



Hetton Town Council



Minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on Monday 18 September 2023 at The Hetton Centre, Welfare Road, Hetton-le-Hole, County Durham, DH5 9NE.

Note: Members were advised of the passing of former Cllr W Glover.
Town Council observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect.

Present

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

In attendance

G Keedy, Town Clerk (TC)
Members of Public (MoP) x 5

1) Apologies for absence

TC reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Hall (away) and Cllr W Little (funeral).
Town Council resolved to approve the apologies received.

No apology for absence had been received from Cllr J Green. Town Council resolved to record his absence as unapproved.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Minutes

- a) Town Council resolved to approve draft minutes of the Meeting of Hetton Town Council held on 17 July 2023.
- b) Town Council resolved to approve the draft minutes and recommendations of the meeting of the Events & Special Activities Committee held on 22 August 2023.

4) Public participation

MoP raised concerns re errors in new signage at Tesco, Hetton; requested historic information to be displayed in Hetton Cemetery; and for consideration to be given to the formation of a "Friends of Hetton Park" group.

MoP reported damaged fencing at the big chapel, and rat sightings at the old "Crown" public house.

Town Council resolved to note the issues raised and request that TC action as appropriate.

1 of 5

Signed:

Date:

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5) Reports from Members

Cllr L Gibson:

Expressed concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour and requested that the Town Council convene a public meeting to discuss; with representatives from various agencies invited to attend.

Advised Council that the Coal Bank Farm planning application considered by SCC had been deferred.

Cllrs J Bonsall and S Waterston:

Expressed concerns that the September meeting of HTC Planning & Development Cmtte had been cancelled.

Cllr K Pearson:

Reported that SCC had been advised that the grassed areas at Edward Street and Fairy Street were now the owner's responsibility to maintain. Requests that SCC reconsider their position.

Cllr S Waterston:

Reported that the contents of the 3 x large planters sited in Hetton town centre required attention.

Cllr D Brennan:

Reports that due to accidents, residents have requested CCTV or speed cameras on Pemberton Bank, Easington Lane; and CCTV between the old library known as "New Beginnings" and the Platt's youth centre, Brickgarth due to the incidents with youths throwing items property and causing damage.

Scaffolding currently at Easington Lane Clock is being scaled by youths who are throwing fireworks and debris at passers-by.

Cllr C Willis:

Reports ongoing car parking issues at Byers Street - vehicles blocking footways. Overgrown bushes encroaching on footways in front of bungalows at Brickgarth, Easington Lane.

Cllr D Geddis:

Reports access to Hetton Moor Terrace has been restricted due to unauthorised fencing off and installation of locked gates.

Cllr J Bonsall:

Reports frequent flooding at Hertford Crescent, Hetton.

Town Council resolved to note the issues raised and request that TC action as appropriate.

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

There were no City councillors in attendance.

7) Community Grant Award

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

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

Hetton & District Arts Club - Provision of 3 x workshops for club members - £585.00

8) Financial report

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

Income:

Barclays Premium account interest	£76.44
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Staffing expenditure:

Town Clerk net salary (includes additional hrs for July and Aug 23)	£1788.97
HMRC (Combined employer/employee liabilities)	£681.87
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) - 1	DD £27.32
NEST Pension (Combined employer/employee contributions) - 2	DD £126.47

Sub-total: £2624.68

Other expenditure:

Flagpole Express Ltd (HTC flag)	£57.48
Town & City Gift cards (2 x competition prizes)	DC £202.80
Hetton Town Trust (July staff cover x 3)	£93.75
Konica Minolta (copy and print costs 10/05 - 09/08)	£50.47
Party Time (deposit for Christmas grotto)	DC £100.00
Home Bargains (wall clock for Council Chamber)	DC £4.99
Narke Design (web hosting and support)	£225.00
BT (monthly broadband charge)	DD £38.72
Hetton Town Trust (staff cover for 22/8)	£18.75
EE (mobile phone - 4 Sept 23)	DD £10.50
Wilko (stationery items)	DC £11.40
Sunderland City Council (parking fee - 13 09 23)	DC £1.50
MBC Badge Company (HTC badges x 50)	£169.80

Sub-total: £985.16

Community Grant Awards (subject to decision at Item 7)

Hetton & District Art Club	£585.00
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Sub-total: £1570.16

Total: £4194.80

Barclays Current account balance @ 14 September 23:	£83,934.48
Anticipated current account balance if all paid:	£79,739.68
Barclays Reserve account balance @ 14 Sept 23:	£28,603.33

Town Mayor Fund

Income:	Nil
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Expenditure:	Nil
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Account balance @ 14 Sept 23	£1690.00
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Signed:

Date:

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9) Request for delegation of powers - Events & Special Activities Cmttee

Cllr D Thomas, Committee Chairman introduced this item and explained that the request for delegated powers arose from concerns about timescales for obtaining Full Council approval for Committee recommended spending commitments and the impact the delay had in securing suppliers.

After discussion, Town Council resolved that Management, Policy & Finance Cmtee would examine Financial Regulations relating to TC spending limits.

10) Christmas Fayre 23

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved to approve the report and approach outlined.

11) Town Clerk update

TC advised that a new supply of lapel badges was now available and would be issued at meeting close.

TC reported that The Hetton Centre grounds were to be tidied within the next two weeks.

TC reported details of miscellaneous enquiries he had recently received from members of the public including benefits and crisis payments, homelessness and parking issues.

TC advised that he had been requested to attend a meeting relating to the conservation of Nicholas Woods' tomb and would further update Council.

Town Council resolved to note the update provided.

12) Grace House respite facility

TC reported that a response to the Town Council's letter of 25 July 23 to Together for Children had been received from Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services.

Town Council resolved to note the position.

13) Annual Governance & Accountability Return 2022-2023

TC reported that the completion letter had not yet been received, and added that he had responded to queries raised by Mazars. The topic would be included on the agenda for October meeting. Town Council resolved to note the position.

14) Planning matters

The application detailed below had been received from SCC.

23/01860/FUL

16A High Street Easington Lane Houghton-le-Spring DH5 0JN

Proposal: Change of use from hardstanding to enclosed storage yard including 2 metal storage containers.

Applicant: Mr Brian Lormor

Town Council resolved to request a site meeting.

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15) Former Hetton Lyons Boys Club site

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

Town Council resolved that a complaint be submitted and a copy sent to the Charity Commission and Bowes-Lyon Estate.

16) Champion of the Community awards

TC introduced the previously circulated report.

Town Council resolved that TC contact the winners and arrange a presentation for the October meeting.

17) Hetton Mini Park & Hetton town centre

TC reported that an update was awaited from SCC officers.

Town Council resolved to note the position and request that TC progress chase the matter.

18) General Correspondence

Town Council considered the correspondence listed and resolved to take action as indicated.

Northumbria Police & Crime Commissioner:

Outcome of review relating to complaint response received from Northumbria Police.
(circulated 27 July 23)

TC to contact OPCC and NP to highlight Members concerns that legitimate and inoffensive FB posts had been cited as a reason for exclusion of the Town Council from governance arrangements.

ELCAP:

Survey (circulated 24 July 23) **Noted**

Sunderland VSA:

Community Asset opportunity (circulated 7 August 23) **Noted**

K White, Easington Lane & Hetton Disabled Club:

Letter of appreciation re grant award (circulated 27 July 23) **Noted**

C Burt, Hetton Buddies:

Letter of appreciation re grant award **Noted**

County Durham Association of Local Councils:

Update - 1 Sept **Noted**

Budgeting - 12 Sept **Noted**

19) Date and time of next meeting

Monday 16 October 2023 commencing 19.15 hrs.