

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 21 March 2022 at The Hetton Centre, DH5 9NE

Present

Councillors R Coulson, T Dodds (from Item 6), P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor), L Gibson, P Hall, R Heron, W Little, K Pearson, M Pigdon, S Reilly, K Rowham, I Scott (from Item 5), D Thomas and S Waterston.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)

Member of the Public (MoP) x 1

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Green (work commitment) and Cllr C Willis (at hospital).

Town Council resolved to receive the apologies received.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Blackburn, Cllr J Defty or Cllr M Thornton. Town Council resolved that their absences be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 21 February 2022.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Events & Special Activities Committee meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2022.

Town Council additionally resolved to note comments by Cllr D Geddis that planning for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event was ongoing and the financial costs were subject to change.

4) Public participation

MoP suggested that the word "Coalfield" used by SCC to prefix Area Committee and by other forums was out of date and not an accurate description of the area.

Town Council resolved that TC contact SCC to request a Let's Talk consultation to consider the suggestion and seek an alternative identifier for the area.

MoP raised concern about litter in the vicinity of The Hetton Centre. The concerns were shared by Members and reference was made to forthcoming litter picks as part of the Great British Spring Clean. TC was asked to seek from SCC details of the outcome of the 2021 review of their litter signage campaign.

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5) Reports from Members

Cllr R Coulson:

Sought justification for the 7% increase in precept levied for the PCC for Northumbria.

Cllr K Pearson:

Requests new street name plates at Henry Street and Henry Court, Hetton le Hole.

Reports lead thefts from Gentoo properties in Union Street.

Cllr K Rowham:

Reports accumulation of rubble, broken windows and general rubbish at front of 17 North Road.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reports "Norfolk" reeds silting up Blossom Pond at Hetton Lyons Country Park.

Cllr L Gibson:

Reports that gate at East Rainton Play Park is padlocked open.

Expressed concern that Peat Carr Park has now been closed for six years, and seek reasons and date for re-opening.

Cllr D Geddis:

Expressed concern that residents of Kingfisher Drive, Easington Lane are paying full council tax to SCC, but area remains unadopted after ten years.

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

Hetton ward City Councillor I Scott undertook to make enquiries relating to the adoption status of Kingfisher Drive, Easington Lane.

7) Protocol for marking the death of former Members

Town Council resolved that in the event of the death of a serving or former Member, any request for the Town Council not to observe a silence as a mark of respect should be notified to the Town Clerk by the executor or next of kin of the deceased.

8) Town Clerk update

TC reported that feedback from SCC to issues raised at Dec and Jan meetings had been circulated on 8 March.

TC advised that an officer from SCC had visited on 3 March to make a joint assessment of documentation removed from the Room 1 storage cupboard. This comprised mostly out of date information which TC could dispose of with discretion. However, there were also some legal and planning documents relating to Hetton UDC dating to the 1950's. SCC officer has undertaken to seek advice.

It was the view of SCC officer that overall, the review, sift, action and disposal of items would take around one month of full-time work.

Signed:

Date:

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TC reported that he had recently, for the first time seen information about a Covid Champions programme run by SCC during the pandemic. Member knowledge of the programme was scant. TC undertook to sign-up for any further updates.

TC advised that he had learned that the Chief Operating Officer of UK Youth (the charity owning the former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site) had left the organisation. However, he had been given a new contact, from whom he would seek an update.

9) Financial report

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

HMRC (VAT refund 2020-2021)	£1054.63
Barclay's Bank (interest - Business Premium account)	£0.71
Total:	£1055.34

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for Feb and 21/22 pay award)	£1435.19
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£725.58
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £106.51
Total:	£2267.28

Town Clerk expenditure:

Nil

Other expenditure:

Konica Minolta (copy and print charges 10/11/21- 09/02/22)	£17.95
Hetton Town Trust (Meeting room cost- 21 Feb 22)	£60.00
EE (mobile phone - 4 Mar 22)	DD £12.00
Flagpole Express (Ukraine flag incl. delivery)	£39.48
Co. Durham Association of Local Councils (AGAR training session- 22 Feb 22)	£10.00
DC Services Ltd (supply of hard drive and adapter cable)	£164.39

Sub-total:

£303.82

Total: £2571.10

Barclays Current account balance @ 17 Mar 22:	£59,548.07
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£56,967.97
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 17 Mar 22:	£28,405.51

Town Mayor fund:

Income:

Paid in by TC personal cheque (in lieu misc. coinage from storage room)	£4.58
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Expenditure:

Co-op Bank balance @ 17 Mar 22:	Nil
	£1754.58

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Signed:

Date:

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10) HALO (Hetton Aspirations Linking Opportunities)

TC reported that he had invited SCC officer(s) to attend to provide an update, but this had been declined; and had been informed that updates would instead be provided via a quarterly newsletter.

TC added that a reply to the Town Council's letter of 3 February 22 to S Pitt, Northumbria Police had not been forthcoming, despite a progress chase.

Town Council resolved that:

TC submit a request to the appropriate authorities using Freedom of Information legislation to obtain the information required about the HALO project
and,
TC liaise with Town Mayor re any further steps which may be needed.

11) Crisis in Ukraine

TC introduced the previously circulated Briefing Note provided by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

Town Council noted that a Ukraine flag had been purchased for flying at Hetton Mini Park and resolved that:

An additional Ukraine flag be purchased for display at Easington Lane
and,
Information about the work of the Disasters Emergency Committee be included on the Town Council's FB page.

12) Asset Register 21-22

TC introduced the item and previously circulated document. He explained that work was ongoing to ensure the register was comprehensive.

Town Council resolved to approve the Asset Register for 21-22, subject to the addition of the acquisition in 2020 of two x flagpoles in Hetton Mini Park.

13) Risk Assessment 21-22

TC introduced the item and previously circulated document.
Town Council resolved to approve the Risk Assessment for 21-22.

14) Planning matters

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

22/00187/FUL

Tolga House 237 High Street Easington Lane Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 0JT

Proposal: Conversion of garage to habitable room and erection of first floor extension.

Applicant: Mr Tolga Uyan

Regarded as overdevelopment and noted SCC had queries re the application.

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22/00346/FUL

1 Lambton Drive Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-Le-Spring DH5 0EW

Proposal: Erection of single storey extensions to front and rear and two-storey side extension.

Applicant: Mr Alan Young

No comments or objections.

15) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to note all items of correspondence listed below.

Co Durham Association of Local Councils:

Civility and Respect Project update - circulated 22 Feb 22

What does NALC do - circulated 22 Feb 22

Levelling up White Paper - circulated 22 Feb 22

DCC Chief Planner update - circulated 22 Feb 22

NALC LTN and briefing updates – circulated 17 Mar 22

Ukraine assistance advice

Together for Children:

Coalfield Family Centre Open Day - circulated 7 Mar 22

Fix my Street.com:

Resident complaint re BT Exchange, Easington Lane

Sunderland City Council:

Update re Hetton Park - circulated 14 Mar 22

Notification of litter picks in Coalfield area.

MoP: Freedom of Information request

16) Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 19 April 2022 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton le Hole, DH5 9NE commencing 19.15 hrs.

Signed:

Date: