



**Hetton Town Council**



**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on  
Monday 22 May 2023 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road,  
Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE.**

**Present**

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Brennan, J Defty, P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor), L Gibson, J Green, P Hall, S Holt, W Little, R Meadows, K Pearson, K Rowham, S Waterston, C Willis and S Wood-Brass.

**In attendance**

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

**1) Election of Town Mayor**

Cllr Geddis presided over this item and sought nominations for the position of Town Mayor.

Cllr D Geddis was nominated by Cllr S Waterston, seconded by Cllr K Angus.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr D Geddis was elected Town Mayor for 23-24.

**2) Declaration of Acceptance of Office**

Cllr D Geddis then signed the acceptance of office, which was witnessed and signed by G Keedy, Town Clerk.

**3) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr D Thomas (away) and Cllr M Pigdon (work commitment).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies for absence received.

**4) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5) Election of Deputy Town Mayor**

Cllr D Geddis nominated Cllr R Elvin, seconded by Cllr D Brennan. There were no other nominations. Cllr R Elvin was elected as Deputy Town Mayor for 23-24.

## **HTC Annual meeting - 22 05 23**

### **6) Election to Committees**

Town Council resolved to approve nominations to Committees as outlined below.  
Town Council further resolved that a single nomination from Reform group for each committee be notified to Town Clerk as soon as possible

Management, Policy & Finance Cmtee:

Cllrs J Bonsall, P Dowell, R Elvin, K Pearson, M Pigdon, S Waterston, (1 x vacancy).

Planning & Development Cmtee:

Cllrs J Bonsall, D Geddis, L Gibson, S Holt, W Little, K Rowham, S Waterston (1 x vacancy).

Staff, Employment & Training Cmtee:

Cllrs P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis, W Little, R Meadows, K Pearson, M Pigdon.

Events & Special Activities Cmtee:

Cllrs K Angus, D Brennan, D Geddis, P Hall, K Pearson, D Thomas, S Waterston.

#### **Town Clerk's note:**

An invalid nomination was made for MP&F Cmtee and P&D Cmtee. In the absence of any other valid nominations, TC advised Council that a vacancy would exist on each of the two aforementioned Committees and these would need to be filled at a future meeting.

### **7) Appointments to outside bodies**

Town Council resolved to approve nominations to outside bodies as outlined below.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Executive: Cllr D Geddis

Larger Councils Forum: Cllrs J Bonsall, D Geddis and S Waterston.

Hetton Town Trust (2 x trustees): Cllrs K Pearson and D Thomas.

Sunderland City Council Standards Committee: Cllrs R Elvin and D Geddis.

Sunderland City Council Coalfield Area Committee: Cllr W Little.

Eppleton Quarry Liaison Committee: Cllr P Dowell.

Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance: Cllr K Angus.

### **8) Calendar of meetings**

Town Council resolved to approve the meeting dates for Full Council and that each Committee should determine meetings calendars to suit business requirements.

### **9) Public participation**

MoP expressed concerns re the condition of Hetton Cemetery.

MoP queried the position re proposed Aldi supermarket. TC undertook to provide a copy of HTC submission to SCC.

## **HTC Annual meeting - 22 05 23**

### **Item 9 cont ...**

MoP reported that horse jumps in Hetton Lyons Country Park were in a state of disrepair.

Town Council resolved that TC be requested to refer issues to the appropriate organisations for attention.

### **10) Minutes**

a) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 17 April 2023.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Tuesday 25 April 2023.

### **11) Reports from Members**

Cllr K Rowham:

Queried progress with the introduction of facilities to record Council meetings.

Cllrs Defty, Little, Rowham and Waterston each raised various concerns about the A690 cycle lane.

Cllr K Pearson:

Expressed ongoing concerns about rubbish accumulations at Edward Street, Fairy Street and Caroline Street.

Reported a litter accumulation between properties in Market Street.

Cllr J Bonsall:

Sought clarification of the opening times of the public conveniences in Hetton town centre

Town Council resolved that TC progress queries accordingly; and in relation to A690 cycle lane, to seek the wider views of Members and arrange to liaise with SCC officers.

### **12) Sunderland City Councillor(s) - Hetton and Copt Hill wards**

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

### **13) Town Clerk update**

TC reported that 4 x Members were still not using gov.uk emails addresses. He requested that Members experiencing difficulties should get in touch with an outline of the issues.

TC encouraged Members who were Facebook users to share posts by the Town Council to help increase reach.

## HTC Annual meeting - 22 05 23

### 13) Town Clerk update cont ...

TC advised that the outcome of bids made to the Shared Prosperity Fund (Communities and Place priority) had not yet been determined.

TC provided an update re issues with ICO and Northumbria Police.

TC reported that he was researching the "Community Ownership Fund" which may be of potential assistance to Town Council projects.

TC reported details of the thwarted attempts to become involved with the official opening of the Coalfield Family Hub, and subsequent visit of Andrea Leadsom MP.

TC advised that following the success of the flag raising event on County Durham Day in March, he had been invited to participate in the national committee meeting of the Association of British Counties, however this had coincided with a Town Council meeting.

Town Council resolved to note the update provided by the Town Clerk.

### 14) Financial report

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

#### Income:

|                                                            |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Hetton Colliery Railway 200 (reimbursement for new banner) | £44.73 |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|

#### Staffing expenditure:

|                                                              |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for April 23) | £1506.76   |
| HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)                | £ 556.21   |
| NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)      | DD £100.46 |

**Sub-total: £2163.43**

#### Other expenditure:

|                                                                           |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Spend n Save, Washington (Coronation Bunting)                             | £42.00     |
| Royal British Legion Industries (Coronation decals)                       | DC £115.59 |
| British Garden Centres, East Durham (5 x commemorative trees plus stakes) | DC £362.81 |
| Sunderland City Council (parking charge @ St. Mary's)                     | DC £1.50   |
| BT (monthly broadband charge)                                             | DD £38.72  |
| Hetton Town Trust (Staff cover for HTC meetings 17 and 24 April 23)       | £85.00     |
| Rialtas Business Solutions Ltd (annual software support and maintenance)  | £158.39    |
| AA Flags Ltd (3 x Coronation flags)                                       | £84.60     |
| Tool Station Ltd (Cable ties)                                             | DC £4.39   |
| Carol Croft, Hetton (supply of 5 x Coronation cakes @ £80.00 each)        | £400.00    |
| Tesco (2 x A4 500 pack paper @ £4.75 each)                                | DC £9.50   |
| EE (mobile phone - 4 May 23)                                              | DD £10.50  |
| Staples (pack 25 x clear desk name plates)                                | DC £60.98  |
| Transfer to HTC Town Mayor Fund for 2023-2024 (Co-op account)             | £1750.00   |

**Sub-total: £3123.98**

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Signed:

Date:

## HTC Annual meeting - 22 05 23

### Item 14 cont ..

#### Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 18)

|                                             |                 |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Hetton Juniors Football Club                | £750.00         |
| Hetton le Hole Independent Methodist Church | £600.00         |
| Hetton Colliery Railway 200                 | £750.00         |
| Hetton Methodist Church                     | £100.00         |
| <b>Sub-total:</b>                           | <b>£2200.00</b> |

**Total: £7487.41**

|                                                  |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Barclays Current account balance @ 18 May 23:    | <b>£102,082.28</b> |
| Anticipated current account balance if all paid: | <b>£94, 594.87</b> |
| Barclays Reserve account balance @ 18 May 23:    | <b>£28,467.54</b>  |

#### Town Mayor Fund

##### Income:

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Proceeds from Town Mayor Event | £674.00 |
|--------------------------------|---------|

##### Expenditure:

|                                                                    |                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| MS Trust (Donation from Town Mayor Fund 22/23)                     | £1009.00        |
| Hetton Methodist Church (Donation from Town Mayor Fund 22/23)      | £1009.00        |
| Hetton Methodist Church (Tickets x 2 for church anniversary event) | £16.00          |
| Account balance @ 18 May 23                                        | <b>£2034.00</b> |
| Account balance after payments                                     | <b>Nil</b>      |

### 15) Litter picks - 3 Together Big Local

Cllr D Brennan provided a verbal update re her attendance at a meeting convened by 3 Together Big Local; and her participation in litter picks. Cllr Brennan encouraged all Members to take part in future events.

Town Council resolved to note the update received.

### 16) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC reported that UK Youth had now engaged and undertaken to provide an update to the Town Council by the end of May.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

### 17) Hetton Town Trust

Cllr K Pearson (trustee) advised Council that she had been prohibited by HTT from providing an update following the recent board of trustees meeting.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

### 18) Community Grant Awards

TC introduced the previously circulated report and confirmed that the applications were bona fide, but that documentation was awaited from Hetton Methodist Church. Town Council resolved to approve the applications detailed below:

Hetton Juniors Football Club:  
Contribution towards Fun Day: £750.00

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Signed:

Date:

## **HTC Annual meeting - 22 05 23**

### **Item 18 cont ...**

Hetton le Hole Independent Methodist Church  
Contribution for coach hire costs for Summer outing to Scarborough for young people: £600.00

Hetton Colliery Railway 200:  
Support for presence at Hetton Carnival 2023 and delivery of workshops: £750.00

Hetton Methodist Church:  
Cost of producing programme for annual miner's service: up to £100.00

### **19) Planning application**

The application detailed had been received from Sunderland City Council.  
Town Council resolved to take action as outlined below:

23/00996/FUL

Heppedune Louvain Terrace Hetton-le-Hole, DH5 9PP

Proposal: Erection of a single storey extensions to existing garage and bedroom.  
Conversion of garage into habitable space and erection of new single storey storage building.

Applicant: Mr Jackson Beattie

No comments or objections.

### **20) General correspondence**

Town Council resolved to take action as indicated below:

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

Annual Council and Parish meetings **Noted**

New training for Councillors and staff **TC to notify Members**

General update - incl. VAT guidance re events **Noted**

Larger Councils Forum - 25 May 23 **Noted - HTC is hosting**

UNISON:

Notice to employer of an official industrial action ballot. **Noted**

Hetton Colliery Railway 200:

Invitation to film screening **Noted**

### **21) Date and time of next meeting**

19.15 hrs on Monday 19 June 2023 at The Hetton Centre.