

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER, 2013 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.15 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. D. Turner, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Anderson, J. Blackburn, Cummings, Glover, Hepple, Mrs. Richardson, Robinson, Steel, Mrs. Storey, Robson, Todd. (12).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. J. Blackburn, Mrs. J. Heron, R. Heron, Maddison, Nairns, Tate, Wilkinson (8)

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting Sgt. A. Taylor and P. C. Jeff Hudson of Hetton Community Police Team, Northumbria Police met informally with Councillors to discuss and highlight issues of concern and initiatives in the area. Several matters were highlighted, in particular, Councillor Maddison, with support from Councillor Storey, raised with concern the problem of Caravans being parked on the highways in all locations, often in front of neighbours properties. Sgt Taylor stated the only legislation which could be used related to congestion on a highway whereby emergency vehicles could not gain access if necessary.

Councillor Robson highlighted the ongoing issue of youths in gangs congregating and consuming alcohol at Hetton Lyons Country Park, particularly on weekend evening. He suggested the retailer supplying the youngsters with alcohol should be prosecuted.

Councillor Glover highlighted the problem of double parking in Regent Street causing congestion and difficulty for buses en route.

Councillor Mrs. Anderson asked what were the Police priorities in the area.

Sgt. Taylor responded that there had been a considerable reduction in general crime and disorder. However focus was now on reduction of domestic violence and youth disorder.

The Mayor thanked the officers for their time and information.

2 To receive and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting held on 21st October, 2013

The Minutes having been previously issued to Members it was MOVED by Councillor Hepple and seconded by Councillor Glover and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true and correct record, following the corrections in Item 6 – Councillor Glover correction of name.

3 Matters Arising from Minutes

No matters were raised by members.

4 Declarations of Interest (D.I.P.)

None received.

5 To adjourn the meeting to allow public participation

One member of the public was present and raised concern that the level of vandalism being caused by youths at Hetton Lyons Country Park had not been addressed by the police and Councillors during discussions in the previous part of the meeting.

6 Matters Raised by Members

Following nominations and discussion amongst Councillors it was confirmed that:

- a. The recently retired after 34 years of service to the Hetton Community, Dr. Martin Baldesara has retired from Hetton Medical Centre.
- b. Janice Robson-Parmley has also retired from Age UK (Hetton) after 15 years of work within the community day clubs etc.

Both to be advised and presented with awards at the Mayor's Civic Dinner in April 2014.

7 Christmas Illuminations Project 2013

The Town Clerk gave a full report on the operation of the Switch On Event, 22nd November, 2013 and all matters for Members information relating to:

- a. Temporary Event Notice
- b. Event Safety Plan
- c. Publicity and marketing Campaign
 - i. Town Courier distribution to households
 - ii Leaflet distribution to schools
 - iii Press and other publicity

8 Planning Information

Application No. 12/0178/FULL
Houghton Quarry – Information

Application No. 13/02797/FUL
8 Houghton Road – Change of use

It was confirmed that the applications be considered at a meeting of the planning and Development Sub Committee to be held 3p.m., Monday, 25th November.

9 Information for Councillors for Vera Baird, Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner – Community Fund

Criteria details for members

10 The Environment Agency – Personal Flood Plans

For information

11. Applications for Financial Assistance Received

H.P.S., H.L.F.C. Under 15 – to be referred to Finance Committee Meeting on Wednesday, 28th November at 4.00 p.m.

12. a Mayoral Visits to Residential Homes

b. Sale of Mayoral Charity Calendars

13. Information for Members – Durham Association of Local Councils - Newsletter

14. Capital Highway Maintenance Programme 2014/15, preparation of programme.

Maintenance Programme 2014/15 Members were asked to make submissions to the Town Clerk within one week to suggest highways and areas which should be included in budget and programme for highways

Signed
Councillor Mrs. D. Turner
Mayor