

# Hetton Town Council



## Draft Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 15 June 2020

**Note:** The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

### Present

Cllrs R Coulson, J Cunningham, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, J Green, R Heron (from Item 5), M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, M Thornton, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

### In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)  
Inspector N Gjorven, Northumbria Police (Item 5 only)  
Members of the Public (MoP) x 6  
Press - Local Democracy Reporter

### 1) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr J Blackburn (personal issue), Cllr A Liversidge (personal responsibilities), Cllr D Liversidge (personal responsibilities) and Cllr C Sinnott (vehicle problem).  
Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

### 2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3) Public participation

Town Council resolved that a period of up to 30 minutes would be allowed for this item.

MoP thanked the Town Clerk and Town Council for continuing with meetings and engaging with the public.

MoP queried if progress had been made with assisting a local business. TC advised that he would provide an update under Item 7.

MoP raised a query with Insp. N Gjorven re PACT meeting.

### 4) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on 18 May 2020.

**1 of 5**

Signed:

Date:

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### **5) ASB, Crime and disorder**

TC introduced the item and explained that ahead of the meeting he had asked Members to notify him any of any issues for the attention of Northumbria Police. Several Members had responded and details were passed to Insp. Gjorven.

In what was an extensive agenda item, Insp. Gjorven provided a comprehensive response on Northumbria Police activities to date in 2020 and highlighted ongoing issues of concern to the force which affected the community.

Members then took the opportunity to raise further issues which included incidents of violence, drug related crime, lack of police responsiveness and ongoing ASB. In terms of possible actions, Members sought increased police officers "on the beat", possibility of a neighbourhood Watch scheme and greater use of CCTV. A query was also raised about joint working between Northumbria Police and Durham Constabulary in relation to cross-county crime.

Town Council resolved to:

Explore the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme;

Seek illustrative costs for the provision of CCTV cameras;

and

Seek the attendance at a future meeting of HTC of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria and / or the Chief Constable.

### **6) Reports from Members**

Cllr S Waterston:

Raised detailed, serious concerns about the unauthorised encampment at Hetton Lyons Country Park(HLCP) and especially the delay on the part of Sunderland City Council in providing toilet facilities.

Town Council resolved that TC formally write to SCC raising its' concerns and seeking an explanation.

Cllr M Hopper:

Expressed strong concerns about a pre-planning consultation exercise initiated by Gentoo in relation to a possible residential development at Cragdale Gardens. He added that he had canvassed the opinion of local residents, who had overwhelmingly indicated their opposition.

Note: Cllr M Thornton left the meeting shortly after commencement of this discussion, citing her position as Vice Chair of SCC Planning Committee.

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### 6) Reports from Members cont ...

Several Members concurred with Cllr Hopper, and gave their comments which included views on standards of repairs and maintenance at existing Gentoo properties and the effects of developments on greenfield sites.

Town Council resolved that TC formally write to Gentoo, expressing concerns at the exclusion of the Council from the consultation process relating to Cragdale Gardens; and its' objection in principle to a development at the site.

### 7) Town Clerk update

TC reported that he was in dialogue with the postmistress about potential sources of funding to assist with essential building repairs. He was exploring financial assistance schemes for businesses recently announced by the Government in response to Coronavirus and has also identified a Post Office scheme to follow up. TC undertook to keep Council up to date. Town Council resolved to note the position.

### 8) Casual vacancy

TC reported that he had received notification from Sunderland City Council that they had received the appropriate number of valid requests requesting that an election take place to fill the vacancy in Hetton le Hole parish ward. Under the Coronavirus Act 2020 an election will be held on 6 May 2021, unless legislation allows for it to be held earlier. Town Council resolved to note the position.

### 9) Financial report

Town Council resolved to approve the financial report and expenditure outlined below.

#### Income:

Barclays Business Premium Account interest £7.62

#### Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (June 20) £1028.23

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £442.43

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £63.73

**Sub-total: £1534.39**

#### Other expenditure:

Hetton Town Trust (meeting room hire Jan 20 - 2 x £22.50) £45.00

DC Services Ltd (extension of web maint contract June - Sept 20) £108.00

Konica Minolta (copy and print charges: Feb - May 20) £10.88

Konica Minolta (rental of BizHub C308: May - Aug 20) £132.77

EE (invoice 4 June 20) DD £30.97

**Sub Total: £327.62**

**Total: £1862.01**

Barclays Current account balance @ 11 June 20: **£43902.23**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£42040.22**

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 11 June 20: **£28397.32**

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Signed:

Date:

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### 9) Financial report cont ...

#### Town Mayor fund:

**Income:**

**Nil**

**Expenditure:**

**Nil**

Co-op Bank balance @ 11 June 20:

£1286.20

### 10) Historic Hetton

TC advised that he had included the item in response to Member comments made during recent discussions about planning applications highlighting a need to preserve the historic character of the town.

He had identified a designation known as "Areas of Special Local Character" (ASLC) which could act as consideration in planning matters.

Town Council resolved that TC write formally to Sunderland City Council to request that consideration be given to the establishment of an ASLC for Hetton and district.

### 11) Community Grant Award Scheme

TC reminded Members that the Award scheme application deadlines were June and November. As many community organisations were not operating due to Coronavirus lockdown, TC suggested that Council consider "rolling" deadlines to facilitate consideration of any applications received in July, September and October 2020.

Town Council resolved to temporarily relax the policy deadlines and accept applications in July, September and October 2020.

### 12) Member email addresses

TC reminded Members to check device settings to ensure that they were able to send "receive receipts". He also asked that Members add the TC email address to their safe sender list to ensure that his emails were not being categorised as SPAM. TC added that problems arising late April with yahoo.com email addresses had been referred to the Council's IT supplier. Their enquiries were now exhausted and advice received was that individual users still affected should contact Yahoo for possible resolution.

TC added that he was now researching the introduction of gov.uk email addresses for Members.

### 13) Planning matters

Town Council considered the following planning applications and resolved to take action as indicated below:

19/01320/FUL

Ned's Cottage Hetton Le Hill Farm, Elemore Lane, Easington Lane, DH5 0QR  
Proposal: Erection of a detached double garage and change of use of open space to private garden.

Further information to be sought and request site visit.

20/00841/FUL

15 Fieldside, East Rainton, Houghton Le Spring, DH5 9RP  
Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to side/ rear and timber decking.  
No comments or objections.

20/00896/FUL

Hedley's Optometrist 23 Front Street Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9JQ  
Proposal: Installation of roller shutters to front elevation (Retrospective).  
No comments or objections.

### 14) General correspondence

HMRC: Employment Allowance 20-21 **Noted**

Sunderland City Council: Library Byelaws **Noted**

MoP: Editorial item re Geothermal energy from old coal mines. **Circulate**

Barclays Bank: Reduction in interest rate - Business Premium Account **Noted**

National Association of Local Councils:

Open letter to all Councillors (circulated 1/6/20) **Noted**

Risk assessment guidance - Covid 19 **TC to review**

Co Durham Association of Local Councils:

Re-opening the High Streets Safely Fund. **TC to examine**

Hargreaves Surface Mining: Minutes of March 20 meeting. **Circulate**

### 15) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the next meeting would be held at 19.15 hrs on Monday 20 July 2020 at The Hetton Centre or virtual as per prevailing guidance.