

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 17th JANUARY, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. Juliana Heron, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Alcock, Blackburn, Mrs Campbell, Coates, Costello, Coulson, Cummings, Defty, Elvin, Geddes, R. Heron, Holt, Hepple, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Wallace, D. Wallace. (19).

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the mayor made the following statement:-

'To advise both Members of the Council and members of the public that the Meeting may be recorded by both audio and video and photographs may also be taken. Indeed the Town Council are recording the Meeting, in accordance with their adopted policy. Any objections to this should be stated before the commencement of the Meeting.'

7.00 p.m. Public Participation

The Mayor announced that there was to be a period of 15 minutes to allow any members of the public to address the meeting on matters which are on the Agenda. Each member of the public may speak on one matter for a maximum of 3 minutes.

Mrs. Waterson asked if enquiries could be made about City Council plans for Spring Bulb Planting in the town and whether the annual displays were in jeopardy due to severe budget reductions.

Ms Rowham referred to the absence of Cllr Mrs Anderson from meetings.

The Mayor confirmed this would be dealt with during the Agenda.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received, considered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs. Anderson and Green.

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 20th October, 2015

The Minutes giving been distributed to Members it was MOVED by Councillor Hepple and seconded by Councillor Cummings that they be accepted as a truer and correct record.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Mrs Campbell referred to the ongoing youth disorder in Hetton Town Centre and stated she had spoken at length to Sgt Taylor of the local Community Police Team.

Cllr Coates in support of Cllr Campbell made similar references. The Town Clerk advised Members he also had been in discussion with the Police Team and C. S. Officers.

Cllr Holt again referred to the ongoing problem of heavy goods vehicles parking on pathways of Hetton Lyons Ind Est.

4 To Record Declarations of Interest from Members for any items on the Agenda

Cllr. Elvin referred to the site traffic from housing development rear of Lyons Avenue, who was constantly speeding in the area, also heavy duty wagons speeding from Murton Lane and suggested that weight restriction measures should be investigated.

Cllr Mrs Campbell referred to the ongoing traffic problems on North Road with speeding and yet another accident had occurred recently, it seems much greater traffic volume due to population increase of Rainton Bridge Business Park workers.

Cllr Mrs Alcock asked if Members had noted the planning application submitted for Manor House, the change of use from Residential Care Home to Hotel. The Town Clerk advised that this would be addressed on the Agenda.

Cllr Mrs Turner highlighted that the Fox and Hounds Public House, North Road was now empty and becoming derelict, hence attracting vandalism and flytipping.

Cllr Coulson highlighted the ongoing problem of flytipping on footpaths rear of back North Street access, he suggested, as on other footpaths in area, gates at the appropriate points may be beneficial.

Cllr Wallace reported that residents had requested a salt bin be located at top of Byers Street and Dene Road, also he highlighted that the vehicles from Gleasons Contractors at the Hetton Downs Housing Development were causing great concern and mess from mud on road, perhaps planning controls and conditions should be examined to keep the area tidy.

Cllr Defty highlighted the ongoing car parking problems at Hetton Primary School, Moorsley Road, with parents cars each day, he asked if CCTV cameras could be employed to try and check and resolve by advising users of the problems.

6 To receive and approve the Minutes of Planning and Development Committee Meeting held 10th November, 2015.

The Town Clerk referred to the application in respect of Manor House, Easington Lane and the resident's petition of objection. He noted the Town

Council had recorded their objections on the grounds of traffic congestion, lack of parking area in a residential area.

7 To Note the actions of a meeting with residents of Rectory Road held 9th November, 2015, regarding unadopted road issues

Members were aware that senior City Council Officers had met with residents and following the meeting all those who had attended had received a letter, guidelines and City Council Reports outlining the situation.

8 Proposal for Hetton Town Young People Award Scheme

The Town Clerk had produced a report and details for members consideration and comment. Hopefully the project will be adopted in 2016.

9 City of Sunderland Highways Maintenance Programme – Proposed locations for the forthcoming Civic Year 2016/17

Members were asked to submit any suggestions in their Ward to the Town Clerk for submission to the City Council Highways Management Section.

10 Heritage for Hetton, Sculpture Proposal Project

Members of the group were in attendance at the meeting to verbally report and support their application to the Town Council for financial assistance. Chairman of the group Lee Branney, distributed a report to all members of the Town Council and explained the position and hoped that the Town Council could support the project with possibly a £10,000 contribution.

Cllr R Heron explained that this would be referred back to be examined in detail by the Town Council Finance Committee and as it was an exceptional request he invited the Committee to also attend the meeting at a date to be arranged as soon as possible.

11 C.D.A.L.C.

a) Councillor : Positions Larger Councils Committee. B) AGM Report, c) Consultations

Reports and information received.

12 Sunderland in Bloom Awards, 12th November – Report and update.

Details received.

13 Historic properties in Hetton-le-Hole – Update report

Details received

14 Correspondence and replies for a) Bridget Philipson, M.P. b) Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

In respect of this correspondence Cllr Elvin stressed that the Chairman of H.L.C.C. stated that he was keen to meet with the appropriate Officer of the Council to discuss use of the Colliery Field facilities. He also referred to the recent sale of Hetton House, which was now being developed into 3 private dwelling properties. He reported that Hetton House was sold for £45,000, but would have extensive renovation costs.

15. Correspondence NEXUS issues

Cllr Cummings reported that he and Cllr Blackburn and City Officers had met with MEXUS to look at issues relating to the supportive Bus Service and was pursuing matters to ensure residents of East Rainton in particular were not disadvantaged with any changes to services.

16. Cllr Mrs Sinnott gave members present, information and details of a suggested resource that could be made available to Hetton residents and community groups.

If HTC were to agree to investigating and sourcing a computer package that is available, which is to be used a free resource to organisations as a 'easy accessible funding information finder'. The computer programme will greatly assist bringing funding to the residents to assist and improve community life. Residents could access the programme either via library or council computers. Members welcomed the initiative and agreed to make further enquiries.

17 The Mayor reported that she had today received correspondence from Cllr Mrs Florence Anderson. Mrs. Anderson had been ill for a while and unable to attend any meetings of the Town Council since 18th May 2015, (excluding August recess)

The Town Clerk then read out the letter to all Members present which was dated 17th November, 2015 and formally addressed to the Mayor, and personally signed by her, outlining due to continuing illness, she respectfully request that the Town Council grant an extension of leave of absence in accordance with the national guidelines of six month rule and personally signed by Mrs. Anderson.

Cllr R Heron noted that Cllr Mrs. Anderson understood and was in observance of the national rules and moved to accept the request from the meeting date 17th November, 2015. A vote was taken and results accordingly were recorded.

To accept the request

Cllrs Adamson, Alcock, Blackburn, Cummings, R. Heron, Turner, Hepple, Sinnott, G. Wallace, D. Wallace (10 votes for)

To not accept the request

Cllrs Coates, Costello, Coulson, Elvin, Geddes, Holt (6 votes against)

There were 2 abstentions from Cllrs Mrs Campbell and Defty. (2)

Therefore the Leave of Absence request is accepted.

PART II

Local Government Access to Information (Variation Order 2006)

The reports contained in the meeting Agenda are not for publication as the Town Council is likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including HTC authority) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. (Paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

18 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Sub-committee held Tuesday, 10th November, 2015.

In receiving the Report of the Meeting Cllr Elvin expressed concern that the budget presentation was incomplete and Members should be presented with a further financial projection.

The Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Finance Committee to be held in January 2016 when Denis Napier, Asst Head of Finance, Sunderland City Council would be present to examine and discuss precept and budget requirements for 2016/17.

Signed
Councillor Mrs. J. Heron
Mayor