

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 18 January 2021

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, R Heron (to Item 9 part), M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 13

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that he had received an apology for absence from Cllr J Green (work commitment). Town Council resolved to approve the apology received.

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

Town Council resolved that these absences be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Public participation

Town Council resolved to allocate a period of up to 30 minutes.

There were no items raised by MoP's.

4) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 21 December 2020.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 5 January 2021.

5) Proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School

Town Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow MoP contributions to the discussion.

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5) Proposed closure of Hetton Nursery School cont ...

Following extensive comments from public and Members, Town Council resolved that:

A letter be sent to all Members of Sunderland City Council outlining the Town Council's strong opposition to the closure proposal, requesting individual Member support and seeking assurances that each would vote against such a proposal in Committee or Council;

A request be made to SCC Cllr L Farthing - Children, Learning and Skills Portfolio Holder for a public meeting to be held to discuss the closure proposals;

and,

Cllr Turner's commitment to provide a Community Chest application form be noted.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr R Coulson:

Further request for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit in North Street and South Street, East Rainton. Cllr requests name, job title and contact details of SCC officer considering this repeated request.

Seeks assurances from SCC that there are adequate supplies of gritting salt for remainder of the winter.

Seeks an explanation for the continued closure of left-hand lane at Gillas Lane to A182 (Burn Hotel).

Cllr D Geddis:

Requests attendance of Northumbria Police at a future meeting - has concerns re knife and drug related incidents.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reports that metal fencing has been cut at bridge at lake at Peat Carr and requires repair. Requests that SCC waive charges for replacement bins in cases where these have been stolen or damaged.

Cllr C Willis:

Has received complaints of excessive mud on Regent Street arising from ongoing works at Gleeson Development.

Cllr R Elvin:

Reported that SCC had furnished him with details of locations for installation of speed restriction signs.

Cllr K Pearson:

Reports loose paving stones in Downs Lane.

Ongoing issue with a blocked drain at rear of Price Wise, Hetton.

Problem at Park Estate with vehicles parking on grassed areas.

Signed:

Date:

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Item 6 cont ...

Cllr M Hopper:

Queries progress with plans for the installation of barriers at Peat Carr.
Request TC to continue to press Northumbria Police for the reason that the perpetrator of a burglary captured on CCTV was not prosecuted.

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) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that he had contacted Balfour Beatty to express concern about the poor quality of lighting on Hetton Christmas tree, but he had not yet received a response.

TC advised that bench seat owned by Town Council and sited outside The Hetton Centre had been extensively damaged by a delivery vehicle. He was in liaison with the company and would be submitting an insurance claim.

TC informed Members that he had received no response from PCC Northumbria or Robert Jenrick MP to his requests for attendance.

TC advised that the Chairman of Hetton Town Trust had informed him that he would not be attending a meeting of the Town Council.

TC reminded Council that at September 20 meeting he had been requested to contact the charity "Ambition" to obtain a position statement re Hetton Lyons Boys Club site. He had established that "Ambition" had been merged with UK Youth to whom he had written in October. TC had now heard back from Director of National Programmes who had undertaken to provide an update for February meeting.

TC reported that he had been in contact with SCC Customer Service Delivery Manager about ongoing concerns re inconsistent feedback to issues raised. A new digital strategy to aid customer service was being developed and details would be brought to February meeting, TC added that Members would immediately have access to an email address exclusively for councillors.

Town Council resolved:

To note the Town Clerk's update:

and,

Request that TC write to Hetton Town Trust to seek details of accountability arrangements.

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9) Financial report

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

Town Council resolved to continue with insurance cover with the existing supplier for a one- year period and seek quotes from other providers for 22-23.

Income:

Interest - Barclays Business Premium Account £0.71

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (January 21 - incl. additional hrs worked Dec) £1218.20

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities) £573.20

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) DD £84.19

Sub-total: £1875.59

Town Clerk expenditure:

Zoom Video Communications (charge for Standard Pro monthly subscription) £14.39

Sub-total: £14.39

Other expenditure:

Zurich Municipal (Insurance Policy renewal 21-22) £720.58

EE (invoice 4 Jan 21) DD £18.00

Sub-total: £738.58

Total: £2628.56

Barclays Current account balance @ 14 Jan 21: **£65,628.07**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£62999.51**

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 14 Jan 21: **£28,401.96**

Town Mayor fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Co-op Bank balance @ 14 Jan 21: £1286.20

10) Planning matters

20/02219/FUL

Lyons Windows And Doors Limited, Units 5 And 6, Hetton Lyons Industrial Estate, Hetton le Hole, DH5 0RH

Proposal: Application for the erection of new pallet production building with attached pallet store to include demolition of existing building, erection of new boiler house with attached fuel store and installation of new kilns. Applicant: James Jones And Sons Ltd
SCC had advised TC that the application was invalid. Noted

20/02408/FUL

17 North Road Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9JU

Proposal: Two storey side extension to the side. Applicant: John Bell

No comments or objections.

21/00030/FUL

4 Spring Meadows Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9PD

Proposal: Extension to existing detached garage including addition of front and rear dormers. Applicant: Mr Chris Hall

No comments or objections.

4 of 5

Signed:

Date:

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11) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as outlined below:

Rural Market Towns Group re Transport Survey - **Cllr R Elvin to consider completion**

Hetton Colliery Railway 200 re AGM and Annual report (circulated 5 Jan) - **Noted**
Sunderland City Council:

Re HTC request to stop Hetton Nursery consultation (circulated 8 Jan) - **Noted**

National Association of Local Councils:

Open letter from Cllr S Baxter, Chairman (circulated 12 Jan) - **Noted**

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

New COVID grant, Elections and more Financial training (circulated 18 Jan) - **Noted**

Hetton Town Trust re attendance at HTC meetings (circulated 18 Jan) - **Noted**

B Phillipson MP re survey (circulated 18 Jan) - **TC to write to MP requesting specific details of action taken to support Hetton Nursery School**

12) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the next meeting would be at 19.15 hrs on Monday 15 February 2021 virtually or at The Hetton Centre - in line with prevailing Government guidance.