td>6.30pm</td> <td>New Hartley Memorial Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 27 July</td> <td>Full Council Meeting</td> <td>7.00pm</td> <td>Seghill Institute Memorial Hall</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 21 September</td> <td>Full Council Meeting</td> <td>7.00pm</td> <td>Seaton sluice Community Centre.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	2022	Committee/Council	Time	Venue	Wednesday 25 May	Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting	6.30pm	New Hartley Memorial Hall	Wednesday 27 July	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm	Seghill Institute Memorial Hall	Wednesday 21 September	Full Council Meeting	7.00pm	Seaton sluice Community Centre.
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There being no other business on the Agenda the meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed by the Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_