



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 17 July 2023 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, Hetton le Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE.

Present

Cllrs K Angus, J Bonsall, D Brennan, 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, D Thomas, S Waterston and S Wood-Brass.

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of Public (MoP) x 2

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr J Defty (surgery), Cllr J Green (work commitment) and Cllr C Willis (domestic commitment). Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Thomas declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to Item 9.

3) Minutes

a) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes of the meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 19 June 2023.

b) Town Council resolved to:

Approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 6 July 2023;

and,

Explore potential sites in Hetton Downs for the location of an artificial Christmas tree.

4) Public participation

MoP reported ongoing issues with fly-tipping at the rear of Price Wise, Hetton.

5) Reports from Members

Cllr P Hall:

Reports bags of rubble dumped outside Hauxbys, Easington Lane.

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Cllr L Gibson:

Reported that a further consultation letter had been distributed by SCC rating to the proposed Coal Bank Farm development with a 20 July deadline, and queried why HTC had not been further consulted.

Cllr D Thomas:

Raised concerns about the proposed cessation of respite care at the Grace House facility.

Town Council resolved that issues raised be referred to relevant parties for attention; and that TC write to the Chief Executive of Together for Children re Grace House.

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

There were no City Councillors in attendance.

7) Community Grant Awards

TC introduced the previously circulated report and confirmed that the applications were bona fide.

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

Moorsley & District CIO:

Contribution towards purchase of "white" goods for new community building - £750.00

Easington Lane & Hetton Disabled Club:

Contribution towards Summer outing to South Shields - £500.00

Hetton Buddies:

Purchase of 1 x laptop computer to support charity administration - £349.00

(Note - applicant request was for 2 x computers)

8) Financial report

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

Income:	Nil
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Staffing expenditure:

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

Sub-total: £2163.44

Other expenditure:

AE Simpson Financial Services (Internal Audit fees for y/e 31 March 23)	£260.00
Flagpole Express Ltd (3 x Armed Forces Day flags and delivery)	£125.88
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
Hetton Town Trust (staff cover for meetings 1, 12 and 19 June)	£100.00
EE (mobile phone - 4 July 23)	DD £10.50
County Durham Association of Local Councils (Chairmanship training x 3)	£81.00

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Signed:

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County Durham Association of Local Councils (New Councillor training x 9)	£90.00
Hedgehogs R Us (Highway retail bundle - pack of 50)	DC £150.00
Wild at Heart Florist (wreath for 72nd Anniversary Eppleton Colliery explosion)	DC £65.00
Tesco (Stationery - 4 x 500 A4 paper)	DC £19.00
Sub-total:	£940.10

Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 7)

Moorsley & District CIO	£750.00
Easington Lane & Hetton Disabled Club	£500.00
Hetton Buddies	£698.00
Sub-total:	£1948.00

Total: £5051.54

Barclays Current account balance @ 13 July 23:	£91,464.60
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£86,413.06
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 13 July 23:	£28,526.89

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
Expenditure:	Nil
Account balance @ 13 July 23	£1690.00

August 2023

Town Clerk net salary (August 23)	£1209.64
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£ 424.06
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions)	DD £73.10
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
EE (mobile phone invoice 4 August 22)	DD £10.50

9) Quotations relating to the events programme

Cllr D Thomas left the meeting for the duration of this item.

TC introduced the previously circulated report outlining quotations.

Town Council resolved to :

Accept the quotation received from Candy Kids for the Halloween disco at a cost of £260.00.

Decline the quotations received for the provision of a Father Christmas, and instead seek a volunteer to fulfil the role.

10) Town Clerk update

TC reported that:

The coal tub located in Hetton Interchange had now been planted up;

A pack of "Hedgehog Highways" had now been purchased for distribution to schools;

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Signed:

Date:

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Confirmation has been received that a Remembrance Day service was held at St. Cuthbert's Church;

The HTC flag was being flown routinely at The Hetton Centre;

The County Durham flag would be flown on 23 July to mark national Historic County Flags day;

SCC had confirmed that remedial works would be undertaken at the Eppleton Pit Wheel Memorial.

A car parked regularly at The Hetton Centre displayed an offensive sticker.

Town Council resolved to note the update of the Town Clerk and that the latter item be reported to Northumbria Police.

11) Planning matters

The application detailed had been received from Sunderland City Council.

23/01370/FUL

Franklin House 2 Mandarin Road Rainton Bridge Houghton-le-Spring DH4 5RA

Proposal: Installation of new A/C unit and back-up power generator.

Applicant: Homeloan Management Ltd

Town Council resolved - No comments or objections.

12) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

TC reported that no update had been provided by UK Youth.

Town Council resolved that a formal complaint be submitted to the Charity Commission.

13) Beautification of Hetton town centre

TC reported that following the return of the large planters (x3) by SCC to the town centre he had sought details of maintenance requirements with a view to the Town Council undertaking this role.

After discussion, Town Council resolved to request a formal asset transfer of the planters from SCC to HTC.

14) Hetton Mini Park

TC updated Members on the position relating to required improvements to the grassed area surrounding the War Memorial.

Town Council resolved that a further site meeting be held with SCC officers to explore a way forward.

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15) Damaged bench seat at Easington Lane

TC advised that he had received a quotation of £318.77 + VAT from the supplier for a replacement side.

Town Council resolved to proceed with the repair and seek a local installer to undertake the work.

16) General correspondence

Town Council resolved to note the correspondence received and take action as indicated.

Co. Durham Association of Local Councils:

Dates and venues for Forum meetings **Noted**

General update 07 07 23 (incl. LGA survey re remote meetings) **Noted**

General update 14 07 23 (incl. u21's £1.00 bus fare scheme) **Noted**

Easington Lane Community Access Point:

Extension Feasibility Design Report (circulated 29 06 23) **Noted**

3 Together Big Local:

Litter pick programme **Circulate**

17) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 18 September commencing at 19.15 hrs.