

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 18th JULY, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor David Wallace, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Adamson, Mrs Campbell, Costello, Coulson, Cummings, Defty, Elvin, Geddis, Hepple, R. Heron, Mrs. J. Heron, Ms. Pearson. (13).

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.

A resident of Stephenson Close/Garden Estate area reported that serious anti-social behaviour was still ongoing, despite many calls and visits from police, however, it seems now police do not attend to all reports made.

Mr. S. Hughes of Bleach Green reported that the lack of a school crossing patrol at Hetton Lyons Primary School was creating a serious and dangerous traffic issue for the pupils and parents travelling to school.

Footnote: enquiries made, produced information that the previous crossing patrol persons had resigned and retired and despite a city-wide recruitment campaign, no applications have been received for the positions.

Mr. Waterford of Aidan Way made complaint regarding the condition of grass areas left after cutting and all shrubbery are to be removed from areas, he feels that this will be detrimental to the area.

1. To Receive, Accept and Approve Apologies for Absence

a. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mrs Anderson, Mrs. Alcock, Blackburn, Green, Holt, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs Wallace, Mrs. Turner.

b. To formally receive a written request from Cllr Mrs F. Anderson, dated 14th June, 2017, to be granted a six months Leave of Absence due to her continued illness, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 85).

The Town Clerk confirmed that Mrs. Anderson had appropriately complied with such regulations.

Cllr R Heron stated that he had visited Mrs. Anderson on numerous occasions and she had been very ill, however, hopefully there was a slight improvement recently.

Cllr Elvin stated he concurred with Cllr Heron that due process had been done correctly regarding the application.

Cllr Campbell stated that Cllr Mrs Anderson had not been a regular attendee or contributor to Council business for more than two years.

Cllr R Heron moved and was seconded by Cllr Hepple that the request for six months Leave of Absence by Cllr Mrs Anderson be accepted and approved.

However Cllr Mrs Campbell, seconded by Cllr Pearson moved that the application be rejected and refused.

Therefore a vote was taken on the motion made, hence:-

FOR Acceptance of application

Cllrs
Cummings
R. Heron
Mrs. J. Heron
Mrs. Adamson
Hepple
D. Wallace

6 votes

AGAINST acceptance of application

Cllrs
Costello
Coulson
Elvin
Defty
Mrs Campbell
Geddis
Ms Pearson

7 votes

Hence the decision AGAINST acceptance of the Council to grant application from Cllr Mrs Anderson six months Leave of Absence due to illness.

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 20th June, 2017

It was moved by Cllr Hepple and seconded by Cllr Heron and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true record.

3 To Consider matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Elvin stressed that Sunderland City Council's relevant officer should, as previously requested, meet with Town Councillors to discuss highlighted matters regarding litter enforcement and other issues.

Cllr Pearson again referred to the dangerous overhanging trees from Hetton Brewery Field Nursery School which needed pruning back.

Cllr Pearson referred to the newly painted Mural Project at Market Street and asked how it was funded.

In response Cllr Cummings explained the project was funded by Sunderland City Council, Strategic Initiative Budget to try and assist to generate interest and improvement and help the individual businesses in the area.

Cllr Mrs Heron in support stated the Mural was a successful project and greatly admired by all.

Cllr Geddes asked about the ongoing youth disorder problems and stressed that Northumbria Police must fulfil their promise of a second officer to meet with Town Council to examine issues as highlighted.

Cllr Elvin stated the letter and response from Northumbria Police Crime Commissioner, Vera Baird Q.C., promised a very similar officer would attend.

Cllr Coulson stated that the officer should also be prepared to meet all residents, not just P.A.C.T. meetings.

Cllr Geddis stated he had been advised by Northumbria Police that residents having any trouble whatsoever should always telephone 999 for action.

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

Cllr Wallace made a declaration in respect of Item 7 as a member of New Dawn Lunch Club.

Cllrs. R Heron and R. Elvin made declarations in respect of Item 7 as members of Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park.

Cllr D Geddis made a declaration in respect of Item 7 as a member of the Heritage for Hetton Sculpture Group.

5. Reports from Members Ward Matters to be Investigated

Cllr Campbell stated that in the interest of Council business she would address the meeting, however, due to the ongoing issues she would not address the Mayor. She further asked for regular reports on all matters from Hetton Ward Sunderland City Councillors and asked why this was not automatically done?

With reference to the ongoing dereliction of the roof of the computer shop in Hetton-le-Hole, she asked for an update as to what action had been taken.

She also asked for an update from the appropriate City Officers regarding North Road Traffic Safety issues.

Cllr Pearson reported an overgrown tree in Stephenson Close which was causing problems to pedestrians.

Cllr Coulson thanked the Clerk for the information and advice given to East Rainton residents about the Avent Housing development.

He also reported that the footpath had a loose kerbstone opposite 8 Grange View.

Cllr Elvin asked about plans and maintenance of the old church yard at Front Street, Hetton, which is now in disrepair and overgrown.

The Town Clerk referred to the previous project of refurbishment of Nicholas Wood Tomb and the loss of funding for such project. Sunderland City Council were responsible for general maintenance of such.

6. Report of Meeting with Northumbria Police

The Clerk reported due to sickness this meeting had not yet taken place, however, Members stressed that this should be arranged as a matter of urgency at the earliest opportunity.

7 To formally Receive and Accept the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee Meeting held 28th June, 2017

Members discussed the recommendations of the Committee in respect of grant awards made.

Cllr Pearson highlighted that once again Elemore Colliery Banner Group had not observed the grant application procedure and hence the grant award should not be made.

Members were advised that their formal application form and details had now been received.

It was moved by Cllr Heron and seconded by Cllr Hepple that the Minutes and recommendations be agreed. Agreed by Council, Cllr Mrs Pearson objected and voted against acceptance.

8. To Confirm Proposals for Councillor Training Programme

The Town Clerk referred again to the programmes as distributed to Members, which are to be presented by N.A.C. and C.D.A.L.C. Members to advise the Clerk of their wish to attend specific sessions.

9. Moorsley and Easington Lane big local, invitation to events

Information noted

10. City of Sunderland (Schools 20mph speed limit zones), Easington Lane Primary School

Noted

11. Society of Local Council Clerks Training Day, 19th July, 2017

Noted

12. Copy Information 'Your Northumbria' Information Services

Noted

13. For information, extract from 'The Clerk', July 2017

Noted

Members were reminded that Hetton Town Council would be in Summer Recess during the month of August 2017.

Signed
Councillor D. Wallace
Mayor