



Hetton Town Council



**Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on
Monday 19 June 2023 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road,
Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE.**

Present

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

In attendance

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

1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Brennan (work), Cllr J Green
(work) and Cllr D Thomas (away).

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 Annual Meeting of
Hetton Town Council held on 22 May 2023.
- b) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of
the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 12 June 2023.
- c) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of
the meeting of the Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on 12 June
2023.

4) Hetton Colliery Railway 200

TC reported that the invited speaker (Project and Events Officer, HCR 200) was
unable to attend due to an injury sustained.

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5) Public participation

MoP queried progress with the suggested renaming of the Coalfield Area Committee to "Limestone". TC advised that Sunderland City Council had rejected the alternative name.

MoP queried progress with the suggestion to site interpretation panels at locations in the district. TC advised that these had been included in suggested improvements to the public realm as part of the Town Council's Expression of Interest submitted for the Shared Prosperity Fund. This topic would now require revisiting.

Deputy Town Mayor suggested that updates received to MoP requests and issues raised be posted on the Town Council's website.

6) Reports from Members

Cllr K Pearson:

Reported that she had raised a no. of issues directly with SCC relating to Hetton Park incl. graffiti, Himalayan balsam and the condition of tennis courts.
Requirement to remove unsightly dead weeds after herbicide treatment.
Loose paving stones (locations to be notified to TC).

Cllr C Willis:

Ongoing issues with parked cars in Byers Street.

Cllr S Waterston:

Japanese knotweed at Houghton Road.
Bench seating missing from Hetton Mini Park.

Cllr I Gibson:

Gate damaged at East Rainton play park.

Cllr D Geddis:

Requests that the ongoing issue of unadopted roads again be raised with SCC.

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

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

8) Financial report

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

Income:

Barclays Premium account interest	£59.35
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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for May 23)	£1506.76
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£556.21
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £100.47

Sub-total: £2163.44

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Signed:

Date:

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Other expenditure:

Etsy (5 x Coronation tree plaques) - omitted from May financial report	DC £87.45
Easington Lane Community Access Point (room hire for March HTC meeting)	£40.00
Konica Minolta (print and copy charges Feb 23 - May 23)	£16.50
Flagpole Express (replacement counterweight for flagpole)	£28.68
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
Information Commissioners Office (Data Protection renewal fee)	DD £35.00
Centre Spot Café (catering for meetings - 9 May and 25 May)	£256.80
Hetton Town Trust (staff cover / room hire for 22 May and 25 May meetings)	£225.00
EE (mobile phone - 4 June 23)	DD £10.50
Tesco (Stationery - 2 x 500 A4 paper, 4 x files, 3 x document wallets, tape)	DC £25.80
Price Wise Bargains (WD40 for notice board cleaning)	DC £5.99

Sub-total: £770.44

Total: £2933.88

Barclays Current account balance @ 15 June 23:	£95,394.13
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£92,460.25
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 15 June 23:	£28,526.89

Town Mayor Fund

Income:

Transfer from Barclays Current account	£1750.00
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Expenditure:

Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for Town Mayor Event -14 04 23)	£60.00
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Note: reported to 17 April HTC Full, but cheque cleared 26 May 23.

Account balance @ 15 June 23	£1690.00
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9) Town Clerk update

TC reported that the glass frontage of the notice board in Front Street, Hetton had now been cleaned by himself.

TC advised Council that he attended a briefing session on 13 June relating to the Community Ownership Fund. He would explore details for the potential to aid Council projects.

TC reported that notice board space at The Hetton Centre was limited and undertook to raise this with SCC.

TC informed Members that he had identified a new initiative "Clean it - Green it"; and requested that Springboard keep the Council up to date with developments and opportunities for Member involvement.

Town Council resolved to note the update received from TC.

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10) Internal Audit report 2022-2023

TC referred to and explained the report from the Internal Auditor, which was tabled with the completed Internal Audit Report section of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023.

Town Council resolved to approve the report of the Internal Auditor and Internal Audit Section of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022-2023.

11) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2022-2023

TC introduced the item and outlined the two component sections.

TC reported the Annual Governance Statement.

Town Council resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2022-2023.

TC reported the Accounting Statements to Town Council.

Town Council resolved to approve the Accounting Statements for 2022-2023.

12) Committee Memberships

TC advised Council that one vacancy existed on the Planning & Development Cmtee and additionally on the Management, Policy & Finance Cmtee.

Cllr S Waterston proposed, seconded by Cllr R Elvin that Cllr K Pearson be elected to Planning & Development Cmtee. There were no other nominations. Cllr K Pearson was duly elected to serve on the Committee.

Cllr K Rowham proposed, seconded by Cllr K Pearson that Cllr D Thomas be elected to Management, Policy & Finance Cmtee.

Cllr S Waterston proposed, seconded by Cllr K Angus that Cllr D Geddis be elected to Management, Policy & Finance Cmtee.

Following a vote by show of hands, Cllr D Geddis was duly elected to serve on the Committee.

13) Planning matters

The applications detailed had been received from Sunderland City Council.

Town Council resolved to suspend Standing Orders to enable MoP comments.

23/01184/FUL

44 Market Street Hetton-le-Hole DH5 9DY

Proposal: Change of use from takeaway to a chemist retail shop.

Applicant: Whitfield's

Town Council resolved - No comments or objections.

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Item 13 cont ...

21/00603/FUL

Land East Of North Road Hetton-le-Hole Houghton-le-Spring

Proposal: Construction of 243 dwellings (use class C3) with associated access, landscaping and infrastructure.

(Amended Submission (25 May 23) and Highway Technical Note (26 May 23)

Applicant: Persimmon Homes (Durham).

Town Council heard representations from MoP's who were concerned about the development, particularly the adverse impact on traffic volume.

Town Council resolved that TC write to SCC to reiterate previous comments and objections and press for a response to a query raised relating to Government housing quotas.

Town Council resolved to re-instate Standing Orders.

14) Northumbria Police response to complaint

Following discussion, Town Council resolved that TC write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to request a review of the decision letter sent by Northumbria Police in response to a complaint about the Town Council's exclusion from HALO Strategic Board.

15) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC reported that UK Youth had been in touch on 18 June to advise that due to staff changes they were unable to provide an update at this stage.

Following discussion, and in an attempt to make progress, Town Council resolved that TC contact UK Youth to request a face- o-face meeting between Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and Chief Operating Officer.

16) Warding arrangements in Sunderland consultation

TC reminded Members that details had been circulated on 30 May and they were able to submit responses in an individual capacity.

Town Council resolved that TC submit a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to highlight the geographical proximity and historical affinity of the Hetton ward to County Durham.

17) Additional bench seating

Following a suggestion from Chairman, Events & Special Activities Committee for additional seating at Hetton Mini Park, TC circulated photos of bench seats from 3 x suppliers to commemorate the 2022 Platinum Jubilee and /or 2023 Coronation.

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Item 17 cont

During discussion there was a consensus view expressed that adequate seating provision was available in the Mini Park and immediate vicinity.

Town Council resolved that a site be identified in East Rainton and alternative seat designs be considered.

18) Hetton Lyons Cricket Club

TC introduced the previously circulated letter.

Town Council resolved to continue sponsorship of an advertising board at a cost of £100.00 plus VAT.

19) Town Council flag

TC introduced the previously circulated report and quotations.

After consideration, Town Council resolved to purchase a printed flag from Supplier "B" (Flagpole Express).

20) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to take action as indicated below:

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

General update **Noted**

Training provision **TC to seek nominations from Members**

CDALC AGM nominations **TC to refer to HTC reps**

D-Day Anniversary 2024 **Refer to Chairman E&SA Cmtee**

Legal queries **Noted**

Sunderland VSA:

Grant Steering Group vacancy **Cllr K Angus nominated to apply**

21) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 17 July 2023 commencing 19.15 hrs.