

SEATON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
9TH SEPTEMBER 2015
SEATON VILLAGE HALL 7.00PM

Present:

Mr J Lang Chairman
Mr N Greenfield
Mr R Clarke
Mrs C Lammie

In attendance:

Mr John Hill Clerk
Mr David Coop Co-optee Councillor
Two members of the public

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES:

None

2. CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR:

On a proposition by Councillor Greenfield, seconded by Councillor Lang, it was agreed by all to co-opt Mr David Coop as a member of Seaton Parish Council. Mr Coop duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and submitted a completed Register of Interests form. The Chairman welcomed Mr Coop onto Seaton Parish Council.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillor Clarke declared a potential interest in item 14 – Prioritisation of footpath works.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

On a proposal by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Clarke, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of 21st May 2015 were duly signed as a correct record, with the approval of Councillors Greenfield and Lammie.

5. MATTERS ARISING (NOT ON THE AGENDA):

Councillor Clarke had looked at the situation with regard to the verges at the narrow section of Main Street. He will now attempt to establish formal ownership and responsibility at the property boundaries. The letter to Mr Robin Clarke regarding the height of hedges and his response were noted. This matter is now closed.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Accounts update:

Petty Cash	£72.49 (- £10 for this meeting)
Current Account Nationwide	£3337.80 + interest

West Brom

Deposit Account	£5398.09 + interest
Restricted Capital Account	£326.29 + interest

The Clerk confirmed that income and expenditure are in line with the budgeted figures. A sum of Approximately £800 is held in the accounts pending a final invoice for last year's grass cutting and weed treatment by Ground Control. After discussion members felt, on balance, that the Clerk should write to Ground Control's HQ asking about progress on the disputed invoice.

Audit of 2014/15 Accounts:

The Accounts presented to the external Auditors had been passed without comment.

Retrospective approval of Payments:

On a proposal by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Greenfield, Members unanimously approved, retrospectively, the following payments:

Clerk's salary (half year net of tax)	£611.20*
LCC Web site support 2015/16	£60.00
HMRC – PAYE 1 st Quarter Tax	£76.40
RCC Street Lighting costs	£121.00
J Lang – Gift for support on Internal Audit	£27.00
Cory – Grass cutting & weed removal	£216.00
Cory – Grass cutting	£115.20

*In between meetings, members had agreed that the Clerk's salary should follow national guidelines in accordance with the work level for Seaton Parish Council i.e. SCP19 - £9.551/hr. 160 hours £1528 pa.

New payment:

On a proposition by Councillor Coop, seconded by Councillor Lang, members approved the following payment:

Cory – Grass cutting & weed removal	£165.60
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A delayed payment of £130.00 should be made as soon as possible to Councillor Lammie for bark chips purchased on Seaton Parish Council's behalf for the children's play area.

7. THOMPSON'S FIELD – CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA SURFACE:

Having purchased a number of bags of bark chips as an interim measure to build up the thinning surface of the children's play area, Councillor Lammie had pointed out that a far larger quantity is required and a decision should be made on what will be done about surfacing in the future.

The ROSPA annual inspection has also alerted the Parish Council to the need to address this issue.

As a first stage Councillor Lang will approach the Leics & Rutland Playing Fields Association for their advice on minimum legal requirements for such surfacing. Councillor Coop will measure the current bark depth. Councillor Greenfield agreed to assess what grant aid may be available for resurfacing work once the options, individual costs and preferred approach have been identified.

8. TRANSPARENCY FUND – NEW COMPUTER & SCANNER:

The Clerk had circulated advice from the LRALC that Parish Council's should not rely on the personal computer and scanning equipment of the Parish Clerk but should purchase their own. This is particularly relevant to the requirements of the new Transparency Law where continuity is important.

A Transparency Fund has been set up to help Parish Councils to fund this equipment and also to pay for the establishment, running and maintenance of a Parish web site. Members agreed on a proposition by Councillor Lang, seconded by Councillor Clarke to complete and submit, in the first instance, an application form for the grant.

9. CHARLOTTE RUDKIN MEMORIAL PLAQUE:

Members had received a request from Vicky Sanderlin to erect a memorial plaque in the ex BT telephone kiosk in honour of Seaton resident Charlotte Rudkin who passed away recently. Charlotte had been instrumental in successfully campaigning to retain the kiosk in the village after BT announced its decommissioning and it was agreed to give Vicky Sanderlin the go ahead to raise funds for the plaque providing that Charlotte's partner is also in agreement. Councillor Lang will liaise on this.

10. CHURCH LANE DRAINS:

A resident of Church Lane had asked for the Parish Council's support regarding the drains overflowing in Church Lane. It would appear that water flows into one drain and emerges from another indicating a blockage.

Councillor Clarke will take this up with Rutland County Council DC Highways Department.

11. SEATON PARISH COUNCIL WEB SITE:

Councillor Greenfield reported that the Parish Council web site is successfully up and running. However, he needs more fully formed news items to be sent in to him so that they can simply be edited and entered onto the site.

The Clerk reported that LCC will be going out to Tender for hosts for their sites next year

12. DOG FAECES & BIN - GRANGE LANE:

Seaton Parish Council has received a complaint concerning the amount of dog faeces in Grange Lane, asking whether a sign can be erected in the Lane highlighting the problem together with a bin for disposing of dog litter.

The Clerk has been advised by Rutland County Council DC that no legal restrictions on dog fouling apply to unadopted highways such as Grange Lane. However, it may be possible to persuade the County Council to put a bin in place. Some questions were raised as to who might empty the bin but the Clerk was asked to contact the County Council for possible action on this matter.

13. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

Councillor Greenfield reported that the Seaton church Tower Appeal bid had been submitted and shortlisted for the Award ceremony. A representative of the Parish Council is invited to attend. Councillor Lang will go on behalf of the Members.

14. PRIORITISATION OF FOOTPATH WORKS:

This item had been deferred on a number of occasions to allow discussion by the full Parish Council.

The Clerk has spoken to Heather Caldicott who is coordinating this project for Rutland County Council DC. Comments on all the options are still required from Seaton Parish Council but E289 is the highest priority.

After discussion, the Members instructed the Clerk to respond as follows:

E289 Morcott, Seaton: Seaton Parish Council supports this plan but suggests that, since the footpath crosses significant areas of local land ownership, the landowners should also be consulted as in all cases of this kind.

E309/311 Uppingham, Bisbrooke and Seaton: Seaton Parish Council supports this in principle but would point out that a bridleway connection at the Seaton end is impossible due to the steep steps entry at Seaton Main Street. The suggestion is that the upgrade should run from Bisbrooke only as far as an intersection with the existing bridleway running east-west from the Glaston road to Uppingham road.

E306 Lyddington, Seaton: Seaton Parish Council supports this plan.

15. CORRESPONDENCE:

Tabled:

RCC: 2015/0788/CAT Tree Work 5 Drurys Lane

2015/0763/FUL Planning Application - Extension 'Fineshade' 13 Main Street
Feel Alive & Romans in Britain posters

Councillor Clarke suggested that a more efficient method of circulating Planning Applications would be for the Clerk, upon receipt of an Application, to circulate the link to the Application on the Rutland County Council web site. Members could then respond with any comments by e-mail 'to all'. The Clerk would summarise and recirculate for approval before sending of a final response. It was agreed to try this system although Councillor Lang would still like to receive the original hard copy of the Application.

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

It was proposed to hold the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.00pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 20.30 hrs.