

# Hetton Town Council



## **Minutes of Extraordinary meeting of Hetton Town Council held remotely on Monday 25 January 2021**

**Note:** The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

**Present:** Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow (not for Item 5), D Geddis, R Heron, A Liversidge, D Liversidge, K Pearson (Town Mayor), K Rowham, D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

### **In attendance:**

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)  
Sergeant N Hudspeth Northumbria Police (Item 4)  
Member of public (MoP) x 7

**Note:** Town Council resolved that the order of the published agenda be changed to transpose items 4 and 5.

### **1) Apologies for absence**

TC reported that he had received an apology for absence from Cllr J Green (work commitment). Town Council resolved to approve the apology for absence. No apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Blackburn and Town Council resolved to record his absence as unapproved.

### **2) Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3) Public participation**

There were no items for discussion.

### **4) Anti-Social Behaviour in Hetton and district**

Town Council resolved to suspend standing orders to allow public participation in this agenda item.

Sgt N Hudspeth, Northumbria Police provided an update and comments.

Key points included:

Reported youth ASB down by 40% in Hetton and surrounding area; spate of incidents affecting sports complex and welfare ground; arrest of the perpetrator of damage to Hetton Interchange and referral to Youth Offending Panel; difficulties in identifying culprits due to mask wearing; poor quality of some CCTV footage; and the importance of community assistance in providing intelligence feedback to the Police.

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Signed:

Date:

**HTC Extraordinary 25 January 21**  
**Item 4 cont ...**

The following matters were raised:

MoP:

Request for Northumbria Police assistance in dealing with off-road motorcycles and quad bikes in Peat Carr and Moorsley.

Cllr D Turner:

Enquired if there was any connection in the timings of major episodes of ASB which occurred in Jan 20 and Jan 21.

Cllr S Waterston:

Under-age motor cyclist causing nuisance throughout Hetton town centre on 25 January; lack of assistance to a resident affected by activities of a drug dealer neighbour; lack of police action to social media footage of attempted house/outbuildings break-ins, attempted car thefts and lead thefts; and police viewpoint on the use of CCTV as a deterrent.

Cllr M Hopper:

Requests that Northumbria Police work in an advisory capacity with relevant SCC officers re the design of barriers for Peat Carr.

Expressed concern over reports from residents that crime numbers were not being routinely issued.

Offered his thanks to Northumbria Police for assistance in dealing with cannabis farms.

Commented that ASB issues were becoming more serious in nature.

Cllr R Coulson:

Queried the amount of time not being spent directly by officers on tackling crime.

Cllr D Geddis:

Queried the no. of officers routinely available on shift.

Expressed concern re NP policy of non-pursuit and requested that this be reviewed.

MoP:

Asked for a greater Police presence on Friday evenings in Hetton in view of a recent increase in incidents.

Asked for details of opportunities for volunteering as a Special Constable.

Sought view re the use of private security companies.

Cllr C Willis:

Enquired about schemes available for young people to take part in to instil discipline, especially for repeat young offenders.

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### **Item 4 cont ...**

Cllr R Elvin:

Expressed concerns about the length of time taken to contact the 101 non-emergency number, and the unwieldy on-line reporting facility.

Sought view on feedback that reports to NP of theft should be referred to insurers, without investigation by the police.

Expressed concern re NP policy of non-pursuit and requested that this be reviewed.

MoP x 2 (Via Zoom chat facility):

Suggest that drones are used to aid the pursuit of off-road motorcycles and quad bikes.

Cllr S Waterston:

Commented that the virtual nature of the meeting had affected the level of public attendance and that a physical meeting would have been attended by higher numbers.

Cllr D Turner:

Commented that she had regular dialogue with Northumbria Police. SCC ASB Team and Gentoo.

Cllr J Defty:

Requested that Northumbria Police provide the Town Council with regular updates about incidents reported and action taken.

Sgt Hudspeth provided a response to each comment within his remit and suggested that some matters should be raised with the Chief Constable.

Town Council resolved that:

Sgt. Hudspeth be thanked for his attendance;

Town Clerk write to the Chief Constable re concerns about 101 number and on-line reporting, request a review of the non-pursuit policy and seek views on the use of drones;

And,

Town Clerk write to Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner to again request her attendance at a meeting of the Town Council.

## **5) Minutes and recommendations of Finance & Resources Committee - 21 January 2021**

Town Clerk introduced the item.

Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Finance & Resources Committee held on 21 January 2021.

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Signed:

Date: