

# Seaton Valley Council

## A Community Council

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 7.00 pm in the Seghill Institute Memorial Hall, Seghill.**

The meeting started at 7.00 p.m.

<b>PRESENT:</b> Councillors:	S Dungworth (Chair), G Eastwood, E Coulson, L Bowman, S Bowman, E Chicken and D Ferguson
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b> S Potts – Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer	
Three members of the public were present.	
<b>CO051/22</b>	<b>1. Apologies for absence</b> Cllrs A Stanners and J Henderson had submitted their apologies for absence.
<b>CO052/22</b>	<b>2. Disclosure of interests</b> There were no declarations of interest.
<b>CO053/22</b>	<b>3. Chair's Welcome and Civic Announcements</b> The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and passed on her thanks to all of the volunteers who had helped to organise the various events that had been held throughout Seaton Valley to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.  The Chair also referred to the recent event that had been held to commemorate the life of Ray Kennedy – the event had been a great success and rose over £10,000 for Parkinsons UK.  And finally the Chair announced that item 9 on the agenda – Outstanding Achievement Award - would be brought forward to the next item of business.  There were no further civic announcements.
<b>CO054/22</b>	<b>4. Outstanding Achievement Award – Georgia Hill</b> Georgia was in attendance to receive an award for her outstanding work during the recent Covid pandemic. Georgia used her time to make puppets and artistic creatures to help lift resident's spirits by walking the streets of Seaton Valley and nearby North Tyneside with her puppets bringing light relief to adults and children alike.  All Councillors took the opportunity to thank Georgia for her efforts before the Chair formally presented her with an Outstanding Achievement in Community Life Award.
<b>CO055/22</b>	<b>5. Public Question Time</b> A member of the public from Seghill took the opportunity to advise the Council that the Community Centre intended to commission an additional art installation adjacent to the 'old pit tub' currently located at the front of the community centre. A sculpture of a pit pony is to be installed next to the pit tub to commemorate 200 years since the original pit was opened in September 1822.

	<p>Whilst the Chair asked for a little more detail to be sent to the Clerk she confirmed that the Council would contribute £500 to the cost of the installation and that the contribution would be funded from the Seghill element of the Members Small Schemes Fund.</p>
<b>CO056/22</b>	<p><b>6. County Councillor Update</b> Councillors gave brief updates on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A full planning application has now been submitted for the new high/middle school in Seaton Delaval and it is currently going through the planning verification process. Residents and the Council itself will be able to make comments via the NCC Public Planning Portal,</li> <li>• NCC' s Highways Team has agreed to investigate road safety concerns in the Seafield Mews area of Seaton Sluice ,and</li> <li>• Preliminary works for the new railway station at Seaton Delaval are progressing well and a decision has been made to phase the introduction of car parking spaces. Cllr Chicken confirmed that parking will be free of charge at the new station.</li> </ul>
<b>CO057/22</b>	<p><b>7. Minutes of the Council's last Meeting</b> The minutes of the Council's Annual Meeting held on 25 May 2022 were agreed and accepted as a true record of that meeting.</p>
<b>CO058/22</b>	<p><b>8. NCC Environmental Enforcement Team</b> Mr John Robertson and Mr Mark Naesby were in attendance to give a brief update on the work their team carries out in Seaton Valley as part of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the County Council and Seaton Valley Council.</p> <p>Basically the SLA allows Mr Naseby to work two days per week in Seaton Valley addressing dog fouling and fly tipping issues.</p> <p>With regard to dog fouling, Mr Naesby patrols known hot spots and responds to any specific intelligence requests. The team has recently issued two fines in the Seaton Sluice area and hope to issue more fines in other areas of the Valley. Mr Roberston said that residents should be encouraged to report incidents of dog fouling particularly where a pattern of fouling is apparent.</p> <p>The team has also successfully issue fines to fly tippers in the Mill Lane area of Seghill, however, Mr Roberston pointed out that, relatively speaking, Seaton Valley is not regarded as a fly tipping hot spot.</p> <p>In answer to a question about dog fouling on playing areas Mr Robertson observed that there is currently an experiment going on in Cramlington where specific areas of a park/playing field are being identified for exercising dogs – it will be interesting to see if the trial results in reduced incidents of dog fouling in immediate and adjoining areas.</p> <p>The Chair thanked both officers for their time and their efforts to address environmental enforcement matters in Seaton Valley</p>
<b>CO059/22</b>	<p><b>9. Services and Partnership Update</b> In reviewing the Service Officer's report the Clerk/Chair highlighted the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of Improvement Notices have been sent to allotment tenants in recent weeks which is very likely to lead to a number of Notice to Quit letters being issued further down the enforcement process,</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is clear that the number of food parcels referrals is increasing,</li> <li>• The new fence at the Dunes Play Park has now been installed,</li> <li>• The new Play Park at Northside Place is expected to be installed at the end of September,</li> <li>• Bus Shelter repairs are being chased and should all be carried out within a few weeks, and</li> <li>• A meeting has been arranged with Police colleagues to discuss recent Anti-Social Behaviour issues in the Valley including the anti Covid graffiti that has appeared on road signs.</li> </ul>						
<b>CO060/22</b>	<p><b>10. Village Plan Review</b></p> <p>The Engagement and Development Officer's report gave a brief update on the work carried out by our contractors (Your Back Yard) to date. Most of the consultation has now been completed and village drop in sessions are in the process of being held. Once these have been completed, Your Back Yard will draft a new Seaton Valley Village Plan that will focus on issues being raised by residents. At this early stage it is clear that Anti-Social Behavior is much more of a concern to residents than it was six years ago.</p> <p>Following comments from Councilors it was agreed to try to generate more responses from the younger adult section of the community. In this regard mother and toddler groups will be targeted with further questionnaires.</p>						
<b>CO061/22</b>	<p><b>11. Community Fund Request</b></p> <p>A request had been received from the Welcome Café in Seaton Delaval for a grant of £500 towards its set up costs. The café has been set up in response to the financial crisis facing many residents in the area and aims to offer a warm welcoming space, an affordable nutritious meal and some company to those who are less well off than others. Meals will be paid for on a 'pay as you may' basis i.e. a voluntary contributions by those who can afford to make a contribution. The café plans to open two days per week.</p> <p>All of the Councillors present supported the application with the exception of Cllr Chicken who didn't feel as though enough financial information had been supplied in support of the application, however despite Cllr Chickens reservations <b>Council RESOLVED to award a grant of £500 to the Welcome Café towards its set up costs.</b></p>						
<b>CO062/22</b>	<p><b>9. Local Transport Plan 2022/23</b></p> <p>The Clerk's report asked the Council to identify its top three priorities for potential inclusion in the County Council's Local Transport Programme (LTP) 2023/24 and included a list of all 'highways improvement' requests submitted to NCC by residents over the past year.</p> <p>His report also provided an update on the three priorities the Council submitted last year.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Priority</th> <th>Update</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Crossing point at the top of Double Row together with a highway safety audit of Double Row from the mini roundabout to the Delcor factory</td> <td>Included in the LTP Programme (feasibility at this stage).</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Extension of the 20mph speed limit in Seaton Sluice to cover the whole village (excluding the main roads). Specifically, the introduction of a 20mph limit on the Parkfield Estate and the area around</td> <td>Speed surveys have been ordered to determine whether speed reduction is justified. If it is, measures can be considered for a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Priority	Update	Crossing point at the top of Double Row together with a highway safety audit of Double Row from the mini roundabout to the Delcor factory	Included in the LTP Programme (feasibility at this stage).	Extension of the 20mph speed limit in Seaton Sluice to cover the whole village (excluding the main roads). Specifically, the introduction of a 20mph limit on the Parkfield Estate and the area around	Speed surveys have been ordered to determine whether speed reduction is justified. If it is, measures can be considered for a
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	Taylor Gardens/Collywell Bay Road North	future LTP Programme.												
	Improvement of the cycle path that runs alongside the main road between Seaton Sluice and Seaton Delaval to improve cycling links to the proposed Seaton Delaval railway station	Due to the distance involved the cost of making significant improvements to this cycle path is currently beyond the scope of the LTP Programme.												
	<p>With regard to the first priority Cllr Chicken said that she had been informed that the initial results of the feasibility study suggested that there was insufficient foot fall to justify a crossing point at the top of Double Row. All Councillors expressed their disappointment with this outcome but agreed to wait for official notification before considering the matter further.</p> <p>And with regard to the second priority members asked the clerk to find out why speed surveys are necessary when virtually all of the streets in the remainder of the village are parts of 20mph zones.</p> <p>Discussions then turned to schemes for the following year and in this regard Council <b>RESOLVED TO: submit the following three schemes for potential inclusion in NCC's 2023/24 Local Transport Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Installation of up to three speed reduction platforms on Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval to reduce speeding on this estate road that is being used as a major thoroughway;</b></li> <li>• <b>Installation of a suitable crossing point on Fountain Head Bank (between the Parkfield estate and St Ronans Drive estate) to allow residents to cross the road more safely at this major junction; and</b></li> <li>• <b>Installation of suitable warning signage and safety barriers on Mill Lane, Seghill between the bridge west of the entrance to Fox Lea Walk and its junction with Reids Lane</b></li> </ul>													
CO063/22	<p><b>13. Bank Reconciliation as at 17 June 2022</b> Council agreed to receive the report, and noted that the Council's bank accounts showed a very small in balance when compared to its financial records.</p>													
CO064/22	<p><b>14. Budgetary Control Update</b> 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. Given the early stage in the financial year the Clerk had little to report.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED: to note the budgetary control position presented in the Clerks' report and in particular to note that a further site meeting will be arranged in due course to revisit the specification and cost estimate requirements for the proposed outdoor gym in Seaton Sluice.</b></p>													
CO065/22	<p><b>15. Dates of Future Scheduled Meetings</b></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 21 September</td> <td>Full Council</td> <td>7:00 pm</td> <td>Seaton Sluice Community Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wednesday 26 October</td> <td>Finance &amp; General Purposes</td> <td>6:00 pm</td> <td>Seaton Valley Council Offices</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2021	Committee/Council	Time	Venue	Wednesday 21 September	Full Council	7:00 pm	Seaton Sluice Community Centre	Wednesday 26 October	Finance & General Purposes	6:00 pm	Seaton Valley Council Offices
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<b>CO066/22</b>	<b>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</b> <b>Resolved:</b> That under Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting during consideration of items 15 on the Agenda as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Act relating to personal staff affairs, residents and/or commercial matters.			
<b>CO067/22</b>	<b>16. Administrative Assistant Post – Permanent Appointment</b> Further to the Clerks report the council <b>RESOLVED TO: appoint the current post holder onto a permanent contract from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 and increase the hours allocated to the post from 15hrs per week to 18.50hrs per week</b>			

There being no other business on the Agenda the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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

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