

Hetton Town Council



Minutes of meeting held on

Monday 17 December 2018 at The Hetton Centre

Note: The meeting was audio and video recorded throughout.

Present

Cllrs J Blackburn, C McGlinchey, V Costello, R Coulson, J Cummings, J Cunningham, J Defty, R Elvin, D Geddis (Deputy Town Mayor), J Green, J Heron, R Heron, P Holt, K Pearson (Town Mayor), D Turner, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of the Public (MoP) x 8

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from or on behalf of Cllr M Adamson (family commitment), Cllr K Alcock (work commitment), Cllr K Hepple (ill health), and Cllr D Wallace (ill health).

Town Council resolved to approve these apologies.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr C Willis declared an interest in Item 8 relating to planning application 18/01985/FUL.

3) Public participation

MoP - Dry stone wall at Station Road toward site of former Fox Pub requires repair - this is further deteriorating and concerns were expressed about its' stability.

MoP - Richard Street, Hetton le Hole. This remains closed following a premises fire - concerns expressed about the siting of the "Road Closed" sign - this is considered to be located too far down the street, causing access problems and road safety concerns for motorists.

MoP - Continuing problems with excess mud on road at North Road and additionally at Fir Tree Lane - arising from Persimmon development.

MoP - public safety concerns arising from motorcyclists using path at Hetton Lyons Country Park.

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Signed:

Date:

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4) Minutes

Subject to the inclusion of a more detailed explanation for the absence of Cllr J Blackburn, Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2018.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr R Coulson conveyed to Town Council the thanks of the Head Teacher of East Rainton Primary School for assistance with improvements to the school hall.

Cllr P Holt - concerns over mud on road arising from the Persimmon development at North Road.

Cllr D Geddis - expressed strong concerns that Members had no prior knowledge that permission from the owners of Hetton Nursery for the siting of the Christmas tree within their grounds was on a one-off basis only. He challenged a MoP on this topic.

Cllr R Heron raised a point of order, objecting to the actions of Cllr Geddis.

Cllr Waterston was highly critical of the decision which appeared to have been taken in 2017 to spend £1100 for an electrical installation for the one-off siting.

Cllr Elvin expressed his view that these arrangements relating to the siting of the tree and associated costs should previously have been brought to the attention of Full Council for consideration.

6) Update from Town Clerk

TC advised that he had reported local issues raised at the November meeting with CX at SCC. These had been acknowledged and a response was awaited.

Since the November meeting, further concerns about mud deposits on North Road had been highlighted by Cllr R Heron. TC had reported these again and prompt action had been taken by SCC.

TC reported that he been in further dialogue with Co-op Bank, responding to their request for additional information to facilitate the changes required by Town Council. He added that Barclay's Bank had responded to a request made via their call centre by Town Mayor to initiate changes, but the documentation subsequently provided did not reflect Town Council requirements.

TC advised that a payroll provider (T & A Dixon Accountancy Services) had now been appointed and information relating to outstanding salary and HMRC payments provided.

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7) Financial report

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

Income:

Ticket sale proceeds from 10 Nov WW1 Commemorative event £560.00

Expenditure:

Town Clerk re-imburement

Amazon (decorations for WW1 event) £51.42
Houghton Brass Band (WW1 Event 10 Nov) £50.00
Royal British Legion (2 x wreaths) £35.00
Sainsbury's (confectionary for 23 Nov event) £20.00
Post Office (postage incl. 2 x "signed for") £7.81

Sub Total: £164.23

Other expenditure

Town Clerk net salary August 2018 - Dec 2018 (incl. July locum remuneration) **£5989.93**

HMRC (combined employee/ employer liabilities):

August 18 (incl. July locum remuneration) £904.08
September 18 £453.50
October 18 £453.30
November 18 £453.30
December 18 £453.50

Sub Total: £2717.68

Royal British Legion (proceeds from 10 Nov WW1 Commemorative event) £560.00
Barnard Cafe (catering for 10 Nov 18 WW1 event) £360.00
K Hosking Photography (decorations for 23 Nov event) £19.86
EE (invoice 4 Dec 18) £38.00

Sub Total: £977.86

Combined Total: £9849.70

Barclays Current account balance: **£23647.27**

Anticipated current account balance if all paid: **£13797.57**

Barclays Reserve account balance: **£28,323.22**

Town Mayor allowance account:

Income:

Ferryhill Town Council refund (cancelled event) £60.00

Expenditure:

Caroline Taxis (payee S Hopps):Taxi fares x 3 Mayoral functions £60.20

Co-op Bank balance: **£1662.64**

8) Planning applications

Town Council considered the following planning applications and resolved to take action as indicated below:

Cllr C Willis left the meeting for the duration of the discussion re:

18/01985/FUL: Little Eppleton Farm Colliery Lane Hetton le Hole,DH5 0QZ **(Noted)**

Cllr C Willis rejoined the meeting.

18/02127/FUL: 25 Front Street Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 9PF **(Noted)**

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Signed:

Date:

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9) Events update

TC introduced the previously circulated report. Town Council resolved to receive and note the contents of the report.

10) Town Mayor issues

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

Hetton Christmas Lights switch-on
Air Cadets presentation ceremony - Masonic Hall
ELCAP Christmas Fayre
Laurels Nursing home Christmas Fayre
Easington Lane Christmas lights switch-on
Bramble Hollow art exhibition
ELCAP Senior Citizens dinner
Disabled Club Christmas tea
ELCAP Open club lunch.

Attendance at these events continue to contribute towards community engagement activities.

Cllr Pearson advised Town Council of her wish to appoint Julie Burnhope as Mayoress for the remainder of her term of office.

Town Council resolved to receive the Town Mayor's report and note the appointment of Julie Burnhope as Mayoress.

11) General correspondence

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

Sunderland City Council:

27 Nov - Copt Hill and Hetton Bogs - Conservation Grazing (circulated 27 Nov)-**Noted**

4 Dec - Houghton Town Centre Traffic Order (circulated 6 Dec) - **Noted**

MoP: 21 Nov - Complaint letter re alleged behaviour of Councillor (advised to refer to SCC) - **Noted**

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

6 Dec - MCHLG funding for pocket parks and park refurbishment (deadline 25/1/19) - **Circulate**

10 Dec - National Salary Award 2019/2020 - **Circulate to Staffing and Employment Cmttee**

11 Dec - Armed Forces Day Funding - **remit to Events Cmttee**

12 Dec - ACAS investigations training - **Noted**

Easington Lane Independent Methodist Church:

Invitation to Members to carol service on 23 December 18 - **Noted**

12) Christmas and New year business hours

TC outlined a proposal for the closure of the Town Council office from Friday 21 December to Wednesday 2 January inclusive.

Town Council resolved to agree the revised business hours.

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13) Date and time of next meeting

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be: Monday 21 January 2019 commencing at 19.15 hrs in The Hetton Centre.

Confidential items

Town Council resolved to exclude members of the public and press under the provisions of the Admissions to Public Meetings Act 1960.

14) Appointment of Insurance provider

TC introduced the previously circulated report and provided background.

Town Council resolved to appoint Zurich Insurance as the provider for 2019-2020 at a cost of £633.68 (incl. IPT).

15) Appointment of workplace pension provider

TC introduced the previously circulated report and provided background and financial implications.

Cllr J Heron declared an interest as a Member of the Tyne & Wear Pension Fund Committee and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

TC left the meeting to enable open discussion.

Town Council resolved that Cllr R Elvin produce the minute for this item.

Following consideration of the report and affordability aspects, Town Council resolved to:

Sign up to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) set up by the Government;

authorise payment of up to £1800.00 for retrospective employer contributions for the period August - December 2018;

and,

request Town Clerk to research the availability and costs of a "Death in Service" or similar employee benefit.