

# Hetton Town Council



## Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Wednesday 22 December 2021 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was not audio or video recorded.

### Present

Cllrs J Blackburn, R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor), L Gibson, R Heron (to Item 12 only), W Little, K Pearson, M Pigdon, K Rowham, I Scott, S Waterston and C Willis.

### In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)  
Member of public (MoP) x 1

### 1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were from or on behalf of Cllr J Green (work commitment), Cllr P Hall (domestic commitment), Cllr S Reilly (work issue) and Cllr D Thomas (self-isolating).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies for absence received.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr M Thornton.  
Town Council resolved that her absence be recorded as unapproved.

### 2) Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3) Public participation

There were no issues raised by the member of the public in attendance.

### 4) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 15 November 2021.

### Town Clerk's note:

Town Council resolved to consider Item 17 at this point in the proceedings. For the purposes of the official record, the minutes are recorded in the order that items appeared on the agenda.

### 5) Reports from Members

Cllr J Blackburn:

Queried if Town Mayor had been invited to the opening of the Clarence Court play area in Easington Lane.

Cllr D Geddis:

Advised no notification had been provided to him. He requested that TC write to Taylor Wimpey for an update on progress with any snagging issues.

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Signed:

Date:

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### **Item 5 cont ...**

Cllr K Pearson:

Advised that she had reported issues with dog waste bins at St. Cuthbert's Way and an accumulation of rubbish at Regent View Care Home directly to SCC.

Cllr R Coulson:

Requests that Gentoo notify the Town Council of progress with the redevelopment of the playground at East Rainton.

Cllr L Gibson:

Sought clarification re the funding/ contractual arrangements between SCC / Gentoo for the playground works.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reported that the dolomite pathway at Hetton Bogs leading from Barnard Park, is non-existent, with deep mud making it impassable. Requests that the designated pathway is reinstated to an adequate standard.

Cllr D Geddis:

Raised queries re the demarcation of Town Councillor and City Councillor roles.

Cllr R Heron:

Explained the historic representation arrangements at HTC.

Cllr W Little:

Requests an update on plans for the redevelopment of Hetton Park.

Town Council resolved that TC refer any actions required to the relevant bodies.

### **6) Sunderland City Councillor(s) - Hetton and Copt Hill wards**

There were no City Councillors present.

### **7) Town Clerk update**

TC reported that the 21-22 pay claim remained unresolved and that the trade unions were now balloting members to seek views on any willingness to take industrial action in support of the claim.

TC advised that SCC responses to issues raised at November HTC meeting had been circulated on 20 December.

TC advised Council that payment had recently been made to Balfour Beatty (BB) for an adjustment to spotlight in Hetton Mini Park to ensure illumination of the War Memorial. However, he had observed that the memorial remained unlit. This had been referred to BB for investigation.

TC informed Council that during clearance of the Room 1 storage cupboard he had discovered coinage to the value of £4.58p.

Town Council resolved to note the report of TC ; and that the coinage be donated to the Town Mayor fund.

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Signed:

Date:

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### 8) Financial report

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

#### Income:

Eppleton Quarry Products (grant award 21-22)	£5000.00
Sunderland City Council (payment from Coalfield Community Chest - Xmas trees)	£1500.00
Barclays (Business Premium Account interest)	£0.71

#### Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for Nov)	£1289.32
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£620.75
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £91.79
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>£2001.86</b>

#### Town Clerk expenditure:

MTFX Ltd (6 x poppy cannon for Hetton and Easington Lane Remembrance events)	£93.75
Tesco (2 x packs punch pockets, pocket wallets, 2 x 500 A4 paper)	£10.70
Post Office (Postage for FoI request - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class "signed for")	£3.39
Home Bargains (box file)	£2.59
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>£110.43</b>

#### Other expenditure:

Konica Minolta (copy and print costs 10 Aug 21 - 09 Nov 21)	£12.72
Sunderland City Council (By-elections x 3 - May 21)	£11,112.21
Sunderland City Council ( By-election - July 21)	£5626.38
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire - Oct 21)	£50.00
DC Services Ltd (Dell 15 5000 series laptop plus Microsoft 2019 licence)	£993.60
EE (mobile phone 4 Dec 21)	DD £12.00
Zurich Municipal (Insurance premium: 19 01 22 - 18 01 23)	£593.35

#### Sub-total:

**£18,400.26**

**Total: £20,512.55**

Barclays Current account balance @ 16 Dec 21:	£93,894.75
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	<b>£73382.20</b>
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 16 Dec 21:	£28,404.09

#### Note:

Community Grant Award - Hetton Buddies (approved at HTC 15 Nov)	£491.31
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#### Town Mayor fund:

<b>Income:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
Co-op Bank balance @ 16 Dec 21:	<b>£1750.00</b>

### 9) Insurance renewal update

TC reported that he had referred queries raised at HTC November meeting to Zurich Municipal.

Following their response and liaison with Cllr R Elvin (Chairman, MP&F Cmtee), the insurance policy had been renewed for a one-year term for 22-23 at a cost of £593.35.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

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Signed:

Date:

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### **10) Closure of Hetton Library**

Members expressed disappointment at the loss of the library in Hetton and lack of formal notification to Hetton Town Council.

Town Council resolved that TC write to Sunderland City Council to seek reasons for the closure and the lack of notification and consultation.

### **11) Multi Agency Partnership for Hetton and District**

TC had received the following update from SCC:

Community engagement worker commenced 1/12/21

World café events are delayed until January following recent Government announcements

Looking to launch the project mid-end Jan.

TC has asked to be kept up to date re the official launch to ensure HTC involvement as a partner organisation.

TC had written to CX, SCC re confirmation of HTC role in governance arrangements.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

### **12) Hetton Lyons Boys Club**

TC reported that UK Youth had undertaken to provide an update in the New Year.

Town Council resolved that TC:

Request the appropriate officer from SCC to attend January meeting to explain their decision to reject the request to nominate the site as an asset of community value;

and,

To press UK Youth for an update on plans.

### **13) Christmas Illuminations update**

TC advised that he had kept Members apprised with identified faults and his dialogue with SCC and Balfour Beatty.

TC undertook to provide a further inspection after the meeting and report back to Members.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

### **14) Appointment of website provider**

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Cllr R Elvin thanked Cllr I Scott for his assistance with the exercise

After consideration, Town Council resolved to appoint Supplier B (Narke Design) to develop and host a new website to meet the requirements of the Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA rating.

### **15) Remote Meetings**

TC explained that the two model letters (previously circulated) had been provided by the National Association of Local Councils to enable Councils / individual Members to seek support from their MP and the relevant Government Minister for the re-introduction of the facility to hold remote meetings.

Town Council resolved that TC write accordingly to B Philipson MP and Kemi Badenoch MP, Minister of State for Levelling Up.

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### **16) Coalfield Area Committee, Sunderland City Council**

TC reported that Cllr K Rowham had indicated her wish to stand down as HTC representative to Coalfield Area Committee of SCC.

Town Council resolved that Cllr W Little replace Cllr Rowham and that TC notify SCC accordingly.

### **17) Planning matters**

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

21/02625/FUL - Hillcrest Durham Road East Rainton Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9QT  
Out of time - request for date extension declined by SCC.

14/01371/OUT - Coal Bank Farm Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0DX  
Cllr K Rowham circulated additional information.  
Request an extension of the timescale for comments in order to meet with the relevant officer to discuss a way forward with this complex application and enable SCC to provide full historic documentation. Site visit to be requested.

21/02551/LP3 - 25 Grasmere Avenue Easington Lane Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0PW  
Out of time - request for date extension declined by SCC

21/02380/FUL - Gateway North East Elemore Lane Easington Lane Houghton-le-Spring  
Out of time - request for date extension declined by SCC

21/00384/FUL - 12 Burn Crook Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 8NR  
Out of time - no extension to date permitted by SCC

21/02361/FUL - Land at Chapel Street/Edward Street Hetton Le Hole Houghton le Spring  
Out of time - no extension to date permitted by SCC

21/02716/LP3 - Elemore Golf Club, Elemore Golf Course, Lorne Street, Easington Lane, DH5 0QT  
No comments or objections.

21/02810/FUL - 59 School Road, East Rainton DH5 9QW  
Write to SCC re concerns about fence height and highway safety.

21/02872/FUL - James Jones and Sons, Unit 10 Hetton Lyons Ind. Est., Hetton le Hole DH5 0RH  
No comments or objections.

### **18 ) Planning and Development Committee**

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Following discussion, Town Council resolved to delegate decision making powers to Planning & Development Committee for those matters within its' remit.

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### **19) General correspondence**

Town Council resolved that each of the items of correspondence detailed below be noted.

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

Civility and Respect Working Group  
Legal update  
NALC Resources and webinars  
Plan B  
Referendum principles and remote meetings  
New Year briefing sessions

Sunderland Culture:

Annual review (circulated 25 Nov 21)

Rural Services Network:

Revised Service Agreement

B Phillipson MP:

Newsletter (circulated 20 Dec 21)

Keep Britain Tidy:

Notification of Great British Spring Clean

### **20) Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 17 January 2022, commencing 19.15 hrs at The Hetton Centre.