



Hetton Town Council



**Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday
17 April 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, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, K Pearson, M Pigdon, K Rowham, D Thomas and S Waterston.

In attendance

Graeme Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of Public (MoP) x 6

1) Apologies for absence

An apology for absence had been received from Cllr C Willis (away).
Town Council resolved to approve her absence.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr S Reilly or Cllr A Waite.
Town Council resolved to record their absences as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

- a) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 20 March 2023.
- b) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 11 April 2023.

4) Northumbria Police

TC introduced Neighbourhood Inspector Phil Baker.

Insp. Baker outlined his experience and priorities for the area including tackling anti-social behaviour and motorbike nuisance.

Members raised multiple queries including: under-reporting of crime, 101 response times, lack of police officer visits to victims of crime, use of drones, role of special constables, and the effectiveness of a zero-tolerance approach.

Town Council resolved to thank Insp. Baker for his attendance and note his comments and responses.

HTC Full - 17 April 23

5) Planning matters

Town Council resolved to take action as outlined below:

23/00747/FUL

Land to The South Of Colliery Lane Hetton Le Hole DH5 0HU

Proposal: Erection of discount food store (1,867 sq. m GEA / 1,786 sq. m GIA) (Use Class E) with associated access, car parking, hard and soft landscaping and associated works.

Applicant: Aldi Stores Limited

TC to arrange a Public Consultation meeting and Extraordinary Meeting of Town Council.

23/00782/FUL

Land At Cygnet Way Rainton Bridge South Houghton-le-Spring

Proposal: Construction of temporary access links to car park (retrospective)

Applicant: PCP III No.3

To advise SCC that HTC had no comments or objections.

6) Public participation

MoP outlined in depth the difficulties being experienced with various agencies in seeking educational assistance for her daughter. MoP expressed her gratitude for assistance provided by 2 x Members.

7) Reports from Members

Cllr S Waterston:

Allotments at Hetton Lyons Country Park (Urwin Street entrance) require a tidy-up and repairs to fencing.

Expressed concern at lack of security at Elemore Park and requests improvements.

Cllr L Gibson:

Requests that Gentoo re-install the metal barrier at Airedale Gardens to prevent quad bike access.

Cllr K Rowham:

Seeks details via an FoI request of funding given by SCC to UK Ability.

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

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

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9) Financial report

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

Income:

Sunderland City Council –
Precept 23-24 (1st instalment)

£30,257.50

Local Council Tax Support Grant 23-24 (1st instalment)

£5,922.50

Total: £36,180.00

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for Mar 23)

£1506.76

HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)

£556.21

NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)

DD £100.47

Total: £2163.44

Town Clerk expenditure (HTC debit card):

To 31 March 23:

Asda (100 x Easter eggs - 2 for £2.00 offer for 7 April event)

£100.00

Asda (100 x Easter eggs - 2 for £2.00 offer for 7 April event)

£100.00

Hetton Town Trust (permanent room hire deposit)

£50.00

Wilko (2 x 50 DL envelopes and 4 x 50 punch pockets, A4 pad)

£8.90

Vinyl Banners Printing (HTC banner)

£44.73

From 1 April 23:

Post Office Ltd (24 x 1st and 30 x 2nd class stamps - pre price increase)

£43.20

Asda (50 x Easter Eggs @ £1.25 each, fruit juice selection for 7 April event)

£92.50

Aldi (fruit selection for 7 April event)

£18.76

Sub-total: £458.09

Other expenditure:

To 31 March 23

Konica Minolta (print and copy charges 10 Nov 22 - 9 Feb 23)

£21.18

BT (Monthly broadband charge)

DD £33.54

Centre Spot Café (Refreshments - 20 March 23 event)

£14.40

From 1 April 23

Co Durham Association of Local Councils (Annual Membership 23 -24)

£1947.57

EE (mobile phone - 4 April 23)

DD £10.50

T & A Dixon Accountancy Services (Payroll service Oct 22 - April 23)

£60.00

Recreate Marketing (boards for Coronation display)

£295.00

Sub-total: £2382.19

Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 11)

Parenting Social CIC

£750.00

Elmore Colliery Banner Action Group

£500.00

Hetton Workmen's Bowls Club

£750.00

Easington Lane Community Access Point

£750.00

Sub-total £2750.00

Total: £7753.72

Barclays Current account balance @ 17 April 23:

£107,727.73

Anticipated current account balance if all paid:

£99,974.01

Barclays Reserve account balance @ 17 April 23:

£28,467.54

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Item 9 Finance report cont ...

Town Mayor Fund:

Expenditure:

Culture for Hetton (Mayor's Fund donation 21-22) Cleared 27 03 23	£877.29
Sunderland City Council (City Mayoral event)	£40.00
Centre Spot Café (catering for Town Mayor Event -14 04 23)	£350.00
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for Town Mayor Event -14 04 23)	£60.00
Total:	£450.00

Co-op Bank balance @ 17 April 23:	£2030.00
Anticipated balance after expenditure	£1580.00

Note: Proceeds from 14 April 23 event not included.

10) Town Clerk update

TC reported that some Members were still not using the gov.uk email addresses issued in January 23. He advised that this was now a requirement and urged non-users to adopt as soon as possible.

TC advised that he had received confirmation from Northumbria Police that a complaint submitted by the Town Council was under investigation and progress updates would be provided.

The Information Commissioner's Office had acknowledged the Town Council's dissatisfaction with their initial decision to an FoI referral re Northumbria Police response and their final decision was awaited.

TC reported that SCC response to issues raised at the February 23 meeting had been circulated to Members on 6 April; and that only partial responses had been received to date to queries raised at January 23 meeting.

TC advised that the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 8 May would now need to be rescheduled due to the Coronation Public Holiday.

Town Council resolved to note the update from the Town Clerk; and asked that ICO be requested to revisit the FoI decision relating to SCC/HALO.

At the request of the Town Clerk, Town Council resolved to appoint A Simpson Financial Services as Internal Auditor at a cost of up to £300.00.

11) Community Grant Awards

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Cllrs D Geddis, P Hall, S Waterston and C Willis each declared an interest relating to the application received from ELCAP, and accordingly left the meeting for the duration of the discussion pertaining to that application.

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Item 11 cont ...

Town Council resolved to approve the award applications as detailed below:

Parenting Social CIC

Contribution to fund "Knit & Knatter" sessions for 15 weeks - £750.00

Elmore Colliery Banner Action Group

Contribution towards transport costs to/from Durham Miner's Gala - £500.00

Hetton Workmen's Bowling Club

Contribution towards cost of purchasing a defibrillator - £750.00

Easington Lane Community Access Point

Contribution towards climbing frame and trim trail for Tiny Tots garden - £750.00

12) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC again reported that updates had not been provided by UK Youth, their agent G F White or Durham Association of Boys and Girls Clubs.

Town Council resolved that TC again write to UK Youth and furnish them with a link to the You Tube video of the July 2016 meeting of the Town Council.

13) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as indicated below:

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

AGAR Practitioners Guide **Noted**

Sunderland VSA:

Consultation - Family Hubs (circulated 23 March) **Noted**

Funding questionnaire **Circulate**

3 Together Big Local:

Event 20 April **Cllr D Brennan to attend**

Electric Car Guide:

Request to add information to website. **Declined**

Hedgehogs R Us:

Re Hedgehog Highway Project (circ. 28 March). **Purchase product at a cost of £150.00**

BECG Ltd:

Update re Aldi plans (circulated 30 March) **Noted**

Dentist Near Me:

Request to add link to website. **Declined**

14) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 15 May 2023 commencing 19.15 hrs.

Signed:

Date: