



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 15 January 2024 at The Hetton Centre, 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, P Hall, S Holt, R Meadows, H Morton, K Pearson, D Thomas, S Waterston, C Willis and S Woods-Brass.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of Public (MoP) x 29

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Green (work commitment), Cllr W Little (medical), Cllr M Pigdon (work commitment) and Cllr K Rowham (child care). Town Council **resolved** to approve the apologies received.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Town Clerk's note:

Town Council **resolved** to amend the order of agenda items to consider Item 12 as a priority; and to suspend standing orders to allow public comments.
The minutes document proceedings in the order of the published agenda.

3) Minutes

- a) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 18 December 2023.
- b) Town Council **resolved** to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting of Management, Policy & Finance Committee held on 11 January 2024.

4) Public participation

MoP:

Damaged footpath and road at Price Wise, Front Street, Hetton-le-Hole requires repair.
Former Crown PH - holes in roof and loose tiles require attention.
Loose paving flags on both sides of Front Street, Hetton-le-Hole require repair.
Trip hazard at pelican crossing outside Tesco, Hetton-le-Hole requires urgent attention.
Town Council **resolved** that TC refer these matters to SCC for attention.

1 of 4

Signed:

Date:

HTC Full - 15 January 2024

5) Reports from Members

Cllr C Willis:

Expressed ongoing concerns about vehicles parking on pavements.

Reports missing metal railings on path leading from Byers Square to Hall Lane.

Cllr K Angus:

Reports that life support rings are missing from Hetton Lyons Country Park.

Cllr P Hall:

Reports that asbestos is being burned at former Manor House Care Home site in Easington Lane.

Cllr L Gibson: Suggested that a new site for Moorsley Xmas tree be considered for 2024.

Cllr J Bonsall: Requests siting of additional dog waste bins.

Cllr S Holt: Requests details of SCC policy relating to pavement and highway repairs.

Cllr K Pearson: Reports loose flagstones at Downs Lane and throughout Hetton-le-Hole.

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.

Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes hrs for Dec 23; mileage claim)	£1599.60
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£585.92
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £106.61
Sub-total:	£2292.13

Other expenditure:

Post Office Ltd (50 x 2 nd class stamps @£0.75 each)	DC £37.50
Sunderland City Council (May 23 election expenses)	£1850.40
Hetton Town Trust (Room hire for 1 and 17 Dec 23 Xmas events)	£300.00
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
Town & City Gift Cards (gift card for Xmas bauble competition winner)	DC £27.75
EE (mobile phone - 4 Jan 24)	DD £10.50
Sunderland City Council (Access and lock up for 2 and 17 Dec 23)	£48.00
Sub-total:	£2312.87

Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 11)

Studio V (NE) CIC	£750.00
Sub-total:	£750.00
Total:	£5355.00

Barclays Current account balance @ 10 January 24:

Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£104,760.47
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£99,405.47

Barclays Reserve account:

Balance @ 10 January 24:	£28,702.93
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Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Account balance @ 10 Jan 24	£1690.00

2 of 4

Signed:

Date:

HTC Full - 15 January 2024

8) Budget position and Precept 2024-2025

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council **resolved**:

That the budget position for 2023-2024 be noted;

That the draft budget for 2024-2025 be approved;

Following a vote by show of hands (15 in favour, 2 against); Town Council further **resolved**:

A 2% increase in precept for 2024-2025 based upon a Band D charge of £14.75;
and,

That Town Clerk notify Sunderland City Council (the billing authority) accordingly.

9) Town Clerk update

TC reported that there were ongoing issues with parking capacity/congestion at The Hetton Centre and he was in dialogue with SCC.

TC advised that he had had joined the National Association of Civic Officer (free of charge), and would share information received with the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

TC reported that the Community Grant Award budget allocation for 2024-2025 had now been exhausted. Any further applications received would need to be deferred to 2024/2025.

Town Council **resolved** to note the update.

10) Election of CDALC President

TC reminded Members that Town Council had previously nominated Cllr D Geddis for the position. He advised that voting was now open.

Town Council **resolved** that TC cast a vote for Cllr Geddis.

11) Community Grant Award application

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council **resolved** to approve the application detailed below:

Studio V (NE) CIC

For the supply and fitting of a new fire door and alarm - £750.00

12) Planning matters

TC reported that the applications detailed below had been received from SCC.

23/02592/LP3

Red Gables, North Street, East Rainton, DH5 9QF

Proposal: Proposed Change of Use from Residential Dwelling (Use Class C3) to Short Break Care Facility (Use Class C2)

Applicant: Sunderland City Council

HTC Full - 15 January 2024

Item 12 cont ...

Following extensive views expressed by members of the public in attendance, and Member's comments, Town Council **resolved** to convene an urgent public meeting and to invite senior officers from Sunderland City Council and Together for Children; elected City Council Members and MP to attend; and to then respond to SCC.

23/02501/FU4

Land off A690/ Mercantile Road, Rainton Meadows, Houghton Le Spring
Proposal: Proposed erection of a Roadside Services, inclusive of a Petrol Filling Station (Sui Generis) and Drive-through Coffee Shop (Class E) with the creation of 4no. Rapid Electric Vehicle Charge Points.

Applicant: EG Property Limited and Hamilton Willis Land and Development

Town Council **resolved** that TC contact SCC to request a site visit.

13) General Correspondence

Town Council **resolved** to take action as indicated below:

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Royal Garden Parties 2024 - request for nominations **Cllr K Pearson nominated**

Training opportunities

New Model Contract of Employment **Circulate to Staff, Employment & Training Cmtee**

Legal changes **Noted**

D Day 80 - 6 June 24 **Circulate to Events & Special Activities Cmtee**

Sunderland City Council:

Coalfield "Can Do" Project - circulated 19 Dec 23 **Noted**

UK SPF - "People & Skills" - call for projects **TC to appraise suitability**

Baccanalia CIC - events company introduction **Circulate to E&SA Cmtee**

14) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 19 February 2024, commencing 19.15 hrs.