

**MINUTES OF THE HETTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 21st MARCH, 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
THE HETTON CENTRE AT 7.00 p.m.**

Present: Councillor David Wallace, Mayor in the Chair

Councillors: Mrs. Adamson, Alcock, Mrs Campbell, Costello, Coulson, Elvin, Geddis, R. Heron, Hepple, Ms. Pearson, Mrs. Sinnott, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. G. Wallace. (14).

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.'

The Mayor formerly welcomed Ms. K. Pearson to the meeting as the newly elected Councillor for the Hetton Ward and wished her a successful and fruitful membership of the Council.

Prior to the meeting a presentation was made to Members by Mr. Steve Hessler from Hetton Hawks Cycling Club who are based at Hetton Lyons Country Park. Mr. Hessler gave Members details of the Hawks successful bid to stage the National Cycle-Cross Event in the Country Park in January, 2018.

He outlined all organisation bid matters and explained to Members (distributed literature) how important and prestigious this National Event to be staged in our region, a real coup for Hetton.

He explained there could be up to 5,000 people visiting during the weekend and that he was in the process of discussions with all statutory bodies and City council regarding matters.

It was intended to establish an Organising Committee with all necessary groups including the Town Council to ensure success of the event. He would advise the Members of all progress. The Mayor and Members expressed their support of the project and thanked Mr. Hessler for his Presentation.

7.00 p.m. Public Participation

Four members of the public had recorded their attendance.

Mr Mathews referred to a confidential letter he had been shown which suggested that Sunderland City Council had reported that there was no statutory duty to undertake street cleaning in the Town.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes again reported the volume of litter that they had cleaned up from the boundary fence of their property. They feel that Sunderland City Council should 'get their act together' and take steps to issue Litter Fixed Penalty to offenders and perhaps be proactive and post anti-litter notices/warning etc.

It was noted that due to austerity measures Hetton Town Centre did not have a traditional road sweeper employed and he was a great miss, litter was now a real problem.

In support Cllr Geddis had submitted photographs to the Town Clerk of the acute problem and stressed pressure should be put on the City Council to address the problem. He feared the move to fortnightly bin collections would increase the problem.

1. To Receive, Accept and Approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received in advance of the Meeting from Councillors Mrs. Anderson, Blackburn, Mrs. J. Heron, and received on the night from Councillors Cummings, Defty, Green and Holt (7).

2 To receive, accept and approve the Minutes of the last Meeting of the Town Council held on Tuesday 21st March, 2017

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

3 To Consider matters arising from the Minutes

Cllr Elvin in referring to Item 2, highlighted the question previously referred to regarding the membership of Hetton Lyons Boys Club Management Trustees.

Cllr Coulson stated that it was noted that new road markings were being placed on various areas in the Town.

Cllr Geddis queried the safe practices of workmen whilst this process was on going.

Cllr Costello regarding the litter issues highlighted the situation operated by Sunderland City Council that van vehicles were not allowed into the Beech Street Recycling facility without obtaining a permit. He felt this system can do nothing but encourage fly tipping etc.

Cllr Sinnott referred to previous urgent reports that pot holes were very evident in 75 – 110 Houghton Road were now emergency level.

Cllr Mrs Campbell reported similar problems in York Crescent

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

Cllr Geddis made a declaration to Item 15 as a Member of the Culture for Hetton Sculpture Group.

5. Reports from Members Ward Matters

Cllr Coulson reported positive news on litter in East Rainton due to voluntary litter picks, the area is looking better, however it seems the estate area does not have enough litter bins or advisory signage to encourage use.

Cllr Campbell reported a similar request at the Park Estate. She advised Members that during her Ward walkabout visits she and Cllr Geddis had addressed a problem of dumping at the rear of Richard Street and in the former Fox and Hounds area.

Cllr Turner reported that Hetton Cemetery had received attention by grounds staff and was looking better. She advised Members that she and Cllr Blackburn had met with appropriate City Council Officers to visit areas of concern regarding pot holes and highway issues.

Cllr D Wallace advised Members that following voluntary litter picks using equipment purchased by HTC (anyone can arrange to borrow and use) arrangements have been made with the City Council for collections to be done at agreed pick up points.

Cllr Sinnott suggested Town Councillors should engage with the community groups undertaking this voluntary work.

Cllr Campbell however, stated that it shouldn't be left to the goodwill of volunteers, but Sunderland City Council to undertake. She suggested that an approach should be made for the appropriate Officer to meet with the Town Councillors to discuss matters.

Cllr Pearson referred to the recent report of the large stone adjacent to the car park Union Street Church, had been forcibly moved onto the car park by vandals.

The Clerk confirmed that this was to be rectified within 24 hours.

Cllr Geddis asked if any report and data that could be obtained from the Hetton Community police Inspector referring to recent break-ins and crime in our Town. He also asked if dog fouling litter bins could be installed at new development Clarence Court, Easington Lane.

Cllr Elvin asked if clarification as to the make up membership and meeting schedule of the HTC Executive Committee

Cllr R Heron in response explained that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Leader and Deputy Leader form the Committee who meet prior to all Town Council Meetings and whenever business requires such.

Cllr Turner was pleased to advise Members that East Rainton Methodist Church are starting a Youth Club, which hopefully will receive funding from Sunderland City Council, Coalfield Community Chest.

6. Hetton Town Council Bi-Election, 2nd March, 2017 – Results of Poll

Members received a copy of results and Cllr Campbell again congratulated Cllr Pearson on her election. This was offered in full support by Cllr Elvin, however, he did query the cost of holding an election is an expenditure issue to the Town Council whereby funds could be better spent.

7. Hetton Library – Review of Report on ‘Developing a Community Venture’

Members were distributed details of a presentation made by City Council outlining how voluntary groups could engage and run their own local library.

It was reported that there had been an ‘expression of interest’ by a local group. Members examined the documents and were briefed by the Town Clerk.

Following questions by Cllr Campbell it was confirmed that the detailed document was a public document for all to view.

Cllr Turner stated such discussions had been held in an open City Council Meeting referring to the hope community groups would be encouraged in this community venture.

Several Members expressed the wish and need for the Hetton Library to remain open in any way possible, it is a valuable asset.

The Town Clerk explained that the Head of Library Service would speak to Town Councillors and groups concerned.

It was moved by Cllr Elvin and supported by Cllr Heron that a formal expression of interest should be submitted by the Town Council.

Cllr Heron highlighted that such projects and aims benefit by partnership working with other interested groups.

8. Gentoo Coalfield Area Report

Members received and noted contents of Report.

9. C.D.A.L.C. Training for New Councillors

Members were advised of suitable training would be held in May 2018

N.A.L.C. National Spring Conference 26th April, 2017

Members noted and agreed to receive information with no action to be taken.

12 Mayor's Diary and Engagements

The Mayor gave details of all.

PART II

13 Consideration of Champions of Community Nomination

As the nomination was received this Meeting in the Civic Year it was agreed to carry over to next Meeting and make the award in the next Civic Year 2017/18.

14 Correspondence received from Culture for Hetton Sculpture Group

The group had received a written offer of funding from HTC Community Grants Fund, together with requirements attached to such. The group however had replied **and** suggested other options as distributed to Members for information and action. Following discussion, the Town Clerk was instructed to reply reiterating the Town Council decision and requirements.

Signed
Councillor D. Wallace
Mayor