

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER, 2015 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, Coates, Costello, Coulson, Cummings, Defty, Elvin, Geddes, R. Heron, Holt, Green, Hepple, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Wallace, D. Wallace. (20).

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.

Mrs. Susan Waterson of Hetton Heritage Society asked if action could be taken to obtain a schedule of local historical buildings both listed and that perhaps in danger of dereliction, as she felt that it was important to protect the Town's heritage.

Mr & Mrs Metcalf referred to the ongoing problems that they had encountered regarding having a landscaped area in Whitehall Road regularly maintained. They reported that a meeting had been held with relevant senior Sunderland City Council Officers to discuss future maintenance programme.

Mr Napper stated he had a few issues regarding land at Forest Estate, Easington Lane, he referred to previous and ongoing discussions with City Council Officers, as he had tried unsuccessfully to purchase the land, which now had been fenced off for grazing land.

He was very demonstrative and irritated when presenting his comments and abusive to both Cllr Blackburn, ex. Town Councillor D. Tate and rude to the Mayor when asked to calm down, as his comments were very ambiguous, unclear and not detailed.

In the event he was very aggressive and continued abuse of members, therefore he was asked to leave and ejected from the Council Chamber.

Ms Pearson again referred to an expenditure of £400, for administration costs shown in the annual accounts and enquired what this was? The Town

Clerk invited Ms Pearson to meet up with him examine and to explain this matter.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology was submitted and accepted from Cllr Mrs. Anderson

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 15th September, 2015

It was highlighted that Items 11 to 14 had not been reprinted/reproduced and hence omitted from the Minutes.

This matter having been noted, it was agreed to accept the Minutes subject to the amendments being made.

It was MOVED by Councillor Heron and seconded by Councillor Hepple and RESOLVED.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

a. Cllr Elvin again referred to legislation and published papers regarding Law & Guidance on Village Green Applications, Common Land Registry and asked that information be obtained in order that Members can view all details.

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

Cllr. Cummings made a Declaration for Item 8.

5 Reports from Members, Ward Matters for Investigation

Cllr Coates again reported the ongoing problem of traffic speeding on Pit Lane, Hetton Downs

Cllr Mrs. Campbell also again highlighted problems of long standing traffic speeding on North Road.

(The Town Clerk advised he had written to the Sunderland City Council Network Traffic Manager in respect of these matters).

Cllr Elvin referred to the unused Football Field, Colliery Lane and asked that the Council write to Hetton Lyons Cricket Club Chairman, Mr. R. Grey, to obtain a position statement regarding suggested use of this area by the Cricket Club.

Cllr Elvin referred to the Annual Return 2015 which had just received full audit. However, he asked that the Council should be provided with perhaps monthly ongoing and proposed expenditure for the year ,in order to determine how best this can be managed.

Cllr D. Wallace referred to his attendance at the Hetton Downs P.A.C.T. Meeting – and gave update on car parking issues in Lindsay Street and CCTV camera in Market Street.

Cllr Coates reported that following previous discussions between Town and City Councils, that Hetton Workingmen's Club, which had resulted in the path surface being re-laid to everyone's satisfaction.

Cllr Geddes reported that discussions had been ongoing with residents of Rectory Road concerning unadopted road and this would be further examined in Item 8 on this Agenda.

Cllr Mrs. Campbell reported that recentl larger number of youths were congregating in the Town Centre. She had spoken to them and all had stated that no youth facilities were a major problem.

Cllr Sinnott again referred to the poor condition of Hetton Park Pavilion and Tennis Courts and asked if there were plans to repair and upgrade.

Cllr Holt highlighted the ongoing problem of heavy goods vehicles parking on pavements at Hetton Lyons industrial Estate, causing congestion to users and danger to pedestrians.

Cllr Mrs. G. Wallace referred to resident's complaints relating to the NEXUS response bus and new arrangements where central points are now proposed for collection. NEXUS have submitted a report to the Sunderland City Council Placeboard Committee and are going to undertake public consultation.

Cllr Coulson asked if it could be determined who is the owner of the area opposite The Blackboy Public House, Moorsley Road, as it is to be used as a car park, however, it's ownership is disputed.

Cllr Elvin referring to the ongoing issue of East Rainton Village Green in response to the previous correspondence from the City of Sunderland solicitor concerning this matter, he highlighted case law Regina v City of Sunderland about such issue. The Clerk was asked to clarify matters.

6 Register of Electors and Street Index of the District

The Town Clerk advised Members that a new updated record of the above was now available in the Council Office for Members use.

7 To receive the Minutes of the Community Events and Activities Committee held 24th September, 2015

Members noted all contents and asked for monthly report on such events.

Cllr Mrs. Campbell referred to the Christmas Family Fun Evening to be held on Friday, 4th December, 2015 and asked for confirmation regarding

related cost and intention for the Civic Guests event following the formal activities.

8 Rectory Road and Scotts Terrace: Unadopted Roads Issue

Members were issued with reports and guidance issued by House of Commons and previous surveys from 2006, 2007 and 2015, undertaken by Sunderland City Council.

All reports outlined the national legal position regarding unadopted roads and also Sunderland issue regarding expenditure involved.

Cllr Mrs. Campbell stated she and Cllr Geddes had met with residents and visited Rectory Road which was in a deplorable, dangerous condition.

She had asked Sunderland City Council senior Highway Officers to meet residents to try and find a solution.

Cllr Geddes in support of Cllr Campbell asked if Hetton Town Council can assist and arrange perhaps a rolling programme of works are examined , planned and to try and secure funding from various sources.

Cllr Defty said residents had waited many years for some results or action on this matter.

Cllr R. Heron gave all Members a brief resume of this matter which had been ongoing, he explained the cost of making up a road scheme including street lighting, drainage, pavements etc. and each scheme was very expensive, prior to City Council agreeing to take all future maintenance issues.

He referred to the distributed documents which clearly identified it is simply the residents responsibility and they would have been advised of this when they purchased the property.

Cllr Elvin suggested discussions with Sunderland City Council could possibly identify a rolling programme of work, say over the next 20 years. He noted that in papers it states that in certain circumstances it is not compulsory for all residents to contribute and that unadopted roads could be adopted in the right circumstances.

Cllr Geddes stated he was passionate about trying to assist the people of Hetton with problems and hoped this could be further examined.

In conclusion it was agreed to arrange a meeting between residents, Town Councillors and City Council Officers as soon as possible.

9 Correspondence from Bridget Phillipson, M.P. for information

Received by Members

10 City of Sunderland Coalfield Area Committee, 14th October, 2015

Members received copies of the Committee Minutes and Agenda and Cllr Mrs. Wallace who attended as representative of HTC gave a supportive verbal report.

Cllr Cummings referred to the item on the Minutes relating to the old Forest Estate and advised the meeting that Sunderland City Council had now issued the Meeting that Sunderland City Council had now issued formal horse grazing leases for the area and unused areas were to be cultivated as a wildflower area.

Cllr Elvin enquired if the allocation funds for Community Chest were divided equally amongst all Coalfield Wards, he was assured that this was the case in each financial year.

11 Correspondence from Hetton Lyons Primary School

The Clerk reported that a class of pupils had all written letters to the Town Council regarding litter issues.

The Members commended the letters which will be passed to the relevant city council departments and the Clerk was to ensure all children received a reply from the Town Council.

12 Invitation to the Mayor of Sunderland Charity Fund Raiser Friday, 13th November, 2015

Received and noted.

13 Invitation to Easington Lane IM Church Carol Service, Sunday, 20th December, 2015

Received and noted.

14 Historical Buildings in Hetton and District

The Clerk advised Members he was to write to Sunderland Council to obtain a schedule of buildings for the district.

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 a. To receive and accept the Minutes of the Finance and Resources Committee held Friday, 20th October, 2015

b. To consider Applications for Financial Assistance: (a) H & E.C.H. (b) E.L.V. (c) Hetton 36 ATC - correspondence

Members noted and received the Minutes dated 20th October, 2015 and agreed to forward the Applications for Financial Assistance to the next meeting of the Council Finance and Resources Committee in November 2015.

Signed
Councillor Mrs. J. Heron
Mayor