

Hetton Town Council



DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 17 October 2022 at The Hetton Centre, DH5 9NE

Present

Councillors J Blackburn, D Brennan, J Defty, T Dodds (to Item 12), R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor), L Gibson, J Green, R Heron, K Pearson, M Pigdon, K Rowham, I Scott, D Thomas, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Member of Public (MoP) x 4

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs P Dowell (holiday commitment), Cllr P Hall (holiday commitment), Cllr W Little (holiday commitment) and Cllr S Reilly (family commitment).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr M Thornton.
Town Council resolved that her absence be recorded as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Blackburn, Dodds, Heron, Pearson and Thomas each declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to Item 10.

3) Minutes

Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 26 September 2022.

4) Public participation

MoP expressed concerns about suitability of The Hetton Centre for wheelchair users, citing access difficulties she had experienced at entry point.

TC undertook to query with Sunderland City Council.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr K Pearson:

Requests that 4 x fruit trees (planted to mark the Queen's Jubilee) on the grassed area in front of Hetton Baths be staked.

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Item 5 cont ...

Cllr S Waterston:

Requests that dolomite be placed on the pathway at Hetton Bogs to provide an even surface.

Cllr L Gibson:

Expressed concerns at the condition of pavements during works to install broadband cable. Area affected include: North Road, Peat Carr, Moorsley Bank and Moorsley Road.

Cllr K Pearson:

Locked gate at Urwin Street, Hetton le Hole requires opening to facilitate access by mobility scooters.

6) Sunderland City Councillor(s) - Hetton and Copt Hill wards

There were no Sunderland City Councillors present.

7) Financial report

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

Income:

Sunderland City Council:

Precept 22-23 (2nd instalment)

£29,296.00

Local Council Tax Support Grant 22-23 (2nd instalment)

£5,922.50

Total: £35,218.50

Eppleton Quarry Products (Grant for 2022-2023)

£5000.00

Total income: £40,218.50

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for September)

£1347.85

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)

£497.91

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)

DD £85.82

Total: £1931.58

Town Clerk expenditure:

Nil

Other expenditure:

Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for Halloween event on 30 Oct 22)

£60.00

Candy Kids Entertainment (Halloween disco)

£200.00

Mazars LLP (Fee for Limited Assurance Review 21/22)

£360.00

My Post Shop (purchase of postage stamps 48 x 2nd and 16 x 1st)

£52.83

EE (mobile phone - 4 Oct 22)

DD £13.12

Miconex Ltd (Sunderland Gift cards @ £60.00, £40.00 and £20.00)

£120.00

MTFX Ltd (6 x confetti cannon plus delivery)

£89.92

T & A Dixon Accountancy Services (Provision of payroll service Apr - Oct 22)

£60.00

Hetton Town Trust (staff cover for 26 Sept HTC meeting)

£40.00

RBL Industries (2 x silhouettes for Armistice Day)

£370.00

Sub-total: £1365.87

Total: £3297.45

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Signed:

Date:

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Item 7 cont ...

Recommended by MP&F Cmtte 23 Aug 22 and approved at 26 Sept HTC Full

Hetton Lyons Cricket Club (renewal of advertising board sponsorship) £120.00

Barclays Current account balance @ 11 Oct 22:	£107,057.74
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£103,760.29
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 11 Oct 22:	£28,416.41

Town Mayor Fund:

Income:	Nil
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Expenditure:	Nil
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Co-op Bank balance @ 11 Oct 22:	£3504.58
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8) Town Clerk update

TC reported that he had taken a case of medical equipment and printing plates to a local auction gallery for valuation. He had been advised that the items were of no value in the current market.

Town Council resolved that the printing items be offered to ELCAP and the medical case be retained.

TC advised that the Town Council's new website was operational, but some design and layout changes were required. The addition of limited historical information would be undertaken over time.

He added that the web package included gov.uk email addresses which would be provided to all Members.

TC reported that the final cost of Christmas trees was awaited from SCC. He added that quotations for tree lighting and illuminations had been received from Balfour Beatty and these were in line with budget allocation.

Town Council resolved to note the update received from the Town Clerk.

9) Town Mayor Fund

Cllr D Geddis, Town Mayor reported that his chosen charities for 21-22 were Hetton Buddies and Culture for Hetton. Town Council resolved to note the position.

10) Council Chamber, The Hetton Centre

TC introduced this item and referred to the exchange of correspondence (previously circulated) with Hetton Town Trust.

Town Council resolved that TC respond accordingly to the letter of 17 October 22 from Chairperson, HTT.

11) Coalfield Area Committee

TC introduced the report prepared by Cllr W Little.

Town Council resolved to note the report and thank Cllr Little for his submission.

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Signed:

Date:

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12) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC reported that an expected update from the site agent had not been forthcoming. Town Council resolved that TC write to the agent seeking clarification of the status of the site and an update for the November 22 meeting.

13) Barclays Community Account

TC introduced the previously circulated report.
Town Council resolved that TC apply for a debit card.

14) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2021-2022

TC introduced this item.
Town Council resolved to note the content of the completion letter received from Mazars LLP.

15) Member disqualification

TC reported that a Member had been disqualified due to none attendance under the six-month rule referred to in section 85 of the 1972 Local Government Act and he would be declaring the vacancy with SCC.
TC added that he had formally notified the former Member but had not yet received an acknowledgement. As a matter of courtesy in these circumstances, he did not identify the Member.

Following an intervention from a member of the public querying the identity of the Member, Town Council resolved, following a vote (12 in favour, 3 x abstentions) to suspend Standing Orders.

Town Council further resolved following a vote (12 in favour, 3 x abstentions) that TC name the member concerned.

TC informed Town Council that Melanie Thornton had been disqualified.

16) Invitations to external hospitality events

Cllr J Blackburn declared a non-pecuniary interest re HCR 200.

TC reported that complimentary tickets x 2 had been offered to the Town Council for each of the following events: Showmen's Guild annual lunch; Hetton Colliery Railway 200 Banquet; and Sunderland Male Voice Choir concert.

Town Council resolved that Town Mayor Cllr D Geddis attend and that he notify TC of the allocation of the second ticket.

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17) General Correspondence

Town Council resolved to note the correspondence received and TC to circulate as deemed appropriate.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:
Budget setting discussions
LGA Civility webinars
London Bridge Survey results
Latest training

HM Revenue & Customs:
Request for overdue payment

Hetton Town Trust:
Re Council Chamber (circulated 17 Oct 22)

Cllr K Pearson:
Concert - Sunderland Male Voice Choir (circulated 17 Oct 22)

18) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 21 November 2022 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton le Hole, DH5 9NE
commencing 19.15 hrs.