

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 21st JULY, 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, Mrs. Campbell, Coates, Costello, Coulson, Cummings, Defty, Elvin, Geddis, Green, R. Heron, Holt, 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.'

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.

Ms. K. Pearson referred to correspondence received from the Town Council in answer to her letter relating to the charging of a Precept. She felt the response had not answered issues in full.

In verbal reply the Town Clerk advised that the response was detailed and had been approved and written in conjunction with Sunderland City Council.

Mrs. S. Waterson referred to the sale of Hetton House which had been concluded. She commented that it had been sold for a very small price and hoped that the developer/new owner would not just take no action on site for years, allowing the building to further dereliction to this listed building. She also asked if a schedule of listed buildings in the Town could be compiled.

Ms. K. Rowham referred to Item 13 on the Agenda of the meeting and began to state that she had reported eight of the Town Council Labour Councillors to the City of Sunderland Standards Committee.

At this point the Town Clerk interjected and stated that the Members concerned had been legally advised by the City Council Head of Law and Governance, that no contact discussion/statements etc. should be made between the complainant and respective Councillors.

Therefore Ms. Rowham was advised not to make her statement in a public area until the case was concluded in order not to prevent the process of complaint proceeding in a just and correct manner.

Ms. Rowham concluded she would be writing individually and personally all other Members of the Council about this matter.

Mrs. Stephenson referred to the ongoing process and application to get Village Green status for the area at Stobbley Moor/ Wharton Close, East Rainton. She expressed concern at the lack of progress and asked HTC to try and make further enquiries.

The Town Clerk reported that enquiries and correspondence with the respective City Council Departments had all been undertaken by HTC in recent months, however, follow-up would be undertaken.

In connection with the same issue:

Mr. M. Edmondson stated that the vehicles identified as permanently being parked on the green were all taxed and tested and could be moved for grass maintenance on request.

The Mayor stated that this Item would be discussed formally in full as Item 10 on the Agenda.

Mr. L. Branney addressed the meeting relating to the design and construction of a metal sculpture of a miner, being undertaken by the company 'Two Red Rubber Things'. He suggested that a public campaign could be launched to raise and secure funds to enable this sculpture to be erected in Hetton-le-Hole as a fitting tribute to the mining industry.

The Mayor stated that many had seen the promotion of the sculpture in the local press and in support of the idea, she stated the matter would be discussed in full later in the meeting in association with Mr. Brannan.

End of Public Participation at 7.20 p.m.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apology for Absence was received from:
Cllr Mrs. Anderson – illness

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

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was MOVED by Councillor Hepple and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Adamson and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true and correct record.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

a. Cllr Mrs Campbell again referred to the ongoing traffic road safety issues at North Road, Hetton and stated that residents had immense problems daily and asked when the City Council Officers were to report back from their meeting some months ago.

b. Cllr Wallace gave a report on his attendance at the Police P.A.C.T. Meeting at Hetton Downs and gave statistics of all crimes.

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

Cllr. Cummings made a Declaration for Item 9 as a Member of the City Council Planning and Development Committee.

Cllr Wallace for Item 14 as a Member of New Dawn Group

5 Reports from Members, Ward Matters for Investigation

Cllr Mrs. Sinnott reported that she had received concerns from residents about the condition of Hetton Park Bowling Green, Pavilion and Tennis Courts.

Cllr Coates referred to ongoing parking issues and problems from users of the Hetton Centre and Swimming Pool facilities. He accepted that persons parking indiscriminately and wrongly was an issue to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

Cllr Elvin reported the ongoing problem of traffic speeding at Lyons Avenue, which gave concern due to the many children playing in the street.

He also referred to the seat adjacent to the Moorlsey Village Hut was in need of repair and maintenance.

Cllr Mrs Campbell in support of Cllr Coates referred to the parking problems and congestion on an evening and suggested that all users of facilities are provided with a letter requesting parking rules and courtesy to others, also a Notice in the Facilities could be displayed.

In support Cllr Elvin suggested the Council have further discussion with Tony Morrow, Baths Manager.

Cllr. Mrs. Alcock reported the ongoing problems being encountered at Colliery Lane B1285, at Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate – where very large vehicles were unloading but parking on pathways and causing congestion for pedestrians and vehicles.

Cllr Holt similarly offered support to this problem and suggested all owners/residents of the businesses at Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate could be written to, to advise and hopefully resolve the problem with their suppliers and also contact Police to investigate.

Cllr Elvin expressed his sadness at the ongoing abundance of litter and fly tipping in the area. He reminded all that, as such is a criminal offence and indeed a 2014 Act empowers local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices and take relevant action.

He asked if the respective City Environment Department could be contacted and matters investigated.

6 Minutes of the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park

The Minutes were distributed to Members, for information and update of all matters.

7 Report of the Town Clerk – Information on design and purchase of Commemorative Statue

A Report was given to Members outlining a design by David Ogilvie Engineering, in commemoration of WWI. The design made in metal was distributed.

It was moved by Cllr R. Heron and seconded by Cllr Hepple and agreed by Council that progress should be made to purchase a seat, to be located in the Hetton Memorial Park, to replace existing damaged seat.

8 Report: Proposal Hetton & District Young Achievers Award

Members were presented with a Report and idea suggested by Mrs. P Robson, Greenwatch.

It was agreed to examine the financial implications and conditions of such an initiative and a meeting of the Management & Policy Committee be arranged to progress such proposals.

9 Planning Consultations

It was agreed for the following applications to be considered by the Council, to ensure comment be recorded before Council recess period.

App No. 15/01176/FUL
4 Campbell Terrace, Easington Lane
Dormer Window Extension

App No. 15/01318/FUL
Heron Foods, 19 Front Street
Conversion of ground floor to retail, upper floors to 4 self contained flats

No observations/objections made to the above.

10 East Rainton Village Green Application – update for Members

Members had again received a Report from residents and the Town Clerk gave an update. It was urged to pursue the matter with the City Council relevant departments.

Cllr Coulson again referred to the parking issues at this area and suggested that a section of the road rear to the village green be re-opened to try and alleviate problems and progress matters.

Cllr Elvin referred to an authority on which he had served and that village green had been adopted by the local council. The Town Clerk to follow up matters.

11 Information regarding West Rainton Open Cast proposal – presentation Field House Information

Received and noted

12 Copy correspondence for information

Received and noted.

13 Hetton Lyons Primary School – copy letters received and report

Received and noted.

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.

The Mayor thanked the public for their attendance and participation as they left the Meeting.

14 To consider Applications for Financial Assistance

Members to consider as a Council rather than a Meeting of the Finance Committee due to Council August Recess:

- a. Elemore Banner Group

- b. Eppleton Banner Group
Members were reminded that an emergency decision had been made, following circulation of a letter to all members, this was due to the Durham Gala being held on 11th July, 2015. Members were happy to resolve the decision of £300 to each group, to help with transport costs. However it was asked that receipts should be received from both groups to ensure proper financial accountability.
- c. New Dawn Group – to assist with luncheon club expenses – proposed £120 cash grant
- d. Hetton School, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, to assist pupils in participation – proposed £200 cash grant
- e. East Rainton Cricket Club for purchase of official cricket balls from ECCB – proposed £200 payment of invoice.
- f. Easington Lane Senior Citizens Club to assist with annual hall hire expenses – proposed £200 grant

All the above were agreed and RESOLVED to be awarded by members

15 Special Project – Mining Sculpture

Following the suggestion from Mr C Branney for Hetton to obtain the sculpture, the Council was advised that an initiative was to be led by the community, with support, if agreed by HTC, Members were issued with a photograph of the sculpture. A public Meeting to brief and gather support from the community is to be held on Wednesday, 29th July, 2015 at 6.30 p.m. in the Union Street Church Community Room.

Cllr R Heron stressed it was a unique opportunity to do something to enhance Hetton's Heritage and asked permission from Council to:

1. Pursue meetings with Mr Branney and the sculptor Ray Lonsdale, to try and achieve the best outcome.
2. To make a financial commitment of £5,000 from Council financial reserves to place 'a holding deposit' on the sculpture.
3. To assist and formulate a project committee from the community.
4. To report back in full to Council outlining all necessary financial, legal implications and planning controls.

Signed
Councillor Mrs. J. Heron
Mayor