

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER, 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor David Wallace, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Allcock, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs Campbell, Coates, Cummings, Costello, Coulson, Defty, Geddis, Green, Hepple, R. Heron, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. G. 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

Several members of the public were present and had recorded names in the Attendance Book.

Susan Waterson from Heritage for Hetton Group enquired about when their grant application may be considered. It was then noted it was included on the Meeting Agenda.

K. Pearson asked if the queries relating to accountancy matters she had raised can be responded to.

1. To Receive, Accept and Approve Apologies for Absence

The following Members had submitted apologies in advance of the Meeting: Councillors J. Blackburn, R. Elvin, Mrs. J. Heron, P. Holt – all received and approved.(4)

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

The Minutes having been distributed to members in advance. Cllr Coulson mentioned in clarification matters he had referred to regarding Network Rail and Leamside Line opening and development.

It was moved by Cllr Heron and seconded by Cllr Geddis and RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

3 To record Declarations of Interest from Members for any items on the Agenda

The following Members made Declarations:

Cllr Geddes in respect of Item 18 as a Member of Heritage for Hetton Group

Cllr Cummings as a Member of Sunderland City Development Planning Committee

Cllr Mrs Turner as a Member of Sunderland City Licencing Committee

Cllrs Defty, Green and Mrs Adamson as Members of Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

4. Reports from Members – Ward Matters

Cllr Mrs. Anderson referred to an issue which had long standing reports and lobbying from Hetton Town Council:- the constant and increasing problem of speeding traffic onto B1284 North Road. The traffic congestion is increasing due to the success of employment at Rainton Bridge Ind. Park. Simply the infrastructure and road structure cannot cope with too heavy a flow of traffic. Endless campaigning over many years still has not resulted in a bye-pass proposal submitted many years ago. She asked to obtain from Sunderland City Council a position statement and traffic management plan regarding all matters.

Cllrs Defty and Campbell in support of this matter stated that the extra housing developments and future agreed development at North Road will create much more congestion and problems.

It was noted that a roundabout was proposed to help traffic flow, to be funded and constructed by the housing developer.

Cllr Coulson referred to the bus service provision in East Rainton, with mini-bus provision shuttle service, asked if Go-Ahead North East could clarify the situation relating to the service.

Cllr Mrs Wallace referred to the area of Hetton Downs which also doesn't have such a service.

Cllr Coulson advised Members of the success of East Rainton Cricket Club who had formally approached Biffa for grant assistance and put their case for the need for ground improvements, which has resulted in a successful award of £8,000 grant being received.

Cllr Coates referred to the ongoing problem of speeding traffic at Caroline Street, which was becoming more acute and hoped police could pay greater attention to this problem, which also included youths playing games of dare across the Front Street highway. He suggested police should be given more power to deal with youth disorder.

Cllr Coates also reported that fly tipping seemed to be ongoing and more prevalent in the area of Caroline Street, he had noted vehicles with waste travelling around the area late on an evening, which he suspected were fly tipping in areas.

Cllr Campbell again referred to youth disorder in the area, in particular, Hetton Town Centre and Hetton Lyons Country Park and called for more action and presence in the area from the local Northumbria Police Community Team. Additionally she asked why police are not being proactive with the total disregard for parking restrictions and pavement parking by traffic by users of the Community Leisure Pool.

Cllr Coates reported dumping of rubbish behind Front Street adjacent to the old St. Nicholas Church and Brewers Arms Public House.

Cllr Sinnott also referred to the problem of speeding traffic on A182 Houghton Road and suggested that occasional V.A.S. Traffic speeding enforcement of the police is required.

She also reported issues at Hetton Lyons Country Park, including the vast amount of slime/algae present on the lake and that off road bikes were gaining access to the park, which was causing an unsafe situation for park users.

Cllr Campbell raised the question of the authorisation of the annual Return and Accounts ending march 2016. In particular she had examined the records for Mayoral Accounts for the past several years and wished to be provided with further details of Mayor's personal expenditure. Mrs Campbell made comment that she had previously been denied access to Mayoral accounts, and although then acknowledged that she had received official statement replies to her queries, she did not accepted the responses and subsequently spoken to C.D.A.L.C. and BDO Government Auditors about such issues.

In reply **Cllr Heron** stated as a Point of Order this matter was not included on the Agenda and should not be discussed, however he did confirm Cllr Mrs Campbell had received formal responses which had been copied to all Members and the Council had similarly taken advice from B.D.O. and was confident the Mayors in past years had operated in a true and correct manner in carrying out their Civic duties for the benefit if the Town. .

Cllr Campbell and Cllr Heron were engaged in a heated debate regarding this matter. Cllr Heron confirmed that the correct protocol would be for the Finance and Resources Committee to examine the issue and report back to Council. Cllr Campbell did not accept

this. At this point the Mayor tried to bring the Meeting to order and calm the situation and bring the Meeting follow Agenda and Business of the Council, he referred to Standing Orders protocol and reminded Members that they had agreed to observe the adopted Code of Conduct.

Cllr Sinnott also asked Cllr Campbell to follow Council Protocol and Standing Orders adopted by Members, in that all issues should be presented in a logical, calm and respectful manner.

5. To receive Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee Meetings held 15th August and 14th September, 2016

Cllr Heron advised Members of the recommendations of the Committee and all consultations, which would be minuted and reported to Sunderland City Council.

It was moved by Cllr Hepple and seconded by Cllr Cummings that the Minutes be agreed and approved.

6. To receive and accept the fully Audited Annual Return for the year ending March, 2016 and report of B.D.O. Government Auditors, together with Notice of Conclusion of Audit

Members received a Council Report and copy of accountancy papers prepared by the Council Chartered Accountant and Internal Auditor's Report.

It was moved by Cllr Heron and seconded by Cllr Hepple that the Report and Audited Accounts be accepted and approved. RESOLVED by Council

7. Local Council Awards Scheme – Guide to Training Details

The Town Clerk gave Members details of criteria and requirements of scheme which was replacing Quality Council Status. He suggested funding will be required to achieve such and will bring a full, detailed report to Council in the near future.

8. City of Sunderland Order 20 – 20 mph Schools Speed Zones

Members were provided with full details and plans of the area surrounding schools involved.

9. Post Office – Service Provision

Members were provided details of a replacement mobile Post Office service to be provided in East Rainton which started in July 2016. i.e.

Tuesday 3.00 – 4.30 p.m.

Thursday 3.00 – 4.30 p.m. at Durham Road, East Rainton location

10. Police Community Team

Members were provided with a schedule of new Hetton Team names and contacts. It was agreed to invite officers to the next Town Council Meeting in October, in order to make introductions and discuss issues.

11. 2016 British Legion Poppy Appeal

Request has been received for community involvement volunteers to assist with the control and distribution of Poppy Collection points in the town.

Members agreed to support the appeal in any way possible and authorised the Town Clerk to progress this issue.

12. Champion of the Community Award

A nomination had been received from Cllr Coates. It was agreed that Kevin Sherben be accepted for 2016/17 award for his service for more than 30 years to both Karate classes and Scout Movement in the town.

13. Licencing Act 2003

Members were advised that the Brewers Arms Public House, Front Street, had made application for extension to operating hours. Cllr Coates suggested that door security staff should perhaps be deployed by the pub.

14. C.D.A.L.C. Training Day 8th September, Finance

The Clerk reproduced for all Members information a copy of all slide presentations from the Seminar and in doing also produced an ancillary report relating to all information provided and as to how HTC followed and adhered to guidelines and regulations.

15. Grant Applications for Financial Assistance

Cllr Heron in receiving the applications as scheduled on the agenda, deferred all to an appropriate Meeting of the Finance and Resources Sub Committee.

16. Mayoral Notices and Future Events

The Mayor gave details of forthcoming Remembrance Services dates and venues.

Signed
Councillor D. Wallace
Mayor