

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 17th OCTOBER, 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, Costello, Coulson, Defty, Geddis, Hepple, R. Heron, Mrs. J. Heron, Holt, Ms. Pearson. (14).

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 advised the persons in attendance on Rules of Public Participation, each person to be allowed to speak on one topic for 3 minutes each, items to be on the Agenda.

Mr Malcolm Lormor referred to the fact that the main access gates to Hetton Lyons Country Park were not being locked on an evening – hence vehicles were entering the park during evening darkness and driving around. He asked why Springboard were now not locking gates as part of management of the park.

Mr. Mike McGinchy of Peppercorn Tea Rooms gave details of an event organised by a group of volunteers which will take place on 15th December, a Christmas Celebration and music, featuring craft stalls based in and around Hetton Mini Park and area.

Mr Duncan Matthews again referred to the lack and renewal of yellow lines and parking controls in the town. He suggested all need to be re-done and renewed.

Mrs Waterson referred to the pending closure of Barclays Bank in Hetton Centre and asked if HTC could be active and look at initiatives to regenerate the town centre.

Prior to the start of the Meeting the Mayor referred to the death of former long serving Town Councillor Jack Steel, stating that many had known Jack in his lifetime of service as a local respected headmaster, Church stalwart and union Leader. He had also been a Member of Tyne Wear County Council. Jack was unique in his many years devotion and service to the community.

The Meeting stood in two minutes silence as respect.

1. To Receive, Accept and Approve Apologies for Absence

a. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Adamson, Cummings, Elvin, Green and Mrs Turner (50).

b. Members were further advised that all matters were progressing with regards to the required Bi-Election for vacancies in the Hetton Downs and Hetton-le-Hole Wards, this would take place on Thursday, 30th November, 2017.

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 19th September, 2017

The minutes having been distributed it was moved by Cllr Hepple and seconded by Cllr Mrs. Heron and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true record.

3 To Consider matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Holt referred to the alleged household distribution by the City Council of the Draft Core Strategy Document. he was saddened to note that despite highlighting the problem it seems that vast areas of the district have been omitted from receiving the information.

Cllr Geddis in support of this, he also was concerned that the City Council would not hold any evening briefing sessions for residents who work and can't attend daytime; he felt this was disgraceful.

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

None were made.

5. Reports from Members Ward Matters to be Investigated

Cllr Geddes reported that Mr. Hughes had highlighted the deterioration of litter issues previously recorded, indeed recently a member of the public had picked up litter, a bag of Heroin in Front Street and had taken it to police, but no action taken.

Cllr Geddes highlighted the problem and danger on the road of Eppleton Terrace West leading to the Country Park, where there was no footpath for pedestrians to use.

Cllr Geddes gave more details on the planned event on 15th December 'Christmas in the park' which would include local children taking part in a Lantern Parade, craft stalls, live music and Festive Food. however, he asked why the new location for the Christmas Tree was going on private land at a great expense to the Council, he felt this was not a correct and democratic decision.

in response Cllr R heron stated matters had been closely examined, a poll of Committees had responded that it was a preferred location and it was passed by the relevant authority as being a suitable location to meet all Health and Safety issues.

Cllr Pearson asked if a date could be set for a Council Finance Committee Meeting.

Cllr Campbell asked if any further response or action had been taken against the dereliction problems at the Computer Shop in Richard Street.

Cllr Campbell reported that recent incidents of youths accosting residents asking for money. matters were reported to Police but no further action or feed back to date.

Cllr Campbell referred to the fly-tipping problem at the old Fox and hounds site and felt it wrong that the landowner should be responsible for clearance when not their doing.

Cllr Campbell asked that it be recorded that she does not agree with the purchase of a new Memorial Seat and feels the Council should have re-visited the programme of renewal.

Cllr Heron explained that it was part of a long established programme and to date 13 seats had been renewed in several selected locations. The purchase of such is within identified budget for special projects each year.

Cllr Coulson highlighted that at the housing development site at East Rainton despite previous discussions and meetings it seems the ancient trough and national spring well have been affected – it is a historic site and should be protected.

Cllr Coulson highlighted the ongoing problem with fly-tipping at Hazard Lane and stated the only solution, as he has requested previously, is to construct a gate onto the area.

6. Sunderland Core Strategy - Response from HTC and Public Consultation

The Town Clerk had distributed to Members a copy of HTC formal response together with individual responses made and gave a verbal report on the current situation.

7/8 Councillors Training Sessions

The Town Clerk gave a full Report of the forthcoming courses and asked all Members wishing to attend to provide names to the Town Clerk

9. Remembrance Services 2017

The Town Clerk gave a Report on the plans for both services to be held and all details of groups participating

10. Christmas Illuminations 2017

The Town Clerk gave a Report on the Switch-on Event on 24th November, 2017 and the proposals for illuminations and Christmas Trees in the various locations.

Cllr Mrs Campbell commented that the street illuminations were poor last year, she hoped improvements could be made and then referred to the use of vouchers for provision of alcohol at Council events, she also stated that there were several matters she was to bring up

The Mayor stated that the voucher issue was not relevant at the Christmas Event and would not be an issue.

The Mayor called Cllr Campbell and the Meeting to order as all matters could not be brought up if not on the agenda, and asked Cllr Campbell to be seated and silent, as a Point of Order on all matters.

At this point the Mayor closed the Meeting due to the disruption.

Signed
Councillor D. Wallace
Mayor