

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY, 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, Geddis, Green, R. Heron, Holt, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Wallace, D. Wallace. (17).

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.

There were 3 members of the public present, however no comments or matters raised.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received, considered and accepted from Cllrs Mrs. Anderson, Elvin, Defty and Hepple..

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 19th January, 2016

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was MOVED by Councillor R. Heron and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Adamson and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a truer and correct record.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr D. Wallace advised Members that following matters highlighted at the last meeting, Gleeson Contractors were now clearing up the road works at the Hetton Downs Development.

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

Cllr. Cummings made a declaration for Item 6 as a member of Sunderland City Planning Development Committee.

Cllr. Mrs. Turner made a declaration in relation to Item 15 relating to grant applications.

Cllrs R. Heron, Adamson and Cummings made a declaration in respect of Item 7.

5. Reports for Members – Ward Matters to be investigated

Cllr Mrs. Adamson still had to report speeding traffic at Lyons Avenue and also problems of heavy speeding traffic coming from Murton Moor Quarry, Easington Lane to Colliery Lane.

The Town Clerk stated he was aware that spot checks by City highway Engineers were being carried out.

Cllr. Mrs. Campbell again referred to the ongoing speeding problem North Road to which no action had yet been taken.

Cllr. Mrs. Turner referred to the area of the former St. Nicholas Church and the issue of uncleared site and advised members that the Sunderland City Council had served a 251 Notice on Brett Brothers – must have the site cleared by 5th May, 2016.

Cllr Coates with support from Cllr Mrs. Campbell referred to the huge parking problems causing congestion by customers of Hetton Community Pool each evening.

It was suggested that all cars should be ticketed and advised of the parking problems.

Cllr Geddes highlighted the ongoing problem of youth disorder, recent spate of damaged trees and vandalism in the Bus Station, this was despite the Police paying extra attending and extra Officers in the area, however more needs to be done before some accident occurs to a member of the public – he was also sure that if any resident acted aggressively towards the youths the Police would soon act.

Cllr Mrs. Sinnott stated that following her reports at a previous meeting, she was pleased to record that the necessary work had been undertaken at Hetton Bowling Green. Also that she had attended the recent Police P.A.C.T. Meeting where the problem of youth disorder had been discussed, in particular, problems of youths and the elderly residents of the Two Castle Housing Development at Caroline Street. Therefore there was to be a Programme of Inter-generation work with all partners and Hetton School. Additionally Cllr Sinnott referred to the problem of loose and tethered horses in the area, together with a pony and trap which was running loose on the Highway.

The Clerk reported that he was aware that the R.S.P.C.A. had collected loose horses in the Moorsley area.

Cllr Holt again expressed that large haulage vehicles were still parking on footpaths on the Hetton Lyons Ind. Est., particularly in the area of Trac Works premises.

Cllr Campbell stated that she was very concerned that the areas of Park Estate were not gritted during the frosty weather and she was aware of at least one lady who had slipped and fallen at Welfare Road. She was aware other areas had been gritted but not in the Park Estate area.

6 Planning Consultations – Members to consider Applications

App. No. 15/01323/FUL
Plot 9, Spring Meadows, Mill Terrace

App. No. 15/02559/FUL
Plot 10, Spring Meadows, Mill Terrace

Members made no comment or objections to the applications, indeed offered full support to the development.

7 Hetton Lyons Boys Club, Football Field, Colliery Lane

A request had been made for this matter to be put on the Agenda.

Cllr R. Heron gave response and report to questions asked by Cllrs Coulson and Holt, as Chairman of the H.L.B.C. Management Committee.

He confirmed that the Board of Trustees was a private body and nothing whatsoever to do with H.T.C., all Members whether Councillors or not, give their time as volunteers and really this was not a topic to be discussed at a HTC Agenda Meeting.

The Board of Trustees were in negotiation with the Charity Commission regarding matters and for some time discussions and confidential negotiations are ongoing with several partners regarding future developments regarding the land owned by HLBC and Bowes Lyons Estate – there is no Gentoo land involved.

He stated that when negotiations and matters to benefit the youth of the area were sorted a full Public Announcement would be made to all, hopefully in the near future.

8 C.D.A.L.C. Training Day, 9th march, 2016

It was confirmed that Cllrs. Heron, Wallace, Geddes, Campbell, Costello and Town Clerk will be attending the event.

9 Freedom of Information and Publication Scheme

Members were presented with details of full policy which had been adopted by Council previously and to the scale of charges which can be levied by providing Freedom of Information requests.

The Council examined all documentation and further agreed to accept the policy and scale of charges.

10 Dates for Diary

The Mayor reported details of:

- a. Mayors Annual Civic Dinner – Friday, 15th April, 2016, The Chilton Lodge Hotel
- b. Mayors Annual Charity Brass Band Concert – Friday, 29th April, 2016 at Hetton Masonic Hall

In noting the events Cllrs Mrs. Campbell raised objections to Civic Events when guests would receive hospitality drinks, she highlighted Christmas Event when guests were hosted. The Mayor confirmed that all guests purchase tickets for event – no free tickets issued and any hospitality offered was taken from the mayor’s Annual Allowance.

Members were provided with the following information documents

11 New Wear Crossing

12 Sunderland V.C.A.S.,What’s On Programme

13 Community News – Devolution Issue

14 Correspondence

Members were advised that correspondence from a resident had been received after the Agenda was sent out. The letter made comment regarding the poor condition of local roads and markings.

The letter was received and agreed to be sent to the appropriate department of Sunderland City Council for comment and response.

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.

15 Members were asked to Receive:

- a. The Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 4th February, 2016.
- b. To agree and resolve level of Precept for year 2016/17 and to furthermore examine and consider further information and advice, as attached, received from Sunderland City Council Director of Finance, Sonia Tognarelli, regarding current situation and level of Precept. Members are asked to possibly re-consider decision to be taken by the Council.

In speaking on the Report Cllr. R. Heron explained the position and following the need to ensure adequate but responsible funds are made available in 2016/17 for possible projects and need to finance election expenses.

Proposed that a 4% increase to Precept agreed, in noting that no increase had been levied for several years.

This would see a Band D property pay £13.63 (an increase of 0.52p for 2016/17) and would mean a budget increase for the Town Council of £3,761 from £55,121 to £58,882 in 2016/17.

This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Adamson.

Cllr. Coulson supported the 4% proposal as a sensible way forward, this supported by Cllr. Holt who stressed the need to ensure adequate reserves were maintained in accordance with national Guidelines.

Cllr. Geddes referred to possible projects which could be examined and he and Cllr. Coates referred to an ongoing project being undertaken by the Sunderland City Council.

Cllr. Cummings in response explained that the City People Board Project would include involvement of schools and some groups in the Coalfield area.

Cllr. Mrs. Sinnott also referred to ongoing suggestion for a Community Sector Fundraising Support Software Package – which could be funded by HTC.

It was therefore agreed unanimously and a show of hands taken and RESOLVED that a 4% increase of Precept be adopted for Financial Year April 2016 – March 2017.

16 It was agreed to defer the following matters to the next meeting of HTC Finances and Resources Committee at a date to be arranged in the near future.

- a. To receive further grant application information U.S.C.
- b. To receive information C.D.A.L.C. Audit Guidelines – Smaller Authorities
- c. Report and details provided by Cllr. Elvin

Signed
Councillor Mrs. J. Heron
Mayor