

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 20 September 2021 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton le Hole

Prior to formal commencement of the Meeting, Cllr D Geddis (Town Mayor) presented Ava Weeks, a pupil at Eppleton Academy Primary School with a certificate and gift card for her winning design for a poster to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Eppleton mining disaster.

Note: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

Present

Councillors J Blackburn , R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds (to Item 15 only), P Dowell, R Elvin (not Item 7 (part) - Item 13), D Geddis - Town Mayor (not Items 15-17), L Gibson, P Hall, R Heron, K Pearson, S Reilly, K Rowham, I Scott and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 9

1) Apologies for absence

TC advised that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Green (work commitment) and Cllr S Waterston (unwell).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr M Thornton. Town Council resolved to record her absence as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr K Pearson declared a non pecuniary interest in Item 11.

Note: At the suggestion of TC, to enable a speaker to honour another appointment, Town Council resolved that the order of agenda items 3 and 4 be transposed.

3) Kay White, Community Impact Manager, Great Annual Savings

KW explained that the owner of Great Annual Savings was keen to help local communities and had set up the GF Community Foundation charity.

Town Council resolved to note the presentation and that TC circulate contact details to Members.

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4) Consultation re proposed Federation of Hetton Lyons Nursery School, Oxclose Nursery School and Usworth Colliery Nursery School

Ailsa Higgins (AH), Head Teacher, Hetton Lyons Nursery School provided background to the proposed federation of the three schools, and the desire of each to continue as maintained schools.

AH advised that a range of options had been considered and federation was the only viable route. AH provided details of the operational approach to staffing and budget management.

A variety of questions were raised by Members and addressed by AH. Members requested that details of the responses to the consultation exercise received to date be shared with the Town Council.

Having heard from AH and after due consideration, Town Council resolved to support the proposal for the Federation.

5) Public participation

MoP expressed a view that control of Hetton Lyons Primary School had been passed to Washington and that cost savings could be achieved through partnership working between Hetton Lyons Primary and Hetton Lyons Nursery schools which shared the same site.

Town Council resolved to note the comments.

6) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 20 September 2021.

7) Reports from Members

Cllr R Coulson:

New, sturdy fencing required at north and south ends of bridle path which runs parallel (east-west) with Grange View, East Rainton. (this is the site of the former mineral rail line).

This is to replace damaged fences in situ and prevent quad bike access.

Loose kerb stones located outside of Markle Rigg, North Street, East Rainton require resetting /re mortaring.

Cllr K Pearson:

Requests the installation of barriers to prevent vehicle /motor cycle /quad bike access to the tarmaced path running parallel with Houghton Road and St Cuthbert's Close / St. Bede's Close, Hetton le Hole.

Wheeled bin tipped over in Edward Street.

Cllr P Hall:

Reported dead rats in alley way between Mardale Street and Cragdale Gardens.

Reports broken concrete in alleyway at rear Mardale street (joining at Cragdale Gardens).

Van parked in rear garden of Mardale Street impinging on highway. Also car/engine parts dumped in vicinity.

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Cllr C Willis:

Reported rat sightings at:

End of Eppleton Row; Rear South Market Street; Rear Byer Street (even nos); Rear Byer Street (odd nos. incl. 25-27); 1-2 Byer Square and Dene Street allotments.

Requests action to tidy the overgrown and heavily littered pathway running between Byer Square and Hall Lane.

Cllr L Gibson:

Reports excessive weed growth in Peat Carr and requests removal / treatment:

Moorsley Road (main road and paths) and Ennerdale Street (rear paths); weed growth blocking rainwater gullies throughout the estate.

Cllr S Reilly:

Requests pruning of overgrown trees located within the grounds of former Hetton Nursery School.

Town Council resolved that TC refer the above matters to SCC for investigation, attention and feedback.

8) Sunderland City Councillor(s) - Hetton and Copt Hill wards

There were no City Councillors present.

9) Update from Town Clerk

TC informed Members that Cllrs R Heron and S Waterston had attended Room 1 (Council Chamber) at The Hetton Centre in July and reviewed, cleared and/or redistributed a range of historical photographs and artefacts belonging to the Town Council.

TC reported that D Inman, Director of the Rural Services Network (RSN) had been in touch on 20 September to offer continued membership of the group at no charge until March 2022. This followed previous notification to RSN that the Council did not wish to continue its membership.

TC advised that he had again queried with Northumbria Police the report from a Member that two new officers would be based at The Hetton Centre. However, he had received no response to date.

TC advised that he had notified SCC of the Nomination for Asset of Community Value relating to the Hetton Lyons Boys Club site and that their response was due early October.

Following queries from Members, TC had enquired of SCC their position re the re-opening of The Hetton Centre to the public. He had been advised that the restricted measures in place were continuing; however he was requested to seek the views of Town Council.

Council took the position that it was keen for The Hetton Centre to re-open as part of a return to "normal" life in the town centre and community.

TC reported that responses had been received from SCC to issues raised at June and July meetings of the Town Council and to letter he had written to CX. All had previously been circulated to Members.

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TC advised that two flagpoles and a marble inset had been installed at Easington Lane War Memorial to mark the 100th anniversary. He added that the documentation and process to comply with regulations had been onerous, and acknowledged the assistance provided by Cllrs Elvin, Geddis and Waterston and the contractors.

Town Council resolved to note the update of the Town Clerk.

10) Financial report

Town Council resolved to approve the financial report and expenditure outlined below.

Income:	Nil
Staffing expenditure:	
Town Clerk net salary (includes agreed additional hrs for July and August)	£1415.60
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£707.65
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £105.38
Sub-total:	£2228.63

Expenditure:

Glasdon UK Ltd (Stanford seat - replacement for o/s Hetton Centre)	£1238.14
My Post Shop (5 x books 2nd Class stamps @£7.92 each plus delivery)	£43.09
Hetton Town Trust:	
Room hire 24 June 21 (Events & SA Cmtee)	£35.00
Room hire 19 July 21 (Full Council)	£70.00
CPRE (Annual membership fee 21-22)	DD £36.00
Flagpole Express (supply 2 x flagpoles for Easington Lane WM)	£678.00
Konica Minolta (print and copy charges 10 May 21 - 9 Aug 21)	£15.14
The Flag Shop (Union Jack and Lest We Forget flags for Easington Lane WM)	£50.95
DC Services Ltd (quarterly website maintenance fee 1 Sept 21 - 30 Nov 21)	£108.00
EE (Invoice 4 September 21)	DD £12.00
Excalibur Fabrications Ltd (excavations and foundations for flagpoles @ Easington Lane)	£960.00
Sub-total:	£3246.32

Total:£5474.95

Barclays Current account balance @ 14 Sept 21:	£67,719.58
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£62,244.63

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 14 Sept 21:	£28403.38
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Note: Payments made following approval at 21 June 21 meeting

Hetton Juniors Football Club - Community Grant Award	£500.00
Hetton Methodist Church - Community Grant Award	£50.91
Hetton Bowling Club - Community Grant Award	£500.00
Hetton Lyons Cricket Club (renewal of advertising space)	£120.00

Town Mayor fund:

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Bank balance @ 14 Sept 21:	£1750.00

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11) Community Grant Award

Cllr K Pearson declared a non pecuniary interest in the application received.

TC confirmed that the application was bona fide and was unaffected by policy changes agreed earlier in the year.

Town Council resolved to approve the following applications for funding made under the Community Grant Award Scheme:

36 Squadron RAF Air Cadets - £500.00 for purchase of camping equipment to support D of E

12) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2020-2021

TC reported that he had not yet received the completion letter from the External Auditor. At the suggestion of TC, Town Council resolved that the item be deferred.

13) Casual vacancies and process for co-option

TC introduced the previously circulated report and process.

Town Council resolved to adopt the co-option process and timetable arrangements.

14) Disclosure and Barring Service

TC introduced the previously circulated report and Legal Topic Note 86 published by the National Association of Local Councils.

Following discussion, Town Council resolved that there was no requirement for routine /mandatory DBS checks for Hetton Town Councillors, but that any Member wishing to seek a DBS check could do so at their own expense.

15) Christmas Tree Lights at Hetton and East Rainton

TC introduced the previously circulated quotation received from Balfour Beatty.

Town Council resolved to accept the quotation for new tree lights at a cost of £ £3176.80 (excl.VAT).

Following a query from a Member relating to possible Community Chest Funding and sponsorship support by a City Councillor, TC was signposted to Area Community Development Lead (Coalfield).

16) Replacement Computer hardware

TC reported that he had not received quotations from potential suppliers.

Town Council resolved that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

17) Hetton Park

TC reported that the consultation details had been circulated to Members on 6 September.

Town Council resolved that the proposals were welcomed and supported.

18) LGA Publication: Framework to support parish and town councils

TC introduced this item and previously circulated document.

Town Council resolved to note the content and await any response from SCC.

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19) Hetton Town Trust

Councillor J Blackburn declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item.

TC advised that he had received a response from the Charity Commission and this had been circulated to Members.

Town Council resolved that;

TC seek clarity on any financial liability attached to trustees;

and

Trustees should notify TC of any concerns for him to raise these directly with Facilities Development Manager, HTT.

20) Planning matters

Town Council considered the following planning applications and resolved to take action as indicated below:

21/01415/FUL

3 Park Place Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 9JL

Proposal: Alteration of footpath and dropped kerb.

Applicant: Mr Vincent Allen **No comments or objections**

21/01632/FUL

Hetton Lyons Country Park, Downs Pit Lane, Hetton le Hole DH5 9NL

Proposal: Erection of pre fabricated container/portable office for use as classroom/ store room.

Applicant: Mr John Pooley **No comments or objections**

21/01883/FUL

Summerton House, Durham Road, East Rainton, DH5 9QT

Proposal: Erection of single storey detached garden room.

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gary & Linda Hutchinson **No comments or objections**

21/01658/FUL

Highbury, Church Road, Hetton le Hole, DH5 9AJ

Proposal: Erection of two storey dwelling.

Applicant: Mrs Rita Wood **No comments or objections**

21/02063/FUL

Little Eppleton Farm, Colliery Lane, Hetton le Hole, DH5 0QZ

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural buildings to 1no. residential dwelling (Use Class C3) and replacement of pole barns to create garages and storage space.

Applicant: John and Richard Speed **No comments or objections**

21) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as detailed below:

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Guidance LGA model Code of Conduct, Local Council Award Scheme and DCC First Aid

Finance Training sessions

Consultations and training

Notice of CDALC AGM - 9 October 21

Budget setting training - 19 October 21

NALC webinar re Local Council Award Scheme; Social media Health check

(All CDALC items to be referred to Chairman of MP&F Cmttee)

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Sunderland City Council:

Consultations re Hetton Park and Keeping Active (both circulated 6 Sept) - **Noted**

Misc:

MoP - copy letter to SCC re neighbourhood issues **noted - TC has escalated to CX at SCC**

Local business re possible Christmas market - **to be invited to E&SA Committee**

HCR 200 re meeting 22 September 21 (circulated 14 Sept) - **Noted**

22) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 18 October 2021, 19.15 hrs at The Hetton Centre.

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Date: