

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
11th SEPTEMBER 2017
VILLAGE HALL SEATON 7pm

Present:

Mr N Greenfield Chairman
Mr D Coop
Mr R Clarke
Mrs C Lammie

In attendance:

Mr John Hill Clerk
Four members of the public

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES:

County Councillor Mr J Lammie

2. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:

It was decided to look for potential new Councillors outside the meeting. The vacancy on the Parish Council will be advertised on the Parish Website.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in the footpath issue in Item 9 on the agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

On a proposal by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Lammie, the Minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2017 were duly signed as a correct record with the approval of all present.

5. MATTERS ARISING (NOT ON THE AGENDA):

The names of Brian and Sally Kirby had been put forward for the Leics. & Rutland Rural Achievement awards but had been unsuccessful. Note was made of their positive contribution to village life and the appreciation by the village

As stated at the previous meeting, a risk assessment of the village defibrillator has been carried out but Councillor Greenfield intends to publish further information on the parish website in the form of a U-Tube extract.

The Chairman will be reviewing the accounts book recordings against the bank statement shortly.

6. PLANNING APPLICATION 2017/0814/FUL – 1 CHURCH LANE:

The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's rights and duties with respect to Planning Applications.

Councillor Clarke had advised neighbours within sight of the proposal. Members of the public attending this Parish Council meeting were invited to express their views.

The consensus was that, although having sympathy for the owners' needs in terms of expanding the property, the level and design were disproportionate, inappropriate and detrimental to the existing structure, the surroundings and the Conservation Area status. Seaton Parish Council would therefore **object** to the application but invite the owner to submit a new application, more appropriate to the locality.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

External Audit of 2017/17 Seaton Parish Council Accounts:

The Auditors have signed off the above accounts without comment.

From now on the accounts of small parishes (turnover less than £25,000) will not be externally audited and it is important therefore to ensure a very thorough internal audit process.

Members are confident that Sue Fox, if available, will fulfil that requirement.

Accounts update:

Petty Cash	£40.65 (-£10 for this meeting)
Current Account	
Nationwide	£3865.41 + interest
West Brom	
Deposit Account	£5556.43 + interest
Restricted Capital Account	£326.29 + interest

Payments:

Members approved the following payments on a proposition by Councillor Lammie, seconded by Councillor Greenfield:

Retrospective payments:

HMRC 2 nd Quarter PAYE Tax	£77.95
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New payments:

Robin Clarke – Expenses: gate padlock, paint and teak oil	£15.76
Petty Cash top-up	£70.00

Change of signatories:

Following a proposal by Councillor Greenfield, seconded by Councillor Clarke, members agreed to delete ex Councillor Jeremy Lang's name from the list of approved signatories for the Seaton Parish Council Building Society accounts and add that of Councillor David Coop. This involves the Nationwide current account and two deposit accounts held at the West Bromwich BS (one of which is due to be closed shortly).

8. THOMPSON'S FIELD:

Field gate: On a proposition by Councillor Greenfield, seconded by Councillor Coop, members agreed to accept the quotation of 6th July 2017 for £380.00 from John Mayfield (Odd-jobs) for purchasing and installing a new gate on the playing field. It was agreed that this will not be set back.

Play area inspection & resurfacing: Following an inspection, Councillor Lammie reported that the grassing of the various areas has taken well although there is a degree of wear showing, especially under the swings.

The area of bark does not need to be retained in its entirety and the idea of putting a circle of the appropriate rubber matting under the three larger swings should be investigated. The Clerk was asked to contact Wing Parish Council to find out about the materials that they had used in the village play area.

The two infants' swing seats require replacing and some of the equipment paintwork needs renewing – a small working party will be formed to address this problem. It was recommended that the old wooden trip boards be removed.

Councillor Lammie reported that there are Moles in the field again, despite the previous clearance. The Clerk was asked to instruct 'Black Velvet' to clear the field of Moles as soon as possible.

9. HIGHWAYS:

Slurry treatment: This has been carried out but there is a question over the finished quality. A member of the public has fallen after tripping on the uneven surface. Councillor Clarke has been in liaison with the County Highways department regarding this but no conclusion has been reached. The exact position of the accident will be checked.

Verges: White posts are in place and the railings adjacent to the bus shelter have been removed.

Traffic calming: The white lines have been painted in with just a further length required to match up the sides. A possible restriction was suggested to be included outside the Old Post Office; RCC and the occupants of the Old Post Office will be consulted.

Road signs: It was generally agreed that, in order to maintain the rural nature of the village, the introduction of any extra road signs should be resisted. This will be looked at again in six months' time.

The issue of on street parking in Thompson's Lane presenting a possible hazard to large vehicles seeking access was discussed. Councillor Clarke agreed to visit the houses concerned to see how this might be alleviated.

Pot holes: Councillor Clarke is following up this issue with the County Highways department. RCC has plans to patch several potholed areas around Main Street, including the tarmac around the manhole cover opposite No. 24. This work has, however, been put back until Western Power has completed its work in Main Street. Councillor Clarke has also asked RCC to fill two small pot holes on the Seaton to Morcott road.

Access to public footpath north of Main Street: Various comments had been received that this access point is steep, difficult to navigate and therefore potentially dangerous. Although no accidents have been reported over the years, despite regular use by the public, members felt that the possibility of making this safer should be investigated.

It was thought that a full modification could be very expensive although this would be Rutland County Council's responsibility. An alternative, less challenging, access point may be possible. An on-site meeting will be arranged with RCC, attended by Councillor Clarke as landowner and an additional Councillor because of Councillor Clarke's declared interest.

10: SEATON GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME:

The Parish Council has received a communication from Leics. & Rutland Rural Community Council checking whether there is any appetite in Seaton for a 'Good Neighbour' scheme. They usually ask for formal support from the Parish Council before carrying out a survey in the village to establish need.

After discussion, members felt, as in the past, that the need is well met in Seaton. However, they are happy for the survey to go ahead as suggested.

11: SPC WEBSITE:

Following on from the Chairman's comments at a previous meeting, a grant of £854 has been received from the Transparency Fund to cover website set-up and running costs. The Chairman reported that the site has received 18,500 'hits' since set-up.

12. ALLOTMENTS:

Path grass cutting: The Clerk had circulated a letter from tenant Philip Lindley stating that he has been cutting the grass on the allotment paths and that there is no need therefore to employ the contractor to do this. Rents should not now be raised because of this.

Councillor Coop, as allotment representative, will discuss this with Mr Lindley and, providing that he is prepared to carry out the work on a regular and continuing basis, any rents with the extra added this year will be discounted by the same amount next year.

Risk Assessment: A newsletter from the Parish Council's insurance broker, Came & Co. had advised that the Council should carry out a Risk Assessment on its allotments and review it annually. In the first instance, Councillor Lammie will circulate an existing template that may be used for this.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

The following items were tabled:

Rutland Community Roadshow poster;

Rutland County Council:

Planning Application 2017/0835/FUL 22-24 Main Street Seaton. Councillor Clarke declared a conflict of Interest. Members took the opportunity for an informal discussion which concluded that there are no objections to this Application.

Tree Services offer;

Rutland Ward Boundaries circular.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 15th January 2018, 7.00pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20.55 hrs.