

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st FEBRUARY, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor David Wallace, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Alcock, Blackburn, Mrs Campbell, Coulson, Elvin, Geddes, Hepple, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. G. Wallace. (11).

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.'

He also reminded Members that due to the forthcoming bi-election to be held on Thursday, 2nd March, 2017 the Council will be operating under 'Purdah' guidelines.

7.00 p.m. Public Participation

Five members of the public had recorded their attendance.

Ms. K. Rowham referred to when reports are made to the Sunderland City Contact Centre all reports are issued with a reference number, should Council reports not be advised of this procedure?

Note in response:- That in those cases it was a resident making a report, however often matters are reported and raised by the Town Clerk directly and officially to another corporate relevant City Council officer for their assistance and solution, hence no reference number involved.

Mr. D. Mathews referred to the land adjacent to Fox and Hounds (now D.I.Y. Store) and that the owner was burning rubbish adjacent to the A182 and removing fencing adjacent to footpath.

Mr. S. & Mrs. S. Hughes. Mr Hughes outlined his complaint regarding litter accumulating adjacent to his property at Bleach Green. He stated he was constantly clearing up litter in person and asked why no street cleaning services were being carried out, as was previously, he was paying considerable rates to the local authority as was unhappy with service provided. However, he did acknowledge it was the need for education and conscience of persons dropping litter that was the root of the problem, he felt the town of Hetton-le-Hole was in great decline, where some residents didn't care about their environment.

Mrs Hughes also referred to the noise pollution problem of Emergency Service vehicles operating sirens at 2 – 4 a.m. when no other traffic is on the road, is that necessary? are there any guidelines they should follow?

1. To Receive, Accept and Approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance of the Meeting from Councillors Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Adamson, Costello, Mrs. J. Heron, R. Heron and received on the night from Councillors Cummings, Defty, Green and Holt (9).

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 17th January, 2017

Cllr Elvin referred to previous Minutes and requests made by him to find out officially and in writing back to this Council as a matter of public interest, who are the Trustees of Hetton Lyons Boys' Club Management Committee. He also asked that in future Agendas the issue of litter and flytipping in the area be highlighted as included as a priority issue for the Town Council.

The Mayor, as a matter of information, advised the meeting that as a Mayoral Project had bought the appropriate equipment and had organised and recruited volunteers to carry out litter picks in the area, to date these had been very successful.

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was proposed by Cllr Hepple and seconded by Cllr Blackburn that the Minutes be accepted and approved, this was duly RESOLVED.

3 To record Declarations of Interest

None were made.

4. Reports from Members - Ward Matters to be investigated

Cllr Elvin in continuation from from previous discussions, asks if Sunderland City Council could be approached to examine the issue of litter wardens, who could really promote litter enforcement fines if necessary, he noted the City Council had highlighted funds in their budget to combat such issues.

Cllr Elvin again in relation to such matters, he suggested HTC should have a programme of projects and ambitions each year, litter control and campaign could be such a project. This could be a cross-party project for the Council and HTC should show leadership and direction to the public.

Cllr Wallace explained at the start of his Mayoral year, May 2016, he purchased litter pick equipment and protective wear etc. and had been working with schools and community groups to achieve and recruit volunteers and identify suitable locations. This was now beginning to bear fruit and in operation. In the past week all local schools had been written to in respect of a school litter pick project, design an anti- poster and organise picking days. There would be suitable, small prizes awarded for the best at each school and posters to be printed and displayed..

Cllr Campbell reported that both she and Cllr Geddes had been touring area and visiting problem areas, however, comments from public all say the City Council are not doing enough in the Hetton area and are feeling neglected. She suggested that City Council Officers should come and meet with Hetton Councillors to discuss all concerns.

Cllr Coulson acknowledged that the town had the regular service of the mechanical road sweeper, however, what was needed was the reinstatement services of the traditional road sweeper located in the town. When this person was in operation the area was kept very clean and tidy.

Cllr Coulson again stressed the urgent need for control barriers to be erected at the footpath/bridleways at Grange View, East Rainton, to try and prevent the ongoing fly tipping problem.

Cllr Coulson referred to the previous reports relating to the land at Robin Lane, adjacent to Hetton School, which housed stables and derelict caravans, the site is in a state of disrepair and untidy. Could the City Planning Enforcement Officer make the necessary investigations?

Cllr Mrs Sinnott reported that, although some repairs to pot holes had been carried out at Houghton Road, some were still in need of urgent repairs rear of 100 – 300 numbered houses.

Cllr Sinnott reported that the two pedestrian walkways rear of All Saints Drive and allotment area were in need of urgent cleaning services due to litter, piles of fallen leaves and fly tipping.

Cllr Geddes in support of colleagues and noting all discussions relating to fly tipping and rubbish problems, he said it was commendable that volunteer groups were working, however, pressure should be put on City Council to address issues.

Cllr Mrs Wallace also suggested relevant City Council Officers could meet with Town Councillors to undertake a walk around problematic areas and perhaps local police officers could join them to highlight issues.

Cllr Mrs. Campbell stated she and Cllr Geddes had been visiting all areas of this ward and spoken to resident of Richard Street regarding problem of fly tipping rear of the property and he is hopefully to erect a fence to try and prevent this.

She highlighted the problem of the North Road Car Wash, where operatives were encroaching onto the main road causing a traffic hazard. She stressed that she was still not satisfied with the City Council highways response, advising that a traffic survey was to be undertaken at North Road to monitor speeding etc.

Cllr Mrs Campbell stated similar surveys had not produced a solution and she is very dubious about believing the published results.

Cllr Mrs Campbell asked if the schedule of Town Councillors Telephone Allowance claimants will be published.

Cllr Mrs Campbell again stated that there has been no action from Northumbria Police with reference to the ongoing continuous parking congestion each evening by customers using the Swimming and Wellness Centre.

Cllr Elvin referred to previous highlighted issues raised by resident Mr. Anderson who highlighted his grave concern due to the lack of highway maintenance in the town and the problem of worn away road markings which were not being renewed and causing incredible traffic road safety hazards. Mr Anderson had contacted both Bridget Phillipson M.P. and Dept. of Transport but he had been advised to progress this issue through the appropriate authority. He urged HTC to take up representation for this matter.

5. National Cycle Cross Championships 2018

The Town Clerk reported that, as publicised recently Hetton Hawks Cycle Club had secured to stage the national Competition in 2018. This important event would attract an estimated 5,000 attendees to the town.

In discussing support and planning for the event the Hetton Hawks Secretary and Officers wished to come along and brief Members about the event and formation of a group liaison committee. This had been arranged to be held prior to the next Council Meeting on Tuesday, 21st March, 2017.

6. Correspondence

The Town Clerk had distributed for members information the following:

- a. Sunderland City Council – budget discussions
- b. Correspondence and photographs from Mr. S Hughes regarding litter problems.
- c. Details of arrangements and candidates for the forthcoming Election at the Hetton Ward on March 2nd, 2017.
- d. Reply correspondence on issues raised to Northumbria Police, action and information.
- e. Notice of the City of Sunderland (Waiting and Parking Places) General Order 2017 from Head of Law and Government re: Order of back High Street and Murton Lane, Easington Lane.

7. Mayor's Diary and Events

The Mayor gave a Report on all activities attended, including the attendance at a 100th Birthday of a resident. He also distributed reminders to members about Mayor's Brass Concert, 7th April and Civic Dinner, 14th April, 2017.

Signed
Councillor D. Wallace
Mayor