



Hetton Town Council



**Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday
16 January 2023 at The Hetton Centre, Hetton le Hole, County
Durham, DH5 9NE**

Present

Councillors K Angus, J Bonsall, P Dowell, R Elvin, D Geddis (Town Mayor), L Gibson, P Hall, W Little, R Meadows, H Morton, K Pearson, K Rowham, D Thomas, S Waterston and C Willis.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Member of Public (MoP) x 8

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that apologies had been received from Cllr D Brennan (work), Cllr J Green (work), Cllr J Defty (away), Cllr M Pigdon (work), Cllr S Reilly (work) and Cllr A Waite (work).

Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

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 19 December 2022.

b) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on 12 January 2023.

4) Public participation

MoP: raised concerns about land at rear of Price Wise, Hetton le Hole - this is a concealed entrance and is posing a road safety hazard. This site is also in poor condition (pot holes). Requests SCC consider steps to improve the site and consider restricting vehicular access except for deliveries.

MoP: Reports that path adjacent to The Hetton Centre leading to Hetton Park is prone to flooding.

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5) Reports from Members

Cllr J Bonsall:

Queries why Downs Road has been re-opened after a period of 40-50 years? This was closed due to being a dangerous junction.

Cllr R Meadows:

Reports an accumulation of broken glass at King George Playing Field, Church Road.

Cllr K Angus:

Report that there are no life preservers at Hetton lake (HLCP); nor any water safety signs on display.

Requests an upgrade of the public toilet facilities in Hetton town centre; to include the installation of baby change facilities in both the male and female conveniences.

Cllr C Willis:

Reports that the path leading from Murton Lane roundabout to cemetery is overgrown with moss and requests that this is cleared / tidied.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reports loose cattle at Hetton Bogs.

Reports accumulation of bin bags and dog excrement at Claude Street, Hetton le Hole.

Cllr L Gibson:

Advised that residents were concerned at the demolition of garages at Jane Street and Blossom Street.

Cllr R Elvin:

Reported that an historic stone wall opposite Stephenson Cottage had been demolished.

Requested that the illuminated HTC logo above Hetton Mini Park be re-installed following post-Christmas removal; and be relit throughout the year.

Cllr K Rowham:

Expressed concerns that historic walls are being demolished. Can owners be notified of the historical significance?

Cllr D Geddis:

Expressed concern that The Hetton Centre Car Park had been closed for several hours on 5 January for the exclusive use of SAFC, despite the Town Council having previously been refused use of the site for an event in Dec 2022.

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

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

7) Financial report

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

Income: Nil

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for Dec 22)	£1402.62
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£510.13
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £90.88
Sub Total:	£2003.63

Town Clerk expenditure:

Tesco Extra (2 x 500 A4 paper @ £4.75 each)	£9.50
Sub Total	£9.50

Other expenditure:

Narked Ltd (website domain registration renewal 23-25)	£240.00
EE (mobile phone - 4 Jan 23)	DD £13.12
Hetton Town Trust (Staff cover for HTC meeting - 19 Dec 22)	£45.00
Sub-total:	£298.12

Community Grant Award (subject to decision at Item 10)	
East Rainton Cricket Club	£600.00

Total: £2911.25

Barclays Current account balance @ 12 Jan 23:	£89,114.29
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£86,203.04
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 12 Jan 23:	£28,432.25

Town Mayor Fund:

Income: Nil

Expenditure: Nil

Co-op Bank balance @ 12 Jan 23:	£3504.58
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Town Council further resolved:

To authorise TC to set up a Direct Debit payment with BT for the supply of Broadband (at a current monthly cost of £29.94 incl. VAT);

To agree a resolution authorising the application for the Barclay's Bank Business Debit Card service.

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Signed:

Date:

8) Town Clerk update

TC reported that Co Durham Association of Local Councils was unable to provide training for new Members at this time.

TC advised that following a request to SCC for assistance with a bid for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, he had been referred back to the voluntary sector. Following discussion, Town Council resolved that Groundwork be approached for possible assistance.

TC reported that the Town Council's request for a name change for the Coalfield Area to "The Limestones" was to be considered by SCC Neighbourhoods and Communities Board.

TC reported that Broadband for exclusive use of the Town Council was scheduled for installation on 19 January 23.

In conclusion, TC reported that dialogue with Barclays Bank was ongoing (since Oct 22) re their request for updated organisational information.

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

9) Historic County Durham

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved to pro-actively engage in the promotion of County Durham to highlight the area's continued association with the historic county; and,

To delegate to the Town Clerk the task of identifying and implementing appropriate actions in liaison with Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor; including liaison with third party organisations.

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10) Community Grant Award

TC introduced the previously circulated report and advised that the application was bona fide.

Town Council resolved to approve the application as described:

Contribution for the construction and installation of new seating for the Hazard Community Pavilion - £600.00

11) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC reported that contrary to his expectation, there had been no update from GF White (on behalf of UK Youth) or Durham Association of Boys & Girls Clubs.

Town Council resolved that TC continue to press for information; and to contact the Bowes-Lyon Estate for their perspective.

12) Council Chamber, The Hetton Centre

TC reported that he had received a letter from Hetton Town Trust dated 13 January 23, but this had not addressed the outstanding request.

Town Council resolved that:

TC write to SCC to request a copy of the lease agreement between the Town Council and Hetton Town Trust;

and,

TC liaise with Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor re any further action(s).

13) Planning matter

22/02334/FUL

Mozart House Front Street Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring DH5 9PE

Proposal: Change of use from a first floor residential flat (Class C3) to a retail space (Class E(a)) for bridal shop. Applicant: Mr. Richard Grey

Town Council resolved - no comments or objections.

14) General Correspondence

Town Council resolve to take action as indicated below:

Sunderland City Council:

Traffic Order consultation: 40 mph Speed Limit Reduction - Moorsley Road, Hetton.

No comments or objections.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Larger Councils Forum - 16 Feb **Noted**

National Assembly meeting re Coronation **Refer to E&SA Cmtte Chair.**

15) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 20 February 2023 commencing 19.15 hrs at a venue to be determined.