

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 15 March 2021

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, D Geddis, R Heron, M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, M Thornton (Items 1-5a and 5c-12), S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 36
Local Democracy Reporter

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Green (work commitment) and Cllr D Turner (unwell). Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Blackburn, Cllr A Liversidge, and Cllr D Liversidge.

Town Council resolved that these absences be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Geddis and Cllr T Thornton declared an interest in Item 13.

3) Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner (P&CC) and Area Superintendent, Northumbria Police (ASNP)

Cllr K Pearson welcomed Kim McGuinness (P&CC) and Sarah Pitt (ASNP).

During the course of this item (1hr 30mins) P&CC responded, along with ASNP to a range of views, comments and suggestions raised by Members and members of the public.

Topics included drug use and related crime, unreported threats to life and property, Safer Streets Fund, Automatic Number Plate Recognition, provision of youth services and future investment, use of private security firms, need for improvement to 101 and on-line reporting facilities, pursuit policy and drone use, police station in Hetton.

4) Public participation

There were no items raised requiring attention.

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5) Minutes

- a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 15 February 2021.
- b) Cllr M Thornton left the meeting for the duration of this item.
Subject to an amendment to Item 4 re 21/00177/ LP3 to read "... submit concerns on the following aspects"; Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Planning & Development Committee meeting held on 3 March 2021.
- c) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 4 March 2021.
- d) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on 10 March 2021.
- e) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Management & Policy Committee meeting held on 10 March 2021.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr S Waterston:

Requests a visit by SCC enforcement officers to The Pavilion Works at top of Richard Street, Hetton le Hole and opposite the Independent Methodist Chapel.

Not only due to the precarious state of the rubbish, but part of the wall looks about to collapse and this backstreet is used daily by school children as a short cut to and from school.

Part of the building where the police found a massive stash of Marijuana plants, is now being used as a business premises for what looks like clothes collection.

Also concerns re lack of fire precautions in place.

Cllr D Geddis:

House in Eskdale Street with rat infestation.

Cllr R Coulson:

Large amount of rubbish dumped at A690 opposite Highfield Hotel.

Queried the role of building inspectors when residential developments are built on sites with underground water.

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

TC reported that City Councillors representing the Hetton and Copt Hill wards had been invited to the meeting. There were no City Councillors present.

8) Town Clerk update

TC advised that he had no update from SCC due to a delay on his part in submitting enquiries.

TC reported that an insurance claim had now been submitted to the insurers of Tufnell's in respect of the damaged bench seat.

TC informed Members that following liaison with SCC officers, he had established that the SCC Digital Strategy was not as far developed as originally envisaged. The item would be brought back to Town Council when the strategy was able to be applied on a practical basis to assist improvements in feedback to Council.

2 of 5

Signed:

Date:

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8) Town Clerk update cont ...

TC reported that the legislation which allowed remote meetings to take place was due to expire on 6 May. Consultation was ongoing between the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and Government to continue with the flexibilities introduced. However, official guidance from NALC was that the sector should prepare for the resumption of physical meetings after 6 May. TC had submitted an enquiry to SCC seeking details of arrangements for the re-opening of The Hetton Centre.

Town Council resolved to note the update received from TC.

9) Asset Register 20-21

TC explained that the asset register had been updated and highlighted the changes made. He added that the register was work in progress and that to date, only those items for which he had been able to locate supporting documentation were included.

In response to a Member query, TC advised that depreciation value was not applicable.

Town Council resolved to approve the Asset Register 20-21.

10) Financial report

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

Income:

Barclays Premium account interest	£0.71
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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (March 21 - incl. additional hrs worked Feb)	£1316.19
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£640.68
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £94.73

Sub-total: £2051.60

Town Clerk expenditure:

Zoom Video Communications (charge for Standard Pro monthly subscription)	£14.39
Tesco (2 x 500 A4 paper)	£5.70

Sub-total: £20.09

Other expenditure:

Konica Minolta (print and copy costs 10.11.2020 - 09.02.2021)	£2.48
Konica Minolta (lease of BizHub C308 Feb - May 21)	£132.77
EE (invoice 4 Mar 21)	DD £18.00
DC Service Ltd (quarterly website maint. Mar - May 21)	£108.00
Co Durham Ass. of Local Councils (TC Social media training- 2 Mar 21)	£10.00

Sub-total: £271.25

Community Grant Awards (subject to approval of Item 5d)

Hetton Juniors Football Club	£500.00
Hetton Local Natural & History Society	£319.06
Friends of Houghton Area Youth Band	£500.00
East Rainton Community Group	£500.00
Hetton New Dawn	£499.46

Sub-total: £2318.52

Total: £4661.46

Barclays Current account balance @ 11 Mar 21:

£53571.08

Anticipated current account balance if all paid:

£48909.62

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 11 Mar 21:

£ 28402.67

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Signed:

Date:

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10) Financial report cont ...

Town Mayor fund:

Income:

Transfer from Barclays Community Account for 20-21 £1750.00

Expenditure:

Royal British Legion £875.00

1st Eppleton Scouts £875.00

Co-op Bank balance @ 11 Mar 21: £1750.00

Balance when cleared: Nil

11) CDALC Larger Councils Forum - 18 Feb

Cllr S Waterston provided a brief update, but was unable to give full details due to technical issues experienced during the forum meeting.

Town Council resolved to note the update.

12) Complaint to Northumbria Police

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved that a formal complaint be sent to Chief Constable, Northumbria Police.

13) Planning matters

Cllr M Thornton left the meeting for the full duration of this item.

Cllr D Geddis left the meeting during discussion of 20/01621/ FUL.

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

20/01621/FUL

71 Kingfisher Drive Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0GE

Proposal: Retrospective application for single storey extension to the front.

Applicant: Mr Ryan Dunwoodie

No comments or objections.

21/00483/FUL

Land South Of Redburn Row Redburn Row Houghton-le-Spring

Proposal: Development of 45no dwellings (Use Class C3), with associated car parking, landscaping and infrastructure.

Applicant: Adderstone Living Ltd

TC to seek an extension to timescale from SCC.

21/00507/DEM

Trackwork Limited Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate, Hetton le Hole, DH5 0RF

Proposal: Demolition of old engine shed

Applicant: Trackwork Ltd

Object to the proposed demolition on the grounds that the structure represents an important aspect of the town's railway heritage and is a rare example of such a building.

Requests that an immediate halt be called to the process, pending an explanation being provided for the demolition from the applicant and expert opinion sought from the City Council's Heritage Officer about the status and condition of the building and options available to preserve the site. Extension to timescale to be requested of SCC.

Signed:

Date:

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14) General correspondence

B Phillipson MP re invitation to Extraordinary meeting of HTC - circulated 23 Feb **(Noted)**

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Possible continuation of Remote meetings after 7 May - circulated 22 Feb **(Noted)**

Census 2021- circulated 2 March **(Noted)**

Arrangements on marking the death of a senior national figure **(Noted)**

Elections information **(Noted - view of SCC sought)**

Finance training opportunities **(Noted)**

The future of remote and face to face meetings (2) **(Noted)**

Sunderland City Council:

Planning Appeal against refusal - Holystone Waste PLC re Biffa Waste, Houghton Colliery
(re-iterate previously stated position)

15) Date and Time of next meeting

19.15 hrs on Monday 19 April 2021 virtually or at The Hetton Centre - in line with prevailing Government guidance.