

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER, 2015 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor Mrs. Juliana Heron, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Adamson, Mrs. Alcock, Mrs. Campbell, Coates, Costello, Coulson, Cummings, Defty, Elvin, Geddis, R. Heron, Holt, Hepple, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Wallace, D. Wallace. (18).

Prior to the commencement of the Meeting the Mayor made the following statement:-

'To advise both Members of the Council and members of the public that the Meeting may be recorded by both audio and video and photographs may also be taken. Indeed the Town Council are recording the Meeting, in accordance with their adopted policy. Any objections to this should be stated before the commencement of the Meeting.'

7.00 p.m. Public Participation

The Mayor announced that there was to be a period of 15 minutes to allow any members of the public to address the meeting on matters which are on the Agenda. Each member of the public may speak on one matter for a maximum of 3 minutes.

Mr. Maurice Edmundson, a resident from East Rainton, referred to the ongoing application for village green status for Stobley Moor area, he stressed that the area had been maintained by himself since 1977 and problem parked cars had been removed and suggested no village green application was required.

The Town Clerk stated that this item was formally on the Agenda of the Meeting as Item 12 when it would be discussed.

Mr. John Metcalf, a resident of Whitehill Road, Easington Lane, referred to the area of land opposite his property which was formally landscaped by Sunderland City Council 25 years ago. However, it is now overgrown and not maintained to the former standard and despite discussions with officers from both the City and Town Councils, this problem was ongoing. He asked formally that the area was maintained and cut at least 3 times a year.

Ms. K. Pearson, resident, stressed the Town Council Website was not updated and needed attention.

Mrs. Pat Robson from Hetton Greenwatch referred to the recent Anti-litter Poster Campaign which invited pupils from Hetton Lyons Primary School to design artwork, which would be used in a campaign at Hetton Lyons Country Park. She suggested the Town Council write and thank and commend the pupils for the excellent entries.

The Town Clerk stated that this was in hand.

Ms. K. Rowham made comment that Public Participation questions should be fair and consistent to all those wishing to ask questions and not favourable to some.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted and approved from Cllrs Mrs. Anderson, Blackburn and Green (3).

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 21st July, 2015

The Minutes having been distributed to Members it was MOVED by Councillor Hepple and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Sinnott and RESOLVED that they be accepted as a true and correct record.

3 To consider matters arising from the Minutes

a. Cllr Holt expressed concern at the apparent way information was not forthcoming and 'somehow kept in the dark' regarding the sale of Hetton House by Sunderland City Council and asked if there was a published methodology for such.

b. Cllr Elvin asked if any response to the issues previously raised regarding (i) problem of speeding traffic at Lyons Avenue (ii) the maintenance of the seat at Moorsley CA (iii) problem parking at Barnard Park in area of Hetton Swimming Baths.

He asked the Town Clerk to ensure these matters were followed up.

4 To Record Declarations of Interest from Members for any items on the Agenda

Cllr. Cummings made a Declaration for Item 8 as a Member of the City Council Planning and Development Committee.

Cllr Costello made a Declaration of a personal nature in respect of planning Applications Item 8.

Cllr D. Wallace made a declaration in Item 19 as a Member of New Dawn organisation.

5 Reports from Members, Ward Matters for Investigation

Cllr Mrs. Campbell reported that the grass cutting at park Estate left cut grass strewn around and also that the strimming of area rear of York Crescent/Hetton Park/Welfare Road was not now being done and the area was very unsightly. She also reported the problem of potholes on highways of Park Estate.

Cllr Elvin asked for a position statement regarding the old football field land at Colliery Lane he suggested that Hetton Lyons Cricket Club may be interested in acquiring land for leisure/sporting purposes.

Cllr Mrs. Turner referred to ongoing matters raised by residents concerning the condition of The Cottage, park View , and she advised Members that enquiries had been made with the relevant officers of Sunderland City Council.

Cllr Geddes mentioned his discussions and reports to Northumbria Police Community Team regarding issues. He was pleased to report their positive action and help given.

Cllr Coates reported the problem of traffic speeding and inconsiderate and indiscriminate parking adjacent to Market Street on the Pit Lane Road to Hetton Lyons Country Park and asked if investigations could also be made to try and prevent dangerous speeding in this area.

6 New District Register of Electors and Street Index

The Town Clerk advised Members that the aforementioned was now available in the Town Council Offices.

7 City of Sunderland Traffic Order – Enforcement of 20 M.P.H. Speed restriction outside Hetton Secondary School and Hetton Primary Schools

Members were provided with details. Cllr Elvin asked would this be enforceable, who is responsible and how it would be enforced.

8 Planning Consultation Issues

App No. 15/01531/FUL
Erection of porch and replacement fence
(N.B. Cllr Costello had declared an interest and left the room at this point)

App. No. 15/01710/FUL
Wheatsheaf premises, Moorsley Road.
Change of use from Public House to residential dwelling

Members made no objections to the application, however, Cllr Defty noted that when applications were made for residential dwellings it would be appropriate if noted and commented whether parking area/space was available within the new plans.

Councillor Training – Planning issues by Danielle Pearson, Head of Planning, Sunderland City Council, 6.00 p.m. Wednesday, 30th September. It was noted most Members will be able to attend this training event.

9 The Town Clerk gave Members the following information

Hetton Town Armistice Service, Wednesday, 11th November, 2015.

Easington Lane Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, 2015 at St. Michael's Lyons Parish Church.

Notice of Moorsley C.A. Armistice Day Event, Wednesday, 11th November, 2015.

10 Northumbria in Bloom, Presentation of Wards Ceremony, 15th September, 2015

The Mayor reported that she had attended the Awards Ceremony earlier in the day and was delighted to advise Members of the judging results in the following Categories:

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Large Town | Hetton-le-Hole | Gold Award |
| Conservation Project | Hetton Lyons Country Park | Gold Award |
| Conservation Project | Rainton Meadow Nature Reserve | Gold Award |
| Business Parks | Rainton Bridge Business Park | Gold Award |
| Private Gardens | Mr. A. White, East Rainton | Gold Award |

The Mayor thanked Sunderland City Council Staff and Officers for their efforts and support in 2015 to achieve such prestigious awards.

11 The Town Clerk

The Town Clerk gave update reports for Members on Items 11 - 14

15 Hetton Town Council Statutory Audit – Annual Return

Reports and Comments from Government Auditor B.D.O. Ltd. The Clerk gave Members a copy of all report and recommendations.

It was moved by Cllr Hepple, seconded by Cllr. Turner and RESOLVED by Council that the Report be accepted and approved.

16 C.D.A.L.C. Training Programme – ‘Councillors and the Role of the Standards Board’, County Hall, Durham, 6.00 p.m. 18th November, 2015

It was noted that 10 members wished to be registered to attend.

17 Durham County Council, Notification of Field House Farm Opencast Planning Appeal

Members noted details

18 Transforming Lives Launch Event, 24th September, 2015

Members were advised of this new befriending service to be held at the Apostolic Church, Easington Lane.

19 Correspondence

Hetton's Phantom ! Members received a letter written in verse highlighting a report of nuisance being caused by bird feeding by persons unknown which was attracting rats onto public footpath at Welfare Road.

The Clerk to advise City Council Environmental Services.

PART II

Local Government Access to Information (Variation Order 2006)

The reports contained in the meeting Agenda are not for publication as the Town Council is likely to exclude the public during consideration thereof as they contain information relating to an individual, the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including HTC authority) and information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings. (Paragraphs 1, 3 and 5 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

The public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The Mayor thanked the public for their attendance but read the above exclusion notice.

20 To consider and receive information regarding funding of expenditure for May 2015 Election from Sunderland City Council Electoral Officer for appropriate services. To resolve payment and agree to transfer of funds.

the Town Clerk gave a full report of the Council financial position in respect of the election payment.

It was arranged to hold a Finance and Resources Committee to examine all issues at 4.00 p.m. on Friday, 2nd October, 2015

Cllr Elvin referred to the operation of the Election Count organised by the Sunderland City Council and stated some services were already paid for in respect of Constituency election costs. So all charges for HTC should be questioned.

Cllr Holt supported this process.

21 To consider Applications for Financial Assistance. (a) H & ECH (b) To examine and review Community Grants Award Scheme

It was agreed these matters to be considered at the Finance and Resources Committee, 20th October, 2015

22 Update: Progress and funding of Hetton Heritage Committee Sculpture Proposal, membership of committee representation

Cllr Campbell Declared an Interest as a sculpture committee member, however gave a resume of the position and what is desired.

The Council agreed to discuss and examine any future funding of a project, will depend on what the Committee progress with plans for artwork.

23. Christmas Illuminations Project 2015

To approve funding and proposals

To agree switch-on date of Friday, 4th December, 2015

The Clerk presented a verbal report relating to funding options and suggestions for 2015.

It was agreed to hold a Community Activities and Events Committee Meeting to examine all matters in full. This will be 5.00 p.m., Thursday, 24th September, 2015 at The Hetton Centre.

Signed
Councillor Mrs. J. Heron
Mayor