

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 18 November 2019 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, D Geddis, R Heron, K Pearson (Town Mayor), S Quigley, K Rowham, C Sinnott, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x7

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received directly from or on behalf of Cllr J Blackburn (representing residents of SCC Hetton ward at another meeting), Cllr J Cunningham (attendance at another meeting), Cllr J Green (work commitment), Cllr M Hopper (work commitment), Cllr A Liversidge (other appointment), Cllr D Liversidge (other appointment), Cllr M Thornton (meeting at Civic Centre) and Cllr D Turner (meeting at Civic Centre).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

2) Declarations of interest

Cllr J Defty declared an interest re Item 14 - Hetton Lyons Cricket Club.

3) Public participation

There were no matters raised.

4) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Meeting of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 21 October 2019.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of Events and Special Activities Committee held on Tuesday 5 November 2019.

c) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Meeting of Planning & Development Committee held on Monday 11 November 2019.

d) Subject to the inclusion of an amendment to reflect that Cllr R Elvin had presided over Item 1, Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Management & Policy Committee held on Tuesday 12 November 2019.

1 of 7

Signed:

Date:

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

5) Edward Street, Fairy Street and Caroline Street Study

TC introduced Graham Scanlon (GS), Assistant Director of Housing SCC, Julie Wearmouth (JW), Housing Manager SCC and Jane Bryan (JB), Consultant.

The Town Mayor suspended Standing Orders for the duration of this agenda item to facilitate contributions from MoP's resident in the area concerned.

GS advised Council that SCC had commissioned a feasibility study to assess a range of issues affecting the neighbourhood. This was to be undertaken by David Adamson & Partners and was a follow-on from an exercise undertaken in 2013.

JB explained the methodology and advised that residents of 119 properties would be contacted and asked to participate by an end December 19 deadline.

Initial issues identified included - absentee landlords, decline in property values, fly tipping, dog fouling, unkempt gardens and perceived shortfalls in environmental maintenance.

Members fully engaged with GS and JB and raised a number of queries on a range of topics:

Cllr C Sinnott enquired about methods of targeting "hard to reach" groups and contacting landlords and queried how the study results would be publicised.

Cllr K Rowham queried the no. of properties in the study area owned by SCC and social housing landlords; raised a query about the Home Office contract for resettling asylum seekers; and highlighted that other location were also experiencing problems similar to those in the study area.

Cllr R Elvin queried the costs of the 2013 and 2019 surveys and the levels of effectiveness in identifying and addressing issues.

Cllr R Heron provided an historical perspective and background to the issues affecting the area.

Cllr D Geddis concurred with Cllr Heron's appraisal of previous arrangements for owner occupiers relating to market valuation and relocation.

Cllr R Coulson queried Gentoo allocation priorities.

GS and JB responded in relation to queries around the agenda topic. GS added that he would be happy to attend a future HTC meeting to respond to the wider housing issues raised.

Those points raised by MoP's were noted by GS and he undertook to contact residents directly re specific issues.

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

6) Reports from Members

Cllr R Elvin:

Requested an update re changes to parking restrictions outside Tesco.

Raised a further query about delays in S106 agreement monies arising from the Fir Tree Lane, Easington Lane development.

Sought information on grant funding available from a wind turbine fund.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reported a range of indiscriminately dumped items on land near Hetton Working Men's club.

Cllr J Defty:

Sought an update re previous query about cycle path between Hetton and Murton road.

Cllr K Rowham:

Reported continuing problems with speeding in Lyons Avenue.

Cllr C Willis:

Soil build-up on pathway (arising from Persimmon Homes development) running from Hazard Lane to Rainton Bridge is restricting access.

Ongoing issues with mud on road arising from housing development on former site of Easington Lane Primary School.

Requests that grassed area at Brick Garth, Easington Lane be used to provide up to ten x parking spaces to ease parking congestion.

Cllr K Pearson:

Requests that accumulation of leaves throughout the district be cleared.

Requests that rainwater gullies throughout the district be inspected and cleared.

Reports large pot hole on North Road.

Reports vehicles are parking on grassed at Park Estate.(foot of York Crescent)

7) Update from Town Clerk

TC reported that one suggestion had been received for the siting of recycling facilities for Scope charity and he had passed to their consultant.

TC advised that he had received feedback from SCC on a range of issues, including:

*Hetton Mini Park Lights - confirmation received that responsibility for maintenance rests with SCC. Significant work is required including renewing the power supply and replacing some columns and lamp units. Funding had been requested in planned property capital maintenance budgets for 2020/21.

* Loose kerbs at Markle Rigg, North St, and Grange View, East Rainton had been repaired.

Signed:

Date:

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

7) Update from Town Clerk cont ...

- * The SuDs issue remained under investigation by SCC officers. TC was requested to refer this matter to Health and Safety officials at SCC, and if this proved unproductive to escalate to the Health and Safety Executive.

TC reported that Postage by Phone (Pitney Bowes) had now refunded the 3 x £50.00 DD payments taken without notice.

8) Photocopier lease arrangements

TC reported that he had again been unable to obtain information from his contact at Konica Minolta necessary to complete his proposals on this topic.

TC added that he had heard back from an alternative supplier, and they had advised that they were unable to match the prices offered by Konica Minolta.

Town Council resolved that this agenda item again be deferred.

9) Financial report

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

Income:	Nil
Staffing expenditure:	
Town Clerk net salary (Nov 19)	£1019.91
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£452.78
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £63.73
Sub-total:	£1536.42
Town Clerk expenditure:	
Post Office Ltd (12x 1st Class stamps)	£8.40
Tesco express (2 x Duracell 9V batteries - for PA system)	£7.88
Sub-total:	£16.28
Other expenditure:	
EE (invoice 4 Nov 19)	DD £31.57
Co Durham Assoc. of Local Councils (1 x attendance at Chairmanship course - 22 Oct 19)	£27.00
Konica Minolta (Biz Hub C308 rental: Nov 19 - Feb 20)	£132.77
Sub-total:£191.34	
	Total: £1744.04
Barclays Current account balance @ 15 Nov 19	£43021.55
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£41,277.51
Barclays Reserve account balance:	£28365.61
Town Mayor fund:	
Income:	
Sale of framed aerial photo x 2	£20.00
Expenditure:	Nil
Co-op Bank balance @ 15 Nov 19:	£1521.00
	4 of 7

Signed:

Date:

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

10) Coalfields Area Committee

Cllr K Rowham provided a verbal report and outlined ongoing concerns about the process for identifying locations for VAS signs.

Cllr Rowham raised queries about the role of "Partners" in the CAC framework and the "Space Hive" funding platform.

Town Council resolved that:
Town Clerk seeks further information from SCC
and
the verbal report from Cllr K Rowham be noted.

11) Planning application

Town Council considered the following planning application received from SCC.

19/01835/FUL

36 Richard Street Hetton le Hole, DH5 9HW Proposal: Erection of detached garage to rear.

Town Council resolved to defer to a meeting of the Planning and Development Committee.

12) Applications for Community Grant Awards

TC introduced the item and confirmed that both applications met the policy requirements in terms of provision of a signature, bank statement and constitution.

TC highlighted that the application received from Hetton and Lyons Mother's Union included the sum of £80.00 for the purchase of alcohol.

After discussion, Town Council resolved to approve the following applications received:

Hetton and Lyons Mother's Union - £196.00 for members lunch in December
(grant excludes alcohol element of application request)

East Rainton Methodist Church - £275.00 for community event at Christmas.

13) Town Mayor issues

Cllr K Pearson verbally reported that she had attended the following engagements in her capacity as Town Mayor:

Armistice Sunday at Easington Lane. Service conducted by Pastor Meldrum of the Apostolic Church.

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

13) Town Mayor issues cont ...

Armistice Day service at Hetton Mini Park. Service conducted by the Rev Tim Wall. Both events had been well attended.

Showman's Guild annual lunch at Ramside Hall.

Cllr Pearson announced that for 19-20, her chosen charities would be the Great North Air Ambulance and the Children's Air Ambulance. Cllr Pearson sought Members support.

Town Council resolved to note the verbal report from Town Mayor.

14) Request from Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

Cllr J Defty declared an interest and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

TC referred to the previously circulated report and associated correspondence.

After discussion, Cllr R Heron proposed, seconded by Cllr D Geddis that Town Council support the renewal of the sponsorship of an advertising board at a cost of £100.00 plus VAT.

Following a vote by show of hands, the proposal was agreed - ten in favour, one against.

Town Council resolved to:

Renew sponsorship of an advertising board at a cost of £100.00 plus VAT;
and

Request Town Clerk to develop a policy relating to sponsorship.

15) Christmas event 2019

TC explained that this item was included as the Events & Special Activities Committee was scheduled to meet on 19 November, but that there would be insufficient time ahead of 29 November event for Full Council to consider draft minutes and any recommendations.

Town Council resolved to:

Authorise expenditure of up to £70.00 for the purchase of a Santa Claus costume;
and

Note that stall holders participating in the 29 November Christmas event would make a contribution directly to Union Street Methodist Church.

HTC Minutes - 18 November 2019

16) Franking machine lease

TC advised that following a decision made at 21 October 19 meeting, he had notified the franking machine provider (Northern Services Ltd) that the Town Council did not wish to enter into an annual maintenance contract.

Northern Services then notified TC that this would be in breach of Royal Mail licensing requirements.

Town Council resolved that use of the DM 60 mailing system should cease and the equipment be returned to the supplier.

17) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to receive correspondence and take action as detailed below:

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Royal Garden Parties 2020 **(Cllr K Pearson to be nominated)**

Budgets for 2020/2021 **(Noted)**

2019 AGM **(Circulate)**

Allocation of Pocket Parks Funding **(Noted)**

Larger Councils Forum Meeting - 21 Nov @Horden **(Cllrs Geddis & Waterston to attend)**

General Election and Purdah (circulated 11 Nov) **(Noted)**

Mazars External Audit **(Noted)**

Barclay's Bank:

Notification of interest rate changes. **(Noted)**

Campaign to Protect Rural England:

NE Newsletter - Autumn 19 (circulated 20 Oct). **(Noted)**

Gladman Developments:

Notification of submission of application for development at North Road. **(Noted)**

Hall Construction:

Eppleton Liaison meeting - 7 November 19. **(previously circulated - 4 Nov)**

DC Services Ltd:

End of life - Windows 2007. **(Noted)**

Durham County Council:

Provision of risk management training. **(HTC not attending)**

18) Date and Time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be 19.15 hrs on Monday 16 December 2019 at The Hetton Centre.

Signed:

Date: