

# Hetton Town Council



## Minutes of meeting held on Monday 17 June 2019 at The Hetton Centre

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

Prior to formal commencement of the meeting, Cllr Kathleen Pearson (Town Mayor) announced the passing of John Stephenson retired vicar of All Saints, Eppleton.

Cllrs R Heron and R Coulson each gave a eulogy, both citing the reverend's strong sense of community spirit.

### **Present**

Cllrs R Coulson, J Defty, T Dodds, R Elvin, A Farrow, J Green, R Heron, M Hopper, K Pearson (Town Mayor), S Quigley, K Rowham, C Sinnott and C Willis.

### **In attendance**

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)  
Members of the Public (MoP) x 3

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

Apologies for absence had been received from or on behalf of Cllr J Blackburn (representing the residents of the SCC Hetton Ward at another venue), Cllr J Cunningham (meeting commitment), Cllr D Geddis (unwell), Cllr A Liversidge (domestic commitment), Cllr D Liversidge (domestic commitment), Cllr M Thornton (meeting at Civic Centre), Cllr D Turner (meeting at Civic Centre) and Cllr S Waterston (injured).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

Cllr K Pearson declared an interest in Item 11 - Community Grant Awards.

### **3) Public participation**

The following issues were raised:

MoP requests action be taken to regulate the no. of scrap metal dealers trawling the area. Estimate is there are up to 12 x vans operating.

Also requests action to tackle anti social behaviour - citing fires at allotments, motorbikes and quad bikes causing nuisance, drug using youths congregating.

Town Council resolved that these matters be referred to Sunderland City Council.

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Signed:

Date:

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### **4) Minutes**

- a) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 20 May 2019.
- b) Town Council resolved to approve the minutes and recommendations of the Planning & Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019.

### **5) Reports from Members**

Cllr K Rowham:

Reported that weed growth at rear of Hetton Cemetery is encroaching on headstones. Requests this be cleared.

Cllr R Coulson:

Following feedback from SCC re speeding in South Street and North Street, East Rainton, requests the return of VAS imminently.

Noting the absence of East Rainton from the approved areas and associated timescales for the introduction of 20 mph zones, Cllr requests that this area is now considered for inclusion as a priority.

Cllr C Sinnott:

Expressed concerns about traffic speeds along A182 from Houghton le Spring to Hetton le Hole. Highlighted that there is only one 30mph sign (at Houghton end) of A182, and requests that an additional speed limit sign is installed at an approximate half-way point. Also requests the introduction of speed cameras. Requests traffic volume survey and consideration of traffic calming measures.

Town Council resolved that these matters be referred to Sunderland City Council.

### **6) Update from Town Clerk**

TC reported that he had been advised by Gentoo that following concerns raised by Town Council, the play area at Quarry House Lane, East Rainton had been temporarily closed, pending repairs.

TC advised that he had received no response from Hetton Nursery School to his correspondence of 29 April and 29 May re overgrown trees in the school grounds. He would further chase progress.

TC advised that responses from SCC to queries raised at May 19 meeting had been received today and this had been emailed to Members. Printed copies were circulated at the meeting.

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### 6) Update from Town Clerk cont ...

Training for new Members remained outstanding. In conjunction with new Members and CDALC, TC reported that he was looking to see if training could be arranged for the first half of July.

TC advised that the signatory change agreed by Council at May meeting had yet to be confirmed by Barclay's. In response to a Member query, TC explained that until the new signatory had received Barclay's authorisation, there was an impasse in any further changes the Council may request.

Following a Member query raised at May 19 meeting, TC had sought further information from Hetton Town Trust re the introduction of room hire costs from 1 June 19. The explanation provided was that the cost had been necessary to reflect the requirement for alternative site security arrangements after 7.00pm.

### 7) Committee Membership 2019-2020

TC referred to the previously circulated list of Committee membership. He advised that this had been compiled to fully reflect membership following receipt of Labour group nominations after the 20 May Annual meeting.

Town Council resolved to note membership of Committees.

### 8) Financial report

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

<b>Income:</b>	<b>Nil</b>
<b>Expenditure:</b>	
Town Clerk net salary (June 19)	£1019.71
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£ 452.98
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £63.73
Town Clerk re-imburement:	
Parking fee (SCC - St. Mary's)	£3.00
Tesco (paper clips)	£1.05
Wilko (2 x 500 A4 paper @ £3.00 each)	£6.00
<b>Sub-total:</b>	<b>£10.05</b>
EE (invoice 4 June 19)	DD £31.57
Top-up transfer to Mayors Fund (Co-op Bank)	£851.66
	<b>Total: £2429.70</b>

Barclays Current account balance @ 13 June 19	<b>£32069.23</b>
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	<b>£29,639.43</b>
Barclays Reserve account balance:	<b>£28,351.47</b>

#### Town Mayor fund:

**Income:** Nil

#### Expenditure:

Caroline Taxis (payee S Hopps)	
(Hetton - Seaham and return on 17/4/19)	£24.00
Co-op Bank balance @ 13 June 19:	<b>£898.34</b>
Anticipated current account balance if paid:	£874.34

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Signed:

Date:

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### **9) Internal Audit report 2018-2019**

TC explained that he had met with the Internal Auditor on 16 June to discuss her findings following conclusion of her audit. This did not provide adequate time for the necessary papers to be circulated ahead of the meeting nor, importantly, for Members to properly consider them.

Accordingly, TC sought Council approval to defer this item to an Extraordinary meeting.

Town Council resolved that TC convene an Extraordinary Meeting to be held on Monday 24 June at 6.00pm to consider this item.

### **10) Draft Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2018-2019**

Following the decision made at Item 9, TC recommended that this item too be deferred to an Extraordinary meeting as the two items were linked.

Town Council resolved that TC convene an Extraordinary Meeting to be held on Monday 24 June at 6.00pm to consider this item.

### **11) Community Grant Award applications**

Cllr K Pearson declared an interest in this item and left the room for the full duration of discussions.

Town Council resolved that Cllr J Defty chair this item.

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

Town Council resolved to approve the following applications received:  
Elemore Colliery Banner Action Group (transport to Miner's Gala) - £300.00  
Hetton Methodist Church (print costs for Annual Miner's Service) - £60.00  
Hetton New Dawn (day trip to coast) - £500.00

The application received from St. Michael's PTA was discussed in detail, with opposing views expressed, principally relating to the location of the applicant organisation outside of the Town Council area.

Cllr R Elvin proposed that Town Council approve the application, seconded by Cllr R Coulson. Cllr R Heron proposed that Town Council reject the application, seconded by Cllr A Farrow. Following a vote by show of hands, the opposing motion was defeated by nine votes to four.

Town Council resolved to approve the application submitted by St. Michael's PTA.

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### **12) Hetton Town Trust**

Cllr K Pearson gave a brief verbal report following her attendance at the HTT meeting held on 12 June. She reported that the Trust was operating well generally, but due to reduced patronage and takings, it had been necessary to reduce bar opening to Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only. Barnard Cafe had been affected by reduced footfall in the Hetton Centre. She added that the introduction of a new coffee machine was proving popular with customers.

Cllr Heron requested that any future report be in written format.

Town Council resolved to note the verbal report received from Cllr Pearson.

### **13) Town Mayor update**

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

Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park - judged dog show.  
Hetton Home Care - 25 years of providing care celebration at Rainton Meadows.  
Durham Cathedral - St John Ambulance North District re-dedication service.  
Sunderland Civic Centre - D-Day commemoration.  
Primrose Care Home - senior employee leaving function.  
NE Truck Spares Ltd - 45 years in business celebration.

Cllr Pearson reported that she had asked Julie Burnhope to continue to act as Mayoress.

Town Council resolved to note the Town Mayor's report.

### **14) General correspondence**

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

County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC):

Changes to service provision. **(Noted)**

CDALC AGM 12 October - nominations for post holders. **(consider at July meeting)**

Completion of Audit Returns. **(Noted)**

Sunderland City Council:

Letter from P Melia re Notice of Motion - local payment facilities

**(TC to write to CX, SCC to request interim solution of a PayPoint facility in local area)**

Hargreaves Surface Mining:

Draft minutes of 22 May 2019 meeting of Community Liaison Committee

**(Noted, and TC requested to obtain grant fund application details and publicise)**

### **15) Date and Time of next meeting**

Town Council resolved that the date and time of the next meeting would be:

Monday 22 July 2019, commencing 19.15 hrs at The Hetton Centre.

The meeting closed at 20.45 hrs.